



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 1

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January-February 2016

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Gray's Equestrian Training

By Wendy Rose

At the heart of Wendy Gray's very lively business are the horses. They inspire her to do the hard work necessary to keep them housed, fed, active, and happy. They attract students of all ages, young people curious about horses, and folks who want to explore riding to participate in a wide range of services at her modern facility off the Post Road. The horses are the center of attention at all times, their grooming, feeding, training, and exercise.

Wendy has been around horses from a young age while growing up on the Bisson Farm in Topsham. She worked under a trainer and then branched out on her own, coming to Bowdoinham in 2006. Since building her extensive facility on Brook Lane, she has grown her business through word of mouth and modest marketing. Her core facility has a stable with 28 stalls including one for washing the horses (hot and cold water) and a stall with a camera so she can keep her eye on a mother who is foaling. Branching off from the stable is a heated tack room, office, and viewing room

which has a picture window looking out at the indoor 250' x 75' arena. Other sheds, fields, and an outdoor riding ring accommodate the 40 horses currently at the farm. There are also individual turn-out areas, so the horses get a lot of time outdoors

"I really enjoy the training work," Wendy says. "Taking a horse from



ground zero to being ready to show is very rewarding." Wendy works with horses and riders to prepare them for shows both in Maine and out of state. Other services include trail rides, horse leases, boarding, and "time with horses" for younger people. Many children are dropped off directly from school so they

can have quality time with the horses. Clinics and training heighten the skills of both horse and rider, and Wendy would like to expand the number of clinics with guest trainers. "I like to use different training techniques to see what works with the individual horse and rider." Both western and English riding styles are offered.

A very demanding part of Wendy's work is her licensed horse rescue activity. Animals who have been neglected or abused need special attention and care to restore them to health and possible sale or adoption. "I like having the rescues and getting them well again," she says. "It can be very expensive and take a lot of work, but it is very rewarding."

While the recent recession was a challenging time, business has recently been growing once again. "You have to really love it," Wendy comments. "My goal is to pay the expenses and make a modest amount to live on." She is happy to see the increase in activity and thrives on the demanding work.

You can reach Wendy by calling 522-8300 or stopping in at the stables at the end of Brook Lane (located at 849 Post Road).

Home Heating Assistance

Winter is here and the Heating Assistance Program needs your help. This program is funded entirely from private donations. Please consider making a donation, to help your neighbors stay warm this winter.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Town Office at 13 School Street.

INSIDE

Business Spotlight	1	Food Pantry News	4	Cub Scout News	9
Recreation News	2	Access to the Library	4	CEO Corner - Alarms	10
Project Update- Public Works Garage & Recycling Barn	2	News from Arts Center	5	Property Tax Programs	10
New at the Recycling Barn	3	News from ACOA	6	Community Development Project Updates	11
New - Cemetery Advisory Committee	3	News from BCDI	7	Community Calendar	12
Finance Advisory Committee News	3	News from Bowdoinham Hardware	7		
		Historical Society News	9		

Recreation News

By Lisa West

Over this past summer we were able to repair a wide crack on the tennis court, several cracks on the basketball court, and one of the soccer goals. Thank you to our Bowdoinham Public works for transferring the large soccer goal to the welder and back! We also replaced one of the soccer goal nets. Thanks to Dwight Blease for donating this much needed net.

Whether you served for an hour or weekly, your time makes a big difference in reaching our goal of serving our children's programs. Thank you to every umpire during the recreation baseball/softball games. Our umps and basketball refs are all *volunteers*. Countless community members and parents volunteer their time to make our programs successful, this includes the snack shack. A handful of ladies made sure it was open often and ready to serve! Thank you Dean, for your dedication to our summer soccer program which brought in 30 kids from around the district.

Ongoing & Upcoming

Recreation Basketball

3-6th grade basketball games are scheduled until Feb 13th. Kindergarten-2nd grade needs coaches for their season (February & March)! Please contact me if you are willing to help.

Winter Soccer

Winter soccer will start Jan 9th and run through March 4th, days and times vary. Please see the Winter Soccer link on the Bowdoinham.com/Recreation page for more information.

Adult Programs

Pickleball, basketball and volleyball are happening at the Cathance Fitness Center or will be soon. For information on days and times, please contact me and I will set

you up with the group.

Preschool Program

"Folk Fun" with Susan Brown is a sing and play class for children 5 years old and younger. Sessions run 4-6 weeks on Sat mornings. Forms are available on the Town Recreation wall in the office or call Susan at 666-8162.

You can also get the forms at the Recreation Wall in the Town Office, including ongoing programs, Cathance Fitness Center Class Schedule, Committee on Aging Schedules and more.

Volunteers Needed For

- Kindergarten-2nd grade Basketball Program
- Basketball Concessions
- Basketball Clock and Book Keepers

Project Updates - Public Works Garage & Recycling Barn

By William Post, Town Manager

In March 2012 at an informational meeting attended by approximately 100 interested residents, several options for the Recycling Barn and Public Works Garage were presented and discussed. After discussion, the overwhelming majority of those present felt that the Town should pursue purchasing the Recycling Barn and land. Over the last two years, the Town has been determining the value of the land and buildings and negotiating with the owner of the Recycling Barn for a potential purchase by the Town. However, at this point in time, the owner has decided that he does not want to sell the building and property, but has granted the Town a right-of-first refusal when he decides that he will sell the building and property. This means that the Town will have the first option to purchase the building and property.

In the meantime, the Town is studying different ways to increase operational effi-

- Dragging the trail for cross country ski loop around the town and school property
- Tennis Program

Passes Available:

- Children's Museum Free pass available throughout the year
- Look for winter discounted tickets to: Portland Pirates game March 5th, Camden SnowBowl, Sugarloaf, Shawnee Peak, and Mt. Abram at the Town Office. Details on Bowdoinham.com/Recreation.

Please contact me, Lisa West at lwest@bowdoinham.com or 666-3504 or check our website at www.Bowdoinham.com/recreation and please like our Facebook page: Bowdoinham Recreation Dept. for program updates and announcements.

ciency and employee safety at the Recycling Barn while maintaining the recycling operations for residents. The hours and days of operation remain the same.

At the same informational meeting in 2012, those in attendance expressed strong support for the Town to find a different location to construct a new Public Works Facility that would include a new garage for the trucks and equipment and a sand/salt storage structure. The Town is actively looking for land in Bowdoinham that would be adequate for this use. After a location is determined, the Town will begin the process of designing and engineering the structures for the new Public Works Facility. As this process continues, there will be public informational meetings so that residents can offer their opinions on this project. The Select Board and Town Manager hope that this project will be completed within four or five years.

If you have any questions or comments on these projects, please contact Town Manager Bill Post at wpost@bowdoinham.com or 666-5531, or any Select Board member.

New at the Recycling Barn

By David Berry & William Post

As part of an effort to ensure that only Bowdoinham residents are permitted to use the Bowdoinham Recycling Barn, the Town will be issuing automobile window identification decals to Town residents. The decals will be available at the Town Office on January 4, 2016, and at the Recycling Barn on Thursdays and Saturdays beginning January 7, 2016. To receive a decal, residents must provide some proof of residence, such as an automobile registration, or a tax or utility bill. There will be no charge to residents for these decals.

The Recycling Barn Makes Recycling Paint Easier!

Recycling unwanted paint just got easier in Bowdoinham! Households and businesses can take unwanted, leftover paint to the Recycling Barn. The Town is partnering with the new PaintCare program to recycle unwanted "architectural" paint.

The Recycling Barn accepts house paint, primers, stains, sealers, and clear coatings. The products must be in containers that are no larger than 5 gallons in size, in its original container and the

container must have an original label and a secured lid. We cannot accept open or leaking cans for recycling. Please review the following detailed list to find out what can be accepted, prior to dropping off your paint.

Products that are accepted for free:

- Interior and exterior architectural paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Primers, sealers, undercoaters
- Stains
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes (single component)
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives
- Field and lawn paints

What Happens to the Paint? The Recycling Barn notifies PaintCare when a shipment is ready and PaintCare will make sure that your leftover paint is remixed into recycled paint, used as a fuel, made into other products or properly disposed.

For more information, contact the Recycling Barn at 666-3228.

NEW - Cemetery Advisory Committee

By William Post

The Select Board is seeking volunteers to serve on a new Cemetery Advisory Committee. While this committee's mission is still under discussion by the Select Board, it is expected that this new committee will work with the Town Manager and Sexton to develop a cemetery inventory and condition report. This report may then be used to prioritize clean-up and repair work on these cemeteries. Many cemeteries in Bowdoinham are no longer active, and no longer have associations that take care of them. Therefore the Select Board believes that the Town should begin caring for these cemeteries. Other duties of this committee will be determined by the Select Board. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Town Manager Bill Post at 666-5531, or wpost@bowdoinham.com. Thank you.

Finance Advisory Committee News

By William Post

The Select Board is seeking one volunteer to serve on the Finance Advisory Committee. The Finance Advisory Committee consists of five members and one alternate member. The Committee assists the Select Board and Town Manager/Treasurer with financial decisions regarding development and administration of the town's budget and the investment program for the Town. The Board is seeking volunteers that have experience in business analysis, financial analysis, investments or development and administration of a budget. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Town Manager Bill Post at 666-5531, or wpost@bowdoinham.com. Thank you.



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Food Pantry News

By Kathy Tome

A special thanks to all that contributed in one way or another to help us provide Thanksgiving Dinners to our clients. With the help of so many people we were able to provide over 20 Thanksgiving Dinners to families who may have gone without! In addition to the turkey and all of the fixings, we also provided many with homemade pies and fresh fruit. We have so much to be thankful for at the Bowdoinham Food Pantry! We could not do it without the incredible volunteers who make this pantry run so smoothly and for all of you that donate funds and/or an abundance of great local and fresh food. As you know, Thanksgiving is the beginning of our holiday season and need continues. If you know of someone who needs help, please tell them to visit us at the pantry on Wednesday from 3-6pm.

For more information, please call 751-7779 or email bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com.

*Open Wednesdays 3-6pm
9 Main St, Bowdoinham*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Food Pantry is looking for someone who might be willing to do a little shoveling after each storm. Once the plows come through (both for the road and the parking lot) and depending on the size of the storm, a great deal of snow piles up in front of the entrance to the pantry. We cannot always get down there to clear the walkway and porch, which often freezes rather quickly. It would be great to have someone take on that responsibility for us. If you are interested or know of someone who might want to help, please contact us at 751-0080.

Access to the Library - Who Knew?

By Kate Cutko

The Bowdoinham Public Library, together with the Advisory Committee on Aging, recently conducted a survey of adults in Bowdoinham (aged 60+) regarding the library and its services. The results were very helpful as we plan for the future and we thank the 300+ residents who took time to share their thoughts.

This article wants to address just one aspect of the feedback we received. Many people shared that access to the library was difficult for them, and for some people, it prevented their use of the library entirely. Together with the town, we are discussing what improvements can be made to library entrances. The good news is that some improvements have already been implemented!

Many people shared that they are nervous about using the front steps in the winter because they are icy. The good news is that the Town has installed heated stair treads on the steps of the front entrance to the Library that will melt snow and ice before it is built up so that the stairs are easier to climb during the inclement winter weather. An additional hand rail was also added to the middle of the stairs.

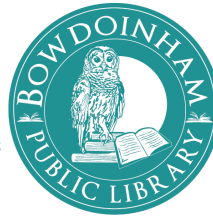
For some, improvements to the front stairs are not enough to make access to the library comfortable. In the short term, we want to make sure everyone knows about the accessible entrance to the second floor of the Coombs Municipal Building. A ramp is located at the rear of the building and accessed by the paved driveway on the right-hand (north) side of the building. Currently there is space for two cars to park at the top of the paved driveway.

We received feedback about the signage which we will pass on to town officials. While the signage currently shows a wheelchair, the town staff invites all people who would prefer to use the ramp

instead of the flights of stairs to access the library. You do NOT need to have a handicapped plate or designation.

The door at the top of the wheelchair ramp enters the Kendall Room. There is a doorbell which rings inside the library. Press the bell and a friendly library person will come and open the door for you. The library hours are also posted at that entrance. The ramp is lit as is the access driveway.

We look forward to possible changes that might allow for easier parking and easier access to the ramp. The Town Manager and Select Board are currently working on this issue. Your voices have been heard and we thank you very much! Please contact the library if you have other questions or concerns regarding access to the second floor. 666-8405 or kcutko@bowdoinham.lib.me.us.



News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Lee Parker

Winter at the Merrymeeting Arts Center kicks off with the 4th Annual Ice & Smelt Festival, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 5th and 6th (with a snow/rain date of February 8th).

Ice and Smelt Festival” will open with a community party on February 5th at MAC gallery, 9 Main Street, 6-9pm, celebrating the opening of the exhibition, “Winter Darkness/Winter Light.” Come see how local artists portray the delights of winter in Maine, as well as the mysteries of a season that gives us Groundhog Day, Candlemas, Mardi Gras, the myth of Persephone and the Lunar New Year. We provide the live music and art: you bring your favorite refreshments, and energy, to share!

Saturday’s activities will begin at 1. There will be indoor and outdoor activities including the ever popular Best Beard Content where you can see the finest in facial hair that Bowdoinham has to offer. Come decorate a smelt letting your inner fashion designer run wild. And...if you don’t have a beard OR you would like to decorate the one you have...come use materials and imagination to festoon your face. The gallery will be open all afternoon with music and the art of “Winter Darkness/Winter Light.”

At 5pm, in collaboration with the Bowdoinham Food Pantry, MAC will open the “back room” at 9 Main St. for a Soup Supper. Join us for fabulous soups and breads. Again this year, profits from the event will support both Merrymeeting Arts Center and our neighbors at the Food Pantry! \$5 for a bowl of soup in a paper bowl or purchase a bowl made by one of our potters for \$15 and the soup is free.

As always outdoor events will be determined by the weather and the final schedule of all events – indoors and out - will be posted online a few days before the event.

In February & March the Arts Center

is partnering with Bowdoinham Public Library, Bowdoinham Historical Society, Bowdoinham Advisory Committee on Aging and a Mt. Ararat High School English class for a Community Read. The Merrymeeting Arts Center project “Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices” will use Edgar Lee Masters’ classic book “Spoon River Anthology” as inspiration for a comprehensive community project involving the literary, dramatic and fine arts.

As part of this project two Community Read events will be held this winter. On Thursday, February 18th, 1-2:30pm author Caroline MacDonald will give a talk and discuss her book “Way Down Back,” at the Coombs Municipal Building. On Thursday, March 7th, 1-2:30pm Franklin Burroughs will facilitate a discussion of “Spoon River Anthology” By Edgar Lee Masters, at the Merrymeeting Arts Center.

Copies of both books are available at the Bowdoinham Public Library. “Spoon River Anthology” is available for free download via Overdrive. A Reading Guide for “Spoon River Anthology” is also available at the Town Office, the Bowdoinham Public Library & the Town Landing Restaurant.

For more information contact Peggy Muir by email: pegbryce@comcast.net or Patricia Oh at 666-5531, ext 110 or p.oh@bowdoinham.com.

MAC Pottery Project

The Pottery Project is a fun place to be any Saturday morning between 8am and 2pm. Potter Rebecca Smith is on hand during Open Studio hours to help those new to pottery and those reconnecting with skills learned long ago. A \$5 fee covers the cost of materials and tools.

Classes are scheduled monthly during Open Studio hours for a \$10 fee. Materials and supplies for classes will be included in the fee for classes.

Membership in MAC Pottery Project is available for a fee of \$50/month. Potters have 24/7 access and full use of studio, including the use of kilns if approved by MAC.

For more information email us at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com or leave

a message at (207) 370-5002 and we will return your call.

Looking back at Fall

The Merrymeeting Arts Center project “Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices” is inspired by Edgar Lee Masters’ classic book “Spoon River Anthology.” The book tells the story of a small American town in the early 1900s through individual “epitaphs” written by the dead.

On October 19th Emily Vail’s freshman English class from Mt Ararat High School visited Bowdoinham to kick off the project. The class had read “Spoon River Anthology” in preparation for the visit. Betsy Steen, Bowdoinham Historical Society created individual research folders full of newspaper clippings, genealogy, diaries, etc. on a real Bowdoinham citizen of the 1800s & 1900s. After a presentation by Betsy and Peggy Muir, Merrymeeting Arts Center students chose one of the citizens for their assignment. The students will use the information in the folders to write original, historically-based monologues modeled after “Spoon River Anthology.” These will form a centerpiece of “Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices.” Afterwards they drove past the remaining houses of the people they were studying, visited 4 town graveyards where their people were buried, and finished with lunch at the Jellerson School.

On November 2nd, 75 fourth and fifth grade students from the Bowdoinham Community School toured Art Center’s the fall exhibit “gardenfarmart,” which included many art pieces by their schoolmates. They also toured the Bryceworks room to see the wooden sculptures by the late Bryce Muir. Afterwards they visited the MAC Pottery Project where potter Rebecca Smith explained the process for making things from clay, some of which is dug locally. The visit concluded with with Betsy Steen of the Bowdoinham Historical Society who described the downtown of the past and the major fire that destroyed so much of it, showing photographs and a map with the pre and post fire structures.

For more information contact Peggy Muir at pegbryce@comcast.net.

News from Advisory Committee on Aging

By Patricia Oh

The new year is a time to make resolutions and express gratitude for our many blessings.

I hope that you will join us in making some positive resolutions for 2016. The Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA) is here to help you achieve your goals, whether they include exercising, volunteering, learning something new, making new friends, or whatever you think might make positive changes in your life in 2016. Check out our many offerings over the next year and join us.

Is one of your resolutions spending more time with people? The Shipmates Senior Center will be meeting this winter in the Graduates Room, on the Second Floor of the Coombs Municipal Building. The room is directly across from the library. If the stairs are a challenge, drive up the short hill on the right side of the building. At the top, a ramp leads into the Coombs building second floor. The door will be unlocked during Shipmates hours.

In January, the Wellness Planning group has adopted the mission of offering opportunities for everyone to enjoy a healthier 2016. ACOA and the Bowdoinham Food pantry are jointly sponsoring a class about healthy eating on a budget.

Physical fitness classes will be offered for all levels of ability that are meant to be fun and help you maintain or even improve your flexibility, balance, and core strength.

Is one of your goals for the New Year to lose weight or improve your nutrition? A support group is in the planning stages so let us know if you are interested!

Do you want to learn something new? It isn't too early to start the "Community Read" books: *Way Down Back: A Journey into Hospice Country* by Caroline McDonald or *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters. Join your friends and neighbors for community book discussions of both. Caroline McDonald, the author of *Way Down Back*, will join us for the discussion of her poetry on February 18th. Franklin Burroughs will facilitate a discussion of *Spoon River Anthology* on March 17th. The Community Read is a part of the Merrymeeting Arts Center's "Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices" project. Watch the Activity and Resource List for more information about upcoming events that are part of the project.

One of the positive changes we can all make in our lives is to cultivate gratitude. At each meeting, the members of the Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA) have the opportunity to share their gratitude for the work done by community volunteers to make Bowdoinham an even better

place for people of all ages to live. Theresa Turgeon, Gracia Woodward, Bob Curtis, and Kathy Psczolkowski would also like to express their gratitude for the six residents who have been appointed by the Select Board to join them on the Advisory Committee on Aging. Tom Deforest, Rachel Evans, Patty Melander, Dick Rose, Joanne Savoie, and Joan Smith will work with "old" members of ACOA to make Bowdoinham even more aging friendly. If you see any of the ACOA members around town, feel free to express your gratitude for their work and offer any suggestions for making Bowdoinham an even better place to live.

ACOA members see the fabulous, tangible results of Bowdoinham becoming a more aging-friendly community, an even better place for people to grow up and grow old. It is impossible not to see the value of the Bowdoinham spirit and all of the neighbors who share and help one another. ACOA is also thankful for the enthusiastic support of the Select Board and for the help and cooperation of town employees. ACOA members are especially grateful as they welcome a few new members who will add even more to the work that has already been done. ACOA—with the help of the new ACOA members!—is looking forward to making Bowdoinham an even more aging friendly place in 2016!

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Artists are invited to submit work exploring not only the visual delights of winter in Maine, but also the mysteries of a season that gives us Groundhog Day, Candlemas, Mardi Gras, the myth of Persephone and the Lunar New Year. Any artistic medium is welcome including fiber art, mixed media, clay, painting, etc. Work must be submitted by January 30, 2016. For more information call Howard Solomon at 207-666-3589 (no text messages, please), or email howard.solomon@maine.edu.

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News from BCDI

By David Whittlesey

BCDI held its annual meeting on December 6th to review 2015's activities and discuss future directions. BCDI welcomed Land for Good's Maine Field Agent, Jo Barrett, who gave a talk on strategies for farm leases and gaining access to farmland. If you would like more information regarding Land for Good, you can contact Jo directly at jo@landforgood.org.

At the meeting, Kathy Gallant, the Chair of BCDI's Board announced that she was stepping down from the Board due to family obligations and the demands of her work. We all thank Kathy who has been with BCDI from the beginning, for her enthusiastic support and commitment. She will continue to help with BCDI through the Advisory group and participation in activities as time allows. Andy Cutko has volunteered to step into the Chair of the Board, and David Engler and Harriet Van Vleck will remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, ensuring continued strong leadership for the organization.

BCDI has been selected as one of the finalists for the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund's Cheryl King Fischer Innovation Award, which honors the vision and leadership of Cheryl King

Fischer, NEGEF's Founding Director. The Grassroots Fund chose six groups as finalists for the Innovation Award from the pool of recent Seed and Grow applicants. Finalist information profiles are posted on the Grassroots Fund's website <http://grassrootsfund.org>. A winner will be announced on Monday, February 1st by assessing the number (and quality) of comments on each profile. Please visit the website and weigh in on behalf of BCDI!

Towards the end of November, BCDI disbursed a loan to Harvest Tide Organics, LLC to construct a propagation greenhouse on their new farm on the Pork Point Road. Bethany and Eric's request for a Community Development Loan was approved, processed and capitalized through local investment in very short order, and the green house will be ready to go for Spring planting! This brings the total of loans/investments BCDI has process to over \$66,000, with all loans due so far reimbursed on time.

Don't forget that BCDI is a membership organization. We count on membership contributions to cover about one-third of the BCDI operational budget, and Membership is required to participate in the Loan/Investment Opportunity program. To become a member, or renew your membership for 2016, please visit the BCDI website: www.bcdi.us/membership, or contact David Whittlesey at david.whittlesey@gmail.com.

News from Bowdoinham Hardware

By Corey Troup

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all of you! It's been a wonderful first 7 months of business serving the Bowdoinham area. John, Laura, and I would like to humbly thank ALL of you for your support and we wish everyone good cheer and many smiles throughout the oncoming winter season. We thank you also for your continued patience as we bit by bit build your local hardware store into something for all of us to be proud of.

We have new products over the next few weeks steadily arriving that will make the winter season a bit more fun and easier. We have ice fishing goods, live bait, sleds and more arriving ASAP. Eco-friendly ice melt is here now. Snow scoops and shovels are in, too.

Throughout the winter we will be building our electrical and plumbing departments into strong performing sections. We have recently become an official dealer for Bass Pro Shops and American Rod and Gun. And being an Independent Dealer allows us to retail their products lower than their stores! That's a big Yessah theya bub to you all!

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Plumbing Tip **Save Your Paperwork**

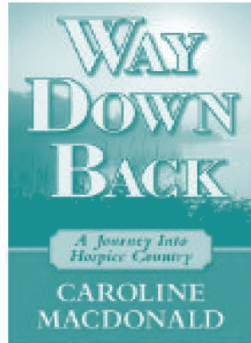
Many faucets no longer have the brand name etched on them and all faucets will eventually leak or drip. If you want to repair your faucet rather than replace it you will need a record of the manufacturer and model number. With many companies the homeowner can call customer service and request the part free of charge, it can be a significant savings.

Solarize Midcoast Maine

Interested in solar energy at your home or small business? Want to take advantage of great pricing and tax credits? Sign up for more information about Solarize Midcoast Maine at www.cityofbath.com/solarizemidcoast-maine! By registering, you are not committing to participating in Solarize Midcoast Maine, but indicating that you are interested in the program.

For more information, contact Scott LaFlamme, Director of Economic Development, City of Bath, at 443-8372 or slaflamme@cityofbath.com.

The Merrymeeting Arts Center
Advisory Committee on Aging - Shipmates Senior Club
Bowdoinham Public Library - Loose Ladies Book Club



present

WINTER COMMUNITY READS

Way Down Back by Caroline MacDonald

Thursday, February 18th, 1 – 2:30pm

Author talk and book discussion

Kendall Room, Coombs Municipal Building, Bowdoinham

&

Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters

Thursday, March 17th, 1- 2:30pm

Community book discussion

Merrymeeting Arts Center

9 Main Street, Bowdoinham

Multiple copies of both books are available at the Bowdoinham Public Library.

Spoon River Anthology is available for free download via Overdrive.

A *Reading Guide* for Spoon River Anthology is available at the Town Office, the Bowdoinham Public Library & the Town Landing Restaurant.

+ + + +

*This program is part of the 2016 Merrymeeting Arts Center project
“Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices.”*

For more information contact **Peggy Muir** by email: pegbryce@comcast.net
or **Patricia Oh** (666-5531, ext 110 or email: p.oh@bowdoinham.com)

Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

There's lots happening at the Historical Society!

Updates

The Carriage Shed is progressing very well, thanks to Tom DeForest and David Piccuito and all who donated in any way. A handsome privy is also under construction.

The Jellerson School has had two school groups visit this fall.

- Christine Egan & Jessie Boardman's fourth grade classes came from Bowdoin for a 1910 School Day.
- 13 students in Emily Vail's ninth grade class came to Bowdoinham October 19th to see the homes and visit the graves of the people they chose for Merrymeeting Monologues. We had lunch at Jellerson School, and the kids got to touch something that had actually belonged to their person. It was a splendid day!

Upcoming

Bowdoinham Historical Society will be partnering with Merrymeeting Arts Center with their *Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices* projects, so stay tuned for more to come.

Contact BHS

Mail:

PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email:

info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Website:

www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thebowdoinham-historical-society

Office Hours:

in the Lancaster-Bishop Archive & Research Room, 13 School Street on Tuesdays, 10am-12pm & 2-5pm

2016's Theme will be Digging Up the Past with a focus on Archaeology, Primary Source Research (Vital Statistics, Grave Records) and Genealogy. We'd love to have your suggestions and help.

Help Needed

Refinishing of our revolving book case to hold BHS Sales items in the Meeting House.

Updating our cemetery gravestone file, which was last done in 1974 by Doris Rowland in her Death Records of Bowdoinham Maine and in 1980s by Marilyn Hinkley.

Typing the fascinating newspaper serial of the life of Captain Andrew Curtis of Bowdoinham (1835-1911 Millay Rd). We hope this will become a book!

Documenting the houses on your road.

Seeking pictures of your house and farm pictures (to be scanned and returned).

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, February 7, 2016, 3:30pm
at Kendall Room, Coombs Municipal Building

A Frank Connors Bowdoinham Slide-show to culminate 2015: Year of the Photo

Sunday, March 13, 2016, 2:30pm
at Kendall Room, Coombs Municipal Building

Digging up HIS Past in Bowdoinham. Brad McFadden discusses and shows his work, and what he has found on his ancestors' home site in Bowdoinham, typical of the people who settled this region in the 1700s.

Cub Scout News

By Cathy Curtis

Pack 699 had a successful Fall Kick-Off adding many new Cubs to the Pack.

We have been selling popcorn, going on hikes, and earning belt loops, activity pins and Bobcat Badges- awarded to Beckett O'Hanlon, Oliver Forcier, Simon Grenier, Brandon Norman, Angus Petrie, and Jacob Gauthier.

In October, our Bear den hosted a Halloween party with a costume contest and cub-created games for the Pack to play. Thank you to Bowdoinham teachers Abbie Mackenzie and Erin Caswell and local Boy Scout alum, Alec Mackenzie for being our costume judges. First prize went to Johnathan Cooper for his homemade Lego person costume.

In November the Pack participated in a Flag Retirement Ceremony at Bowdoinham Community School. Local veterans were honored and a new flag was raised that was flown over the U.S. Capitol, provided by Senator King's Office.



In December, our Pack led the town's tree lighting and carol singing and held a mitten drive. We look forward to our winter activities and preparing for our Pinewood Derby in March.

We are currently fundraising for a new Pinewood Derby Track with a timer as well as future field trips. Thank you to the community for your continued support!

CEO Corner - Alarms

By Darren Carey

In light of all the recent incidents around the State, I feel it is important to reiterate the importance of Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors. These alarms are essential to keeping our loved ones and ourselves safe.

An alarm that is functioning effectively provides an early warning which allows one to escape as quickly as possible. In order to escape as quickly as possible it is important to have a fire escape route. It is a good exercise to walk through your home and inspect all exits and escape routes. These routes should remain clear at all times. Check to make sure that all doors and windows can be opened easily. This walk through can be used to educate children about fire safety and the importance of having a plan in place. The National Fire Prevention Association recommends carrying out a drill twice a year and making it as realistic as possible.

Smoke Alarms, CO Alarms or a combination Smoke-CO Alarm must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. It should also be noted that CO alarms are not replacements for smoke alarms or vice versa. Smoke alarms and CO alarms have different sounds and it is good practice to know the difference between the two. Smoke alarm failures usually result from missing, disconnected, or dead batteries. A good rule of thumb is to change the batteries when one changes one's clock for daylight savings and test alarms at least once a month.

For more information please visit National Fire Prevention Association at www.nfpa.org.

Property Tax Exemptions and Programs

By Ron Beal

Make sure you are getting all the tax benefits that you qualify for.

Exemptions

Homestead Exemption. If you have owned and lived in your home for more than 1 year, you are likely eligible to receive a \$10,000 exemption on your property valuation for tax purposes.

Veteran Exemption. A veteran who served in a recognized war period AND is age 62 or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a veteran; or became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for a \$6,000 exemption.

Paraplegic Veteran Exemption. A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may receive up to a \$50,000 exemption.

Blind Exemption. An individual who is determined to be legally blind receives \$4,000 exemption.

Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement & Exemption

If you own a business, these programs allow you to not pay (or be reimbursed for paying) taxes on your business equipment.

Property Tax Fairness Credit

This program, for those who qualify, can help offset some of your property taxes or rent payments. This credit is taken when you file your Maine State Income tax return. For more information, please go to www.ptla.org. There are income guidelines as well as other criteria for using this tax credit.

"Current Use" Programs

The State of Maine has four "current use" programs which allow a property owner a reduction in their property taxes: Tree Growth, Farmland, Open Space and Working Waterfront.

Tree Growth Program. To qualify you must own 10+ forested acres and have a Forest Management and Harvest Plan.

Farmland Program. To qualify you must have 5+ contiguous acres that is used for farming that generates \$2000+ in gross income.

Open Space Program. There is no minimum acreage required to qualify for this program, however the property must be preserved or restricted in use to provide a public benefit.

Working Waterfront Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land.

All of these exemptions and programs require an application to the Town's Assessing Agent, Ron Beal by April 1st. For more information, please contact Ron at 666-5531 on Wednesdays, 9am-5pm.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay Speaker Series Presentations

JANUARY 13 - Keeping the Earth with a Virtuous Vegetable
at Cram Alumni House, Bowdoin College, 83 Federal St., Brunswick

FEBRUARY 10 - The Mortal Sea

MARCH 9 - Maine's Rare & Endangered Invertebrates

The Series is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay with support & door prizes from Patagonia, Inc.-Freeport. Contact Kathleen McGee, 666-3598 or fomb@comcast.net for more information.

Community Development Project Updates

By Nicole Briand

This fall we have been working to complete two projects: the Public Restrooms at Maily Waterfront Park and the Signage Project.

Public Restrooms

The Town now has public restrooms at Maily Waterfront Park! The restroom facility has three unisex handicap accessible restrooms that are completely automated with automatic toilets, sinks, hand dryers, lights and locks. The restrooms are heated and will be open year-round. Winter hours are 6am to 8pm. In addition to the new restrooms, we've had the old restroom in the Harbormaster's Building converted to a Dumping Station for boats. The Dumping Station will be open in Spring 2016.

Signage Project

Over the summer the first phase of the Signage Project was completed with the installation of the Welcome Signs. The second phase of the Signage Project, nine Directional Signs were installed in December.

Both of these projects were funded using the Town's new CMP TIF budget. The CMP/Riverfront Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District adopted at Town Meeting 2014, is financed by the property taxes paid by CMP for their new lines along Browns

Point Road.



ANDREWS BRUCE CAMPBELL, P.A.
919 Ridge Road, Bowdoinham 04008
207-666-5601; ABC@207Legal.com

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS AS OF MAY 1, 2016
Felony and Misdemeanor Defense
Divorce and Family Law
Real Estate and Probate Litigation
Personal Injury Claims

Dog Licenses Due

State Law requires all dogs six months and older to be licensed by January 1st, however there is a grace period of January 31st to before a late fee is incurred.

What is the fee?

Neutered/Spayed Dog - \$6.00
Not Neutered Dog - \$11.00

After January 31st there is a \$25.00 late fee.

What do I need?

A copy of a current rabies certificate and a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the dog has been neutered or incapable of producing young.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

January

1st

Town Office Closed

13th

FOMBs Annual Meeting, 6pm
Cram Alumni Hall, Bowdoin College

14th

MAC's Annual Meeting, 4:30pm
Merrymeeting Arts Center

18th

Town Office Closed

30th

Bean Supper, 4-6pm
Bowdoinham Fire Station

February

5th

"Winter Darkness/Winter Light" Opens
Merrymeeting Arts Center, 6pm

6th

Ice & Smelt Festival

7th

A Frank Connors Bowdoinham Slideshow
Kendall Meeting Room, 3:30pm

10th

FOMB Speaker Series, 7pm
Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick

15th

Town Office Closed

18th

Arthur Talk & Book Discussion, 1pm
Kendall Meeting Room

27th

Bean Supper, 4-6pm
Bowdoinham Fire Station

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held at John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School Street.

Select Board Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of Month at 5:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Advisory Committee on Aging

4th Monday of Month at 3:00pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Town Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
- 8:30am - 4pm

Wednesday - 9am - 6pm

For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at www.bowdoinham.com/calendar.

Town of Bowdoinham
13 School Street
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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