



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 21, Issue 3

bowdoinham.com

May - June 2023

BCDI - May Is Membership Month

It's that time of year again! We are pleased to ring in our fourth annual Membership Month this May! If you are not a member we hope you will consider joining us, and if you have been a member in the past then this is the month to renew your dues and continue your support of our work!

Your membership does two important things for BCDI. First, your dues fund a significant part of our work, which includes our Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan Program, our Farmland Inventory, and various town-wide Community Conversations, among many other initiatives that BCDI may be working on at any given time. Second, your membership is a vote of confidence, support of our mission, and a seat at the table for BCDI's projects. Your involvement in our unique organization enables BCDI to support the kind of community we are proud to call home.

Membership dues begin at only \$10, but there are additional levels of support available. The easiest way to renew is to visit www.bcdimaine.org/membership where you can renew online. If you'd rather send a check, please send it to BCDI, PO Box 343, Bowdoinham, ME 04008.

May Is Business Membership Month, too!

BCDI Business Members hail from here in Bowdoinham, as well as further afield. They are carpenters, auto mechanics, authors, farmers, artists, sailors, beer brewers, and musicians, just to name a few. Their commonality? Through their BCDI membership, they help support programs and initiatives designed to strengthen Bowdoinham's economy.

If you have a business or customers in Bowdoinham please consider becoming a Business Member of BCDI. In return for your membership support, we support our Business Members by sharing news and

BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

MAY MEMBERSHIP MONTH

YOU are BCDI.
Join us at www.bcdimaine.org

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!

Visit the "Business Members" page at www.bcdimaine.org/business-members of our website to learn more about how to become a BCDI Business Member!

Thank you! Your support helps make Bowdoinham an even stronger community!

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You are invited

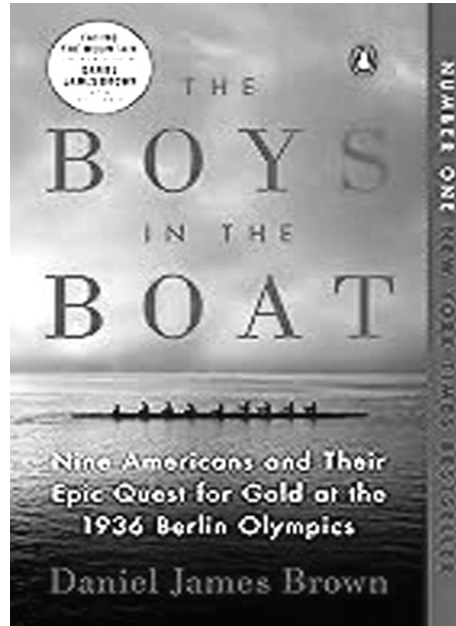
Bill Becklean, Coxswain 1956 Gold Medal US Olympian Rowing Team to Speak on his Olympic experience and “Boys in the Boat” Open to the public

Save the date and join us on June 22 at 1PM when the Loose Ladies Book Club, Bowdoinham Rowing and the Bowdoinham Public Library will host Bill Becklean, coxswain of the 1956 gold medal U.S. Olympic Rowing Team.

Mr. Becklean will speak on his Olympic experience in Melbourne, Australia, and lead a discussion of the book “The Boys in the Boat” by Daniel James Brown.

Mr. Becklean lives outside of Boston and is still active in his sport- rowing and coaching. The Loose Ladies Book Club’s choice for June is “The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.” Composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington’s eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The book, written in 2013, is a true story with fascinating history and it’s a page turner!

The event will take place at the Bowdoinham Town Hall (tentative location), 13 School St., at 1PM on June 22. If you want to read the book ahead, reserve a copy at the library: 666-8405. Refreshments will be served. Free of charge. Hope to see you there!



Daffodils, anyone?



Hopefully, we were all surprised to find Daffodils blooming all over Bowdoinham

this spring. Last fall, nearly 2,000 of these beautiful spring delights were planted in local cemeteries and all over town, trying to “make a sweet old town even prettier,” according to organizer (and Town cemetery Sexton) Frank Connors.

The story began when a loving daughter asked Bayview Cemetery supervisor Connors to “remove an ugly bush” from her parent’s gravesite, adding, “my mother always hated that thing.” Connors told her he’d take care of it, asked if she wanted something “replanted,” she thought for a moment and said, “Daffodils, my mom always loved Daffodils!” Connors did remove the bush, called a few other people for donations, got a “grant” from the Project Gymnasium fund, then called his son, a Boston area landscape architect, to order the bulbs!

Last November 4th and 5th, Chuck, Monica and Sam Annable joined Jane and Frank Connors on a weekend planting blitz. Wayne and Sandy Dorr, Sarah Stapler, Karen Mayo, Jon McGuire, and Martha Dunn-Emmons each took bags of bulbs, and were tasked with planting at special sites.

More than 650 bulbs were planted at Bayview, in what Annable, a gardener of gigantic proportions himself, called “trash can clusters.” Others were planted at the Village Burying Ground, the Ridge, Maxwell, Harward, Pioneer, Coombs-Buker and Davis cemeteries, also on the downtown Soldier’s Memorial, the Historical Society Meeting House, at several signs that welcome folks to Bowdoinham, and in what Connors called, “a few other surprising places.”

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 complete and return an enrollment application no later than July 31, 2023, and must abide by the requirements of the plan. Applications will be available beginning July 1st.

Automatic electronic payments are not offered under this plan, however, property owners can schedule payments online through the Town’s online payment system (<https://bowdoinham.androgov.com>).

For more information on the 2023/24 Tax Club Plan, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531, or email our Assistant Clerk at Assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com.

Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC)

The history, culture, and people of Bowdoinham combine to make this town a remarkable place to live! As someone who has lived here for over 20 years, but traveled out-of-town to work each day, it has taken a while to learn a lot of the details about this town. Comprehensive Planning Committee members and guest speakers from Bowdoinham's other committees, volunteer groups, and other services, have been great ways to fill in lots of details!

The Comprehensive Planning process takes both a lot of review and editing and a lot of forward thinking to create guidance for the town – always informed by the voices of community members. There are two ad hoc committees thinking through additions of new content to the plan. Bowdoinham Age Friendly members are working with Comprehensive Planning Committee members to assure that the needs of older community members are adequately reflected in the 2024 10-year plan. Another committee is drafting language about possible linkages to public health resources that we could tap into including through the MidCoast Public Health District, for instance. Of course, adding additional topics to the plan means engaging volunteers to get things done. Bowdoinham has a long-term history of engaged community members. If you would be interested in helping out on such a committee, you may have a chance in the future. We would like to hear from you.

People who have participated in the Housing Community Conversations co-hosted with BCDI have learned a lot about the changing demographics of the town in addition to what housing options might be considered for the future. It is clear that participants want to make it possible for older people to live in Bowdoinham as long as they want and provide more options for families and individuals of all ages to move to live here while maintaining the rural character of the community. Experts in land use, types of financing, ways to protect open spaces and waterfront, while supporting our farmlands and outdoor recreation are all needed as we plan for the future.

In the previous newsletter I shared some information that about 1/3 of people living in town are currently aged 60-69. It is such an important factor that Dan Totman, a presenter at the February 1, 2023 Housing



Community Conversation, talked about it as well. He shared:

- The median age in Bowdoinham is 47, three years older than the state median age.
- Bowdoinham has:
 - o A higher percentage of 0-9 year-olds
 - o A lower percentage of 10-19 year-olds - only about 1/2 as many
 - o And a higher rate of people in their 60s - 1/3 of all people living here are in their 60s - while about 15% of people in Maine are in their 60s

During a presentation in December, the Bowdoinham Water District Board of Trustees assured us there is plenty of water to expand the number of homes/condos/apartments that are served by the Water District. The pipes primarily serve Village Districts I and II - but the waterlines only go so far. A developer would be responsible for connecting the waterlines to the housing units. There is a map of the waterline in the 2014 Comprehensive plan on page 202 if you want to take a look.

The flip side of plenty of household water is figuring out what septic system options exist for new developments. There has been a lot of innovation in septic systems over time; it is possible that a shared septic system could serve 2, or 10, or 20 units.

Recent activities of the Comprehensive Planning Committee include:

- 1) An update to the Select Board on the planning progress on March 28, 2023
- 2) The first meeting of the Housing Action Committee was held on April 5, 2023

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 usually meet in-person, a quick check of the www.bowdoinham.com website will provide more information. In person meetings are in the Graduates Room of the Coombs building. Yvette Meunier, the new 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.

Committee Members are: Joanne Joy, Chair; David Asmussen, Co-Chair; Laura Arnold, Kimberly Bedard, Peggy Christian, Jan Marks, PJ O'Hanlon, Robert Schott, and William Stanton. With Allen Acker moving to the Select Board, it would be great to have someone with long term roots in town join the committee along with others. If that's you, send an email to planning@bowdoinham.com or call the town office.

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

Joanne Joy, Chair

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Town Warrant Article about Extending the CMP TIF

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) voted unanimously to extend the town's CMP TIF for its final 10 years of eligibility, taking it to 2044. After hosting a public information session on March 27 and a public hearing on April 4, CDAC has now finalized the specifics of the program with the help of Mathew Eddy from the Midcoast Council of Governments. The Selectboard voted on April 11 to include it on the Warrant at the Town Meeting this June 14.

Many of the initial projects of the 2014 CMP TIF have been completed such as the village wastewater system study and the new installation of broadband access to previously unserved parts of town. The new extension will allow the town to take on some town approved projects, many of which are being developed on the Cathance River in the village. The extension will also help the town to cover the costs of activities that are currently paid for with the Pipeline TIF when it runs out in 2030 such as part of the budget for the Town Planning Office, community events, and the Town Newsletter.

The initial estimate for the revenue from the CMP TIF was \$2 million. This extension raises the total estimated revenue to \$5 million. The benefit of sheltering this income in a TIF fund means that Bowdoinham can keep more of the money for needed town projects. If these funds simply went into the town's General Fund, we would get less state revenue sharing income and would have to pay higher amounts to the School District and the County.

The complete details of the proposed TIF extension activities can be seen under

Community Development Advisory Committee's March and April agendas and meeting minutes on our website and respective meeting records on Townhall

Streams. Please contact Yvette Meunier, Director of Planning and Development if you have any questions at Planning@Bowdoinham.com.

Harbor Master

John McMullen

The As the Cathance River and Merrymeeting Bay waterways become more crowded, boaters need to learn to watch their wakes. With excessive speed in such close quarters our wakes threaten the safety of the many paddlers using the river and potential damage to shoreline docks and plant life. The Cathance River is approximately 400-500 feet wide at its widest point during high tide, and less at low. Maine State Boating Law requires a boat to operate at headway speed within 200 feet of any shoreline. Although a good percentage of powerboats do abide (and thank you to those of you who do) by this requirement a need for improvement remains. So please, when boating on the Cathance - **"SLOW NO WAKE"**. It's for a reason.

The town harbor has space for anyone interested in installing a mooring. Contact me for details.

Make safety your foremost concern whenever you are on the water. Sign up for a boater's safety course with the US Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary.

If you have any questions, or ideas that you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me by email at jmcmullen@bowdoinham.com.

Reminders:

- Always check the weather and water temperature before going boating

- Always notify someone who can report your delay/non-return
- Always wear your life jacket (mandatory age 10 and under in Maine)
- Tie up time on the dock is limited to 2 hours. If your vessel is disabled or there is a critical need beyond 2 hours, contact the harbor master.
- In case of emergency, please put owner information on dinghies tied up at the dinghy dock.
- There is a charge for spaces on the kayak racks which are reserved for the season. Do not put your kayak in an empty space on the rack unless you have rented the space through the town office.

To ensure your boat is safe from bow to stern get your free Vessel Safety Check. It could save your life and the lives of your loved ones. Call the harbor master for an appointment.



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Local Youth Earns Eagle Rank



Colby Porter, a sophomore at Mt. Ararat, and a Bowdoinham resident earned his Eagle Rank through Troop 202 in Topsham on March 15, 2023. Colby participated in Cub Scouts in Bowdoinham and earned his Arrow of Light as a member of Pack 699. Colby's Eagle project involved refurbishing a 911 display at Mt. Ararat High School. A dedication ceremony was held on 9/11/22.

Colby is the son of Chris Porter and Jessica Driscoll. He comes from a strong

scouting background as his father, Chris, is an Eagle Scout and his grandfather, Ken Porter has supported scouting for many years. Colby shared that the hardest part of his Eagle project was the logistics which involved the schedule and getting people to show up to volunteer. He fundraised for his project as well as received donations.

Take the time to drive through the Mt. Ararat campus and view his project which is across the street from the new track. Congratulations Colby and family!

Dates You Won't Want to Miss:



Summer will be quickly upon us and with it comes a full bucket of family fun events.

Farmers Market returns on Saturdays to the Maily Waterfront, starting June 11th 8am -Noon.

Concerts in the Park Series will be starting up on June 25th with Blues Buzzards. Enjoy music and food every Sunday night at 6 pm at the Gazebo in the beautiful Maily Waterfront Park.

Open Farm & Studio Day is Sunday July 23rd . Visit local farms, take part in art exhibits, enjoy local produce, products,

and events. A complete listing of events will be available at a later date. Farmers and Artist planning to participate please contact YvetteMeunier at planning@bowdoinham.com by May 26th.

Celebrate Bowdoinham will round off the summer on Saturday September 16th. The ducks are in training, anxiously awaiting the big race and counting on your participation to make the 2023 celebration a year to remember. Ways you can help with this year's event: Build a float and enter the parade, volunteer your time, practice your lobster crate running, rent a booth or encourage local artist and craftsmen to do so, donate to the silent auction, stop by, play games, purchase local wares and town merchandise, listen to music, eat good food and enjoy the day along the river with neighbors, friends, and family.

Line Dancing

Line Dancing, hosted by the Merrymeeting Dance Alinement, began for spring 2023 on Tuesday March 7 and will continue until Tuesday May 30. Sessions are every Tuesday from 5:30–7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Merrymeeting Hall, 27 Main St., Bowdoinham.

The first hour features beginner dances, the second hour non-beginner dances. On the first Tuesday of each month we teach line dancing to absolute beginners from 5:30–6:00; if you want see what line dancing is about, the first Tuesday dates are April 4th and May 2nd.

Dancing is free of charge, and so are the snacks and hot chocolate. If you don't want to dance, come out and watch, and enjoy the varied music.

If you want to get on the email list for weekly reminders and links to line dancing video demos, or if you want more information, email George at golivergo5@gmail.com.

Hours of Operations

Town Office

Starting on May 15th the Office is changing its hours of operation on Wednesdays only. The office will open to the public at 11 am instead of 9 am.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesdays

11:00 am to 6:00 pm

Library

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Wednesday & Friday

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Sunday & Monday

Closed

Recycling

Thursday & Saturday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday

12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

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Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2022 – 2023 Zoom Speaker Series



7:00 PM LOG IN LINK POSTED AT
WWW.FOMB.ORG
PRIOR TO EACH PROGRAM.

MAY 10 Order in the Pownalborough Court House, 1761-2023

Jay Robbins, Place-Based Historian

Designed by Boston architect Gershom Flagg and built in 1761 by the Kennebec Proprietors for the newly created Lincoln County, the Pownalborough Court House received such notable visitors as John Adams, Benedict Arnold, Robert Treat Paine, William Cushing, Reverend Jacob Bailey and two future Massachusetts governors: David Sewall and James Sullivan. Numerous trials were held here, including that of Judge North which was featured in the Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Midwife's Tale* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, based on the diary of local resident Martha Ballard (1735-1812).

The Court House also served as a tavern, a place for church services, a dancing school, and as the Dresden Post Office from 1807-1855. In addition to its vital role in the legal history of Lincoln County and Maine,



the Court House was a family home. From 1761 – when Captain Samuel Goodwin, an original Kennebec Proprietor and captain of the guard at Fort Shirley, moved his family from the guardhouse.

Join us as Jay Robbins takes us on a journey through the history of this special building.

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by:

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

Contact Ed Friedman, 666-3372 or
edfomb@comcast.net for more information.

www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org

Congratulations

The farmers' market season is upon us! The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market is happy to announce opening day on Saturday, June 10th. We'll be at the Maily Waterfront Park every Saturday 8:30-12:00 until October 7th. It's a great excuse to enjoy Saturday mornings in the park with your neighbors. Down at the park you'll find fresh baked bread, crisp organic veggies, grass fed meat, milk and cheese, tasty snacks, beautiful flowers, seedlings and fresh fruit. Other fun events gravitate to the market as well; stories, live music, line dancing... Check the Facebook page or email bhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com to hear more!



While Bowdoinham has a great summer market, the farmers in town are using the

excellent soil in town to deliver luscious produce year round. You can bring home the seasonal specialties from the fields in town and support your farming neighbor in many local markets, CSAs and a huge number of restaurants and natural food stores. Take a look at the menu and chances are you'll see a Bowdoinham farm. Supporting the markets that offer local food keeps dollars in the area where they bounce around to other local businesses.

Whichever market you go to:

- Come early for the best selection.
- Ask about EBT, SNAP and WIC programs at the info booth
- Bring a big sturdy bag to bring home your bounty!

Make your way to one of the local markets! We're sure you'll find the effort deliciously rewarding.



Congratulations to Bradley Jasper who participated in the International Academic Competition's Regionals in both History and Geography. We are thrilled to share that he qualified for Nationals in both subjects which will take place in June in Virginia. He also qualified for Internationals both. The history competition will take place in July in Rome, Italy! The geography competition will be held in 2024 in Quebec! Best of luck, Bradley.

The Bowdoinham Food Pantry turns 10!

BFP Director Jenn Stonebreaker

If you follow us on social media, you've seen the release of our 2022 statistics. (And if you don't follow us on social media, you should!) From the inception of the Pantry, numbers of households served, client visits, and pounds of food have been recorded. We have ten years of data (yes, the Pantry turns ten this year, and you're invited to our birthday party!) meticulously collected by volunteer Tracey Mousseau.

When a community member arrives at the Pantry for the first time we ask them a few simple questions: name, address, and number FOOD DRIVE / BBQ / CAKE of adults, children and pets in the household. That's it. We have a hard copy of this list on hand during distribution and each time a client shops with us we place a checkmark next to their name. At the end of each month Tracey collects this list, compiles the data and posts it to our website (see bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org, and check out the stats page). This data is crucial to tracking trends, anticipating need, and learning what's working and what isn't.

In 2022, 183 households were served in comparison to 2021, when 96 households were served - that's a 90% increase in one year. We can break these numbers down



Saturday, May 13th / 11AM-3PM
9 Main Street, Bowdoinham

FOOD DRIVE / BBQ / CAKE

even further: in 2022, 329 adults and 180 children were served. In 2021, 174 adults and 59 children were served. That's an 89% and 200% increase, respectively.

So what does this mean? Is the need greater? Yes. Is the cost of living high? Yes. We are all familiar with rising food and energy costs. It costs more to feed our families, heat our houses, keep the lights on, and get where we need to go. But there is another driving force - our philosophy. We have made a very conscious effort to knock down the stigma

associated with utilizing the Pantry. Our clients are met with respect, compassion and care every time they walk through our doors. We've created a culture based on a community of volunteers, staff, clients and donors that does not judge or shame; instead, we welcome and support.

We're open for in-person shopping each Wednesday from 4-6PM. Come shop with us!

Here are some volunteer opportunities if you'd like to get involved:

WEDNESDAY - Pack Deliveries/Deliver

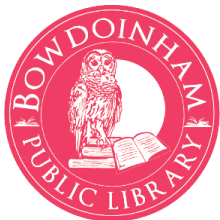
WEDNESDAY - Distribution Prep, Donation Processing & Distribution

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, or SATURDAY - Recycling Help

Wishlist (Spring Cleaning):

- All purpose cleaner
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Rubber gloves
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwasher pods

Bowdoinham Library



On May 20th we will gather in the Town Hall for our 50th and final Plant Sale. Please come 9-4, to support the library as you purchase

annuals, perennials and vegetable seedlings. We will hold a raffle for the beautiful quilt donated by Elaine Graviett. We always welcome volunteers to set up, clean up or help on the day of the sale. Join us Friday evening May 19, outside the Town Hall as we honor the founding members of this Bowdoinham Tradition: Leslie Anderson, Betsy Steen, Billie Oakes, Gayle Cogan and Sally Kelly. These women started a tradition which has resulted in raising \$344,749 for the library. Where would we be without those funds? Please gather with us as we express our gratitude for all of the hard work over the past 49 years! Contact the library for all the details.

The library continues to be a remote site for the National Digital Equity Center, where any citizen of Bowdoinham can access free computer classes here at the library, or online from their own home. Please come to the library to register for the following classes:

- Internet Safety
- Identifying Frauds and Scams
- Cutting the Cord
- Understanding Cloud Library
- Getting News and Information Online
- Using Facebook Securely

There are dozens more classes to choose from so please come in and talk about what you'd like to learn. We will help get you set up for the free classes that are best for you.

Our library has been added to the Statewide Van service for delivery of Interlibrary Loan materials. This means that any book in the

Statewide catalog (<http://mainecat.maine.edu>) can now be delivered to our library at no cost to you. This is a very valuable service. Participation in Interlibrary loan has tripled in the past year with the convenience of this free service. If a book is out there- you can borrow it!



Merrymeeting Arts Center

The Merrymeeting Arts Center studio continues to support community members interested in sharing their creativity with the community. MAC donated the use of the studio to Kate Cutko and Penny Hartwell in March and April for their Tedford Housing fundraisers and we have been impressed with the participation for the Crafty Creations and Toddler Time classes. We're looking forward to a new youth program in May led by David Grogan and family, and you can look forward to summer camp offerings by Katie Hudak! The Pottery Studio and Art Labs are still bustling, and you can find all this plus our exhibits and events on our website calendar with updates on Facebook! The Heron Fund is our scholarship fund for all MAC organized studio programs and events. It is made possible by the generosity of the Muir Family and donations from MAC friends and supporters like you. Donations can be made on our website and allow us to remove financial barriers for program participation, and ensure Art for Everyone!

Our last school vacation art kit went out in April thanks to Ryan and Brigid Redka of Bowdoinham Sprouts - a husband and wife duo on a mission to provide free art, craft, and activity kits to the community. We are so thankful for Manon Whittlesey, Addison Kennedy, Jane Page-Conway, and the Redkas for helping us reach 200 students and community members with these creative kits! If students and community members are still searching for at-home project ideas, please visit the Bowdoinham Sprouts Facebook page or stop by our Little Free Craft Library outside the studio to pick up new treasures to create your own art at home! Extra materials from your maker spaces are always welcome to our craft library- feel free to drop them off any time!

Thank you to Merrymeeting Adult Education for thinking of us to host their weekend show: Me, Myself & I and to Linda Murray, Howard Solomon, Jose Rodriguez Jr, Catherine Scanlon, Jennifer Linskey, Ed Higgins, Megan Fransiak, Andrew Edwards, Robin Brooks, Bill Stanton, and Jing Jing Luo Haven for joining us in the gallery. It was an honor to see familiar faces in our space, make new friends and connections, and we hope to build those relationships for future exhibits or workshops in the studio. Jo Trafford's My Monsters and Me exhibit was

a spectacle for the eyes. MAC is fortunate to attract such diverse artistic voices to our small community.

We hope you join us for our next exhibit featuring the work of Portland artist, Ben Boothby: Parallax Attenuation. His work captures what memories look like in our minds through layered mixed media to "push the potential of illusion and spatial depth, inviting the viewer in while also confusing any sense of solid ground." Save the date for the Opening Reception on May 12th, 4-8:00 and visit the exhibit Saturdays through June 17th, 9-1:00. To volunteer as a gallery attendant, email MerrymeetingArtsCenter@gmail.com with subject: GALLERY.

The "Gallery for Everyone" series is back this summer with a wonderful lineup, opening with a delicious exhibit featuring Bowdoinham's very own The Last Cow ice cream company! Local farms and art are a very Bowdoinhammy combination! We hope you will join us beginning June 24th and each Saturday through August 26th during the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market, 8:30-1:00!

MAC is delighted to introduce our newest Board of Directors member, Ashley West! She has been a volunteer in our gallery and hosts Toddler Time in the studio. Ashley lives in Bowdoinham with her partner and two small children. Ashley brings her enthusiasm and passion for the arts as well as her experience in Early Childhood Education to her work growing the MAC studio programming. The MAC board is looking to expand further with an additional board member focused on grant writing and development potential. Merrymeeting Arts Center is a volunteer-led organization so the time commitment is flexible, but a successful board member will be passionate about providing artistic opportunities in our community and building relationships for future organization success. Please reach out for more information on board involvement!



Ben Boothby

"Nylon Rope & Creaky Stairs"

"A memory of a place is a construction in our mind."

These paintings combine acrylic and oil paints along with veneer marquetry to push the potential of illusion and spatial depth, inviting the viewer in while also confusing any sense of solid ground.

May 12 - June 17 / Saturdays, 9 to 1
Opening Reception, May 12 / 4 to 8pm
9 Main St., Bowdoinham

Morning Jo

Welcome back, Summer!

If you're like most people in town, you're more than ready for the pleasures of summer in the Ham! Farmers markets and line dancing, concerts in the gazebo... the cheerfully bustling waterfront... and those luscious summer evenings. Bring it on!

Looking Outward, Looking Inward

I've heard it said that people are more likely to "look outward" during the day and "inward" after the sun goes down. It's no wonder storytelling around a campfire is a time-honored tradition.

Conversations around the campfire - marshmallows optional.

The relentless parade of our daily details can make us feel disconnected from others. It can even separate us from parts of ourselves. All of that disconnection can slowly eat away at our sense of emotional well-being. But once we sit down by the fire and start sharing, something magical happens: we get reconnected.



Do you question the value of your own stories?

Many people are shy about sharing. They say things like, "Why would anyone else be interested in hearing the stories of my life?" But the truth is that all of our stories matter.

There's nothing like sharing the stories of our lives with the people we love.

The power of sharing our stories is awesome. Whether we are speaking our story or listening to someone else speak theirs, everyone ends up feeling more seen, more known, and more loved. So many gifts!

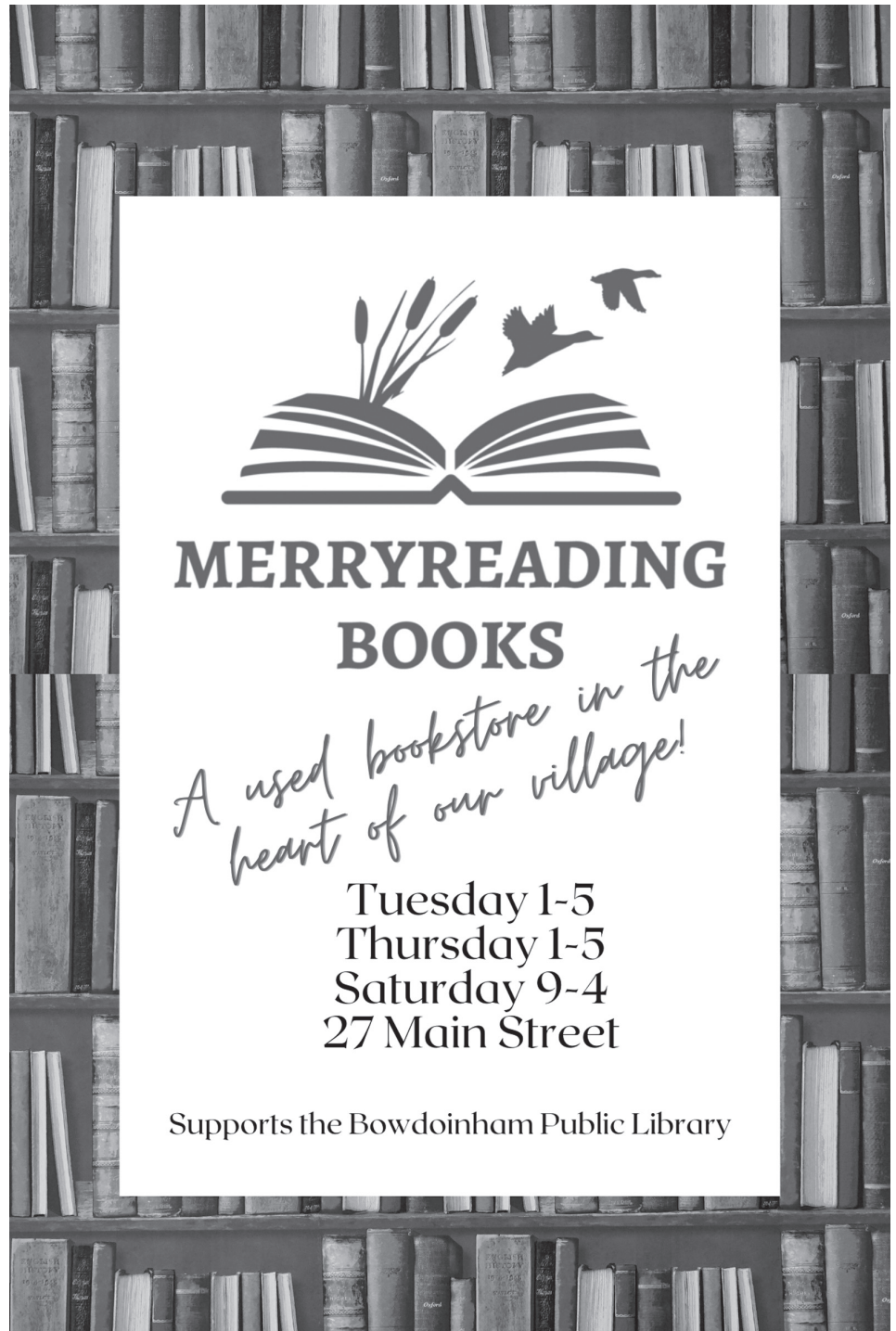
Sharing our stories is a precious gift that goes both ways.

When we share our stories, we reclaim the sacred ground of who we are. And we give others permission to do the same. We end up feeling closer to the people we care about. Everybody is enriched.

Sharing your life stories is good for your health.

The feeling of emotional connection is highly correlated with both physical and mental health. You never have to share if you don't want to. You always get to choose what, when, with whom, and how much you share. But with the right people and the right moment, I bet you'll be glad you did.

Questions/Comments? Anything particular you'd like me to address next time? Email me at jowtherlcs@gmail.com.



**MERRYREADING
BOOKS**

*A used bookstore in the
heart of our village!*

Tuesday 1-5
Thursday 1-5
Saturday 9-4
27 Main Street

Supports the Bowdoinham Public Library

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Planning & Development Department Updates:

Waterfront Redevelopment Project Update

In February the Town put Phase 1 of the Waterfront Project back out to bid and received six bids, three were within the budget. We are pleased to announce we have signed a contract with Bedard Excavation to start in June. This summer the site will have an access road along with parking areas, and installation of underground drainage and utilities installed. We are also aiming to have the new paddle put-in, including an ADA-approved kayak launch, installed in time for a dedication at Celebrate!

This first phase is supported in part by grants Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) funds reimbursable through the Maine Department of Transportation

Local Project Administration Program and a grant from the Boating Facilities Program, Bureau of Parks & Lands, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. The town continues to seek additional grant funding to undertake the shoreland stabilization project, and the rest of the park's build out. Hopefully, the funding request will continue to be successful and allow funding of core park development in 2024.

Proposed Land Use Ordinance Change- Accessory Dwelling Units

On the warrant you will see an ordinance change proposed to allow for accessory dwelling units. This language was prompted by the passing of LD 2003 in 2022 that goes into effect on July 1, 2023. The aim is

to create more affordable housing in Maine by increasing lot density. Bowdoinham has taken the proactive approach to draft an ordinance that will supersede the default provisions of LD 2003, that is more aligned with our community's values.

In a nutshell, the ordinance would allow for an additional dwelling unit to be developed either adjacent to or attached to an existing single-family dwelling. In addition, either the single-family unit or the accessory dwelling unit must be occupied as a primary residence. The gross footprint of these units are limited to 1,600 sq/ft. All other performance standards such as setbacks, non-conformance, and wastewater disposal rules still apply as they would for any new construction.

Bowdoinham Plant Sale

Back to Our Roots

May 20, 2023 • 9 am to 4 pm

This year the Bowdoinham Public Library will hold its 50th Annual Plant Sale on May 20th from 9 am to 4 pm. Like in years past (pre-COVID), the Plant Sale will be back in the Town Hall building; we are going "back to our roots."

The sale features hardy field-grown perennial plants that are organized and well-labeled. In addition, there will be some annual herbs and vegetables grown by Bowdoinham farmers, and annual flowers grown by Enterprise Farms.

We will feature a raffle for a beautiful hand-made quilt made by Elaine Graviett.

This is our largest fundraiser for the library; it is also the 50th and final Plant Sale. Rain or shine. As we've said for years "Clever people bring a box". We hope to see you at the historic 50th Bowdoinham Plant Sale! Please call the library to see how you can help. 666-8405.



Recreation News

Update on Winter Activities – Our basketball programs wrapped up in March and early April. Our K, 1st and 2nd graders participated in Little Dribblers during the month of March with 23 participants. Each Little Dribbler athlete received a free basketball to keep and continue practicing at home. The 3-4 and 5-6 grade groups had Bowdoinham representatives competing in travel-team tournaments throughout March and into April around central and southern Maine. Sing & Play Music Class and Line Dancing also continued through March and April.

Spring/Summer Activities are underway, and competitions begin this month. Quickball (formally T-Ball), Baseball and Softball all

begin games in May in Bowdoinham as well as surrounding communities. Cross country running have meets in area towns each Wednesday in May, culminating with a Championship meet in Cumberland on June 3rd. Our adult walking group, Silver Striders Walking Club, meets each Wednesday from 4:30 – 7:00pm at the Community School. Some activities, such as volleyball, have will be able to move outdoors with the longer days and warmer weather. Hopefully, when you are reading this, our Pickleball activities are back!!

Bowdoinham will again be hosting the 12U Cal Ripken Baseball district tournament in late June/early July. This is a great fundraising opportunity for the recreation program and

brings additional business to the town!

Speaking of business, we have opportunities for local organizations to advertise, and support our teams, with the purchase of a banner for our home run fence on Middle Field. These banners are prominently displayed along our outfield fence where they are visible throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall, including during at the State tournament the end of June which attracts hundreds of people.

Lastly, we are still in need of Snack Shack Volunteers to help with fundraising for our youth sports activities. Please reach out to Jason to secure your spot on our home-run fence or to pitch in at the snack shack! recreation@bowdoinham.com

Merrymeeting Arts Center presents:



Gallery FOR EVERYONE

Weekend pop-up gallery exhibits showcasing artists of all ages to celebrate the value of a gallery experience for everyone.

June 24 - August 26
Saturdays, 8:30-1:00
9 Main Street, Bowdoinham
Our gallery is free to the public; donations welcome

Visit our website and Facebook page for information on the exhibit of the week as well as future artistic opportunities.

[/MerrymeetingArtsCenter](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org)
www.merrymeetingartscenter.org

Recycling Do's and Don'ts

Don't: Don't put your food waste in the trash. The Bowdoinham Recycling Plaza has a food waste bin from a local composter. The composter asks that only food waste be put in the container.

Do: Do remove shrink wrap and plastic labels from your recycling. Items such as creamer bottles, single serving yogurt cups, kitty litter jugs, lemon juice bottles, and some cleaning products have a non-sticky, plastic label that needs to be cut off before the container is ready for recycling.

Stay tuned for more recycling **Dos** and **Don'ts**.



Animal Control Officer

What is rabies?

Rabies is a disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and is caused by a virus. It is almost always fatal. Rabies in people is rare in the United States. Rabies in animals - mainly wild animals - is common in Maine.

How is rabies spread?

The rabies virus can be found in the saliva, brain, and spinal cord of infected animals. Rabies is spread when infected animals bite or scratch another animal or person. The virus can also be spread if saliva or tissue from the brain or spinal cord gets into broken skin or the mouth, nose or eyes. These are called rabies exposures. Rabies is not spread by petting the fur of a rabid animal. It is not spread by blood, urine, feces, or by touching dried saliva of a rabid animal. It is also not spread by skunk spray.

How soon after an exposure will a person get sick?

It could take weeks to years for a person to show signs of rabies after being infected. Most people start showing signs of the disease within one to three months after a true exposure to a rabid animal, in the absence of treatment.

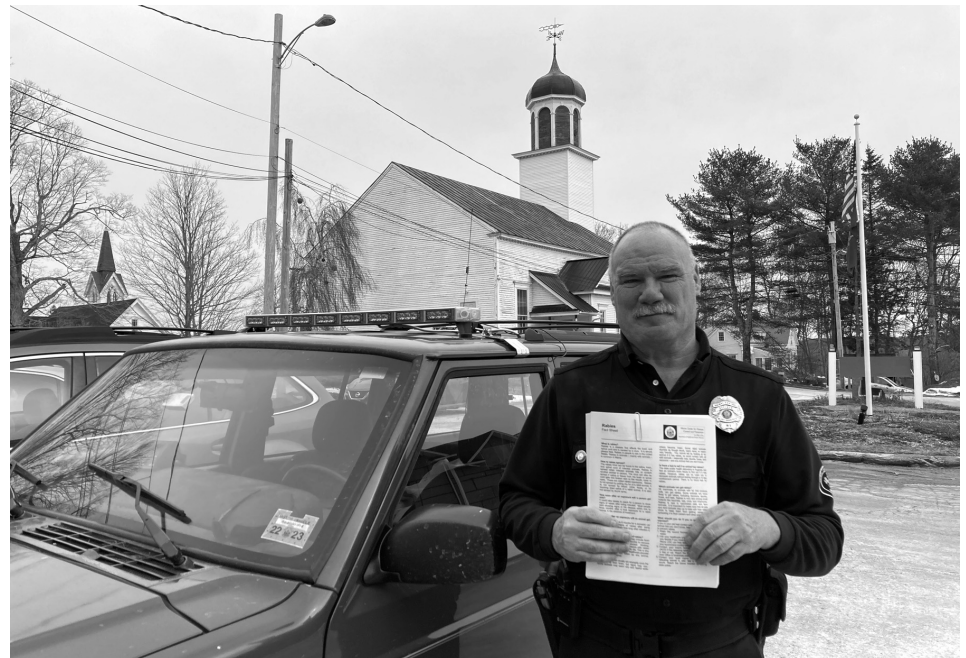
How soon after an exposure will an animal get sick?

It can take 2 weeks to 6 months for a domestic cat or dog to show signs of rabies after being infected. It is not known how long after infection a wild animal will get sick.

What are signs and symptoms of rabies?

Early signs of rabies in people may include fever or headache, but this changes quickly to nervous system signs, such as unclear thinking, sleepiness, or worry. Once someone with rabies starts showing signs, they usually die. This is why it is very important to talk to a healthcare provider right away if you are bitten by any animal, especially a wild animal.

Animals with rabies usually act strangely once the virus gets to their brain, but signs may vary. Some animals may seem shy and fearful while others become mean. Some rabid animals stumble as though drunk, seem lame, or seem very friendly. You cannot tell by looking at an animal if it has



rabies, so avoid contact with all wild animals - especially bats, skunks, foxes, and raccoons - and any animal that you don't know.

Is there a test to tell if an animal has rabies? The state public health laboratory in Augusta can test an animal's brain tissue to find out if it has rabies. However, rabies can be ruled out in domestic animals without testing through a 10 day confinement period. There is no blood test for rabies.

Which animals can get rabies?

All mammals, or animals with fur that produce milk, can get rabies. Some animals are more likely to get rabies, including raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Rabies is very rare among small rodents like squirrels, rats, mice, and chipmunks. Rabies is rare in vaccinated pets and farm animals. It is important to make sure that all pets and farm animals stay up to date with their rabies shots to keep them from getting rabies and spreading it to their owners and other animals.

What should you do if you or your pet were exposed?

If you or your pet had contact with a wild animal or animal that you don't know, follow the steps below to prevent rabies.

1. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Call your healthcare provider. He/she will help you decide if you need to be treated

for rabies. Maine CDC can help assess rabies exposures and recommend control measures.

3. Contact your town's Animal Control Officer (ACO) if the attacking animal is domestic, like a dog or cat. Reach the ACO by calling the town office or local/state police.
4. Contact your local Game Warden if the attacking animal is wild, like a raccoon or skunk. Reach the Game Warden by calling state police.
5. If your pet was bitten or scratched by an animal, call your veterinarian and the ACO or Game Warden.

What is the treatment for people exposed to rabies?

Treatment for people exposed to rabies is a combination of vaccine and immunoglobulin (RIG) shots. This is called "post-exposure prophylaxis," or PEP. The number and type of shots needed depends on a person's health status and whether he/she has been vaccinated for rabies in the past.

If the attacking animal was captured and can either be confined and observed or tested for rabies, your healthcare provider can usually wait for the outcome before deciding if treatment is needed. Rabies treatment is generally not needed for squirrel, mouse, or other small rodent bites.

continued next page

Animal Control Officer, *continued from page 12*

If PEP is recommended:

- An unvaccinated person should get 4 doses of rabies vaccine - one dose right away, along with a dose of RIG, and 3 more doses of vaccine on the 3rd, 7th, and 14th days after the first shot is given.
- A person who had pre-exposure vaccine or a complete regimen of PEP should get 2 doses of rabies vaccine - one dose right away and one 3 days later; no RIG is needed.
- A person who has a weakened immune system should receive 5 doses of rabies vaccine - one dose right away, along with a dose of RIG, and 4 more doses of vaccine on the 3rd, 7th, 14th and 28th days after the first shot is given.

How can you prevent rabies?

- Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies. By law, all dogs and cats must be vaccinated.
- Avoid contact with all wild animals and any animal that you do not know.

- Fasten trashcan lids tightly and do not leave pet food outside. This brings animals like skunks and raccoons close to your home.
- Talk to a trained exterminator or contractor about “bat-proofing” your home.
- Do not handle sick or hurt wild animals yourself; call your ACO or a wildlife rehabilitator.
- ACOs, veterinarians and their assistants, and others who have a lot of contact with stray animals or wildlife should think about getting the pre-exposure rabies vaccine.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, contact Maine CDC by calling 1-800-821-5821 or visiting the website www.maineublichealth.gov/rabies. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website - <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies> - is another excellent source of health information.

Important Telephone Numbers

Animal Control Officer: Cliff Daigle
(207) 522-8816

Maine CDC Disease Reporting and Consultation

(800) 821-5821 TTY: Maine Relay 711

Health and Environmental

Testing Laboratory

(207) 287-2727

State Veterinarian

(207) 287-3701

State Police (Nights and Weekends)

Augusta (800) 452-4664

Gray (800) 482-0730

Houlton (800) 924-2261

Orono (800) 432-7381

Game Warden Service (Weekdays)

Ashland (207) 435-3231

Bangor (207) 941-4440

Gray (207) 657-2345

Greenville (207) 695-3756

Sidney (207) 547-5300

Spring Plant Walk

Rachel Alexandrou is an artist and forager who has been exploring the world of wild edible plants for the past 20 years. Rachel leads plant walks and wild feasts all around Maine. She has a B.S. in Sustainable Horticulture from the University of Maine

and a 400 hour certificate in community herbalism from the Northeast School of Botanical Medicine.

We offer a sliding scale. To purchase tickets visit www.Dandelionspringfarm.com.

Saturday, May 27th 1-3pm

Join artist, forager, and cook, Rachel Alexandrou, in walking the land at Dandelion Spring Farm to find and forage wild edibles. Late May brings us a variety of lush spring greens, fragrant flowers to create syrups or sodas and tender roots that provide a one-two punch of food and medicine. The walk will last approximately 1.5 hours followed by 30 minutes cooking and tasting some of our finds. Expect to learn how to identify, harvest and add wild edible plants to your cooking repertoire.

Saturday, June 24th 1-3pm

Join artist, forager, and cook, Rachel Alexandrou, in walking the land at Dandelion Spring Farm to find and forage wild edibles. Late May brings us a variety of lush spring greens, fragrant flowers to create syrups or sodas and tender roots that provide a one-two punch of food and medicine. The walk will last approximately 1.5 hours followed by 30 minutes cooking and tasting some of our finds. Expect to learn how to identify, harvest and add wild edible plants to your cooking repertoire.



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

A Note from the Select Board

Dear Fellow Citizens of Bowdoinham:

The town is facing several challenges that we want to bring to your attention if you are not already aware. These challenges are the funding of road maintenance, increased staffing costs, and an ambulance service issue.

Road Maintenance

Historically, the town has been funding its road maintenance exclusively through bond issues versus direct allocations from the annual tax revenues. There are short term benefits to this fiscal strategy, but over time the debt service starts accumulating. The select board is uncomfortable with continuing this method of funding the roadwork and has decided to change this strategy by making the routine road maintenance a line item in the annual town budget. There will be a short-term consequence of higher taxes but there will be a long-term benefit of gradually reducing the town's debt.

Staff Attrition and Staffing Costs

There has been an increased rate of attrition for town employees. To increase staff retention while also maintaining service levels, the select board has agreed to some wage increases to better align the benefits paid to town employees with surrounding municipalities. Additionally, we have changed two part-time positions to full-time with benefits. These changes will have an impact on the annual budget.

Ambulance Service Issue

Bowdoinham has been in a contract with Northeast Mobile Health Services (NEMHS) to provide ambulance service to our community with Topsham providing mutual aid support. Late last fall, NEMHS

notified the town that they wanted to terminate the contract. Additionally, Topsham had been answering the vast majority of calls in Bowdoinham and consequently, their administrative leadership did not want to continue providing primary mutual aid support to Bowdoinham. After several meetings, NEMHS agreed to honor its contract obligations, but this agreement ends in June.

The town manager and Fire Chief have been exploring alternatives. The available options have been evaluated along with public workshops held to come to a decision regarding future ambulance support service. Based on this process, the select board is recommending a joint venture between NEMHS and the non-profit organization, Lisbon Emergency,

Inc. The Lisbon-based service has already taken over mutual aid support from Topsham and its response times are close to what the town's citizens have been experiencing. There is an added option available with this contract that would provide partial coverage of a first responder in the form of community paramedicine. The base option alone is going to result in approximately a five-fold increase from what the town is presently paying. Adding the community paramedicine component would add a substantial incremental cost as well as require driver support from citizens within the community. We are trying to make the best decisions for the safety of our community while minimizing these cost increases.

State of Maine

Tuesday

June 13, 2023 -

No State Elections are planned for June 2023

Municipality BOWDOINHAM

Voting District 1

Voting Place Name

Bowdoinham Town Hall

Voting Place Location

13 School Street, Bowdoinham

Polls Open at 8:00 A.M.

Polls Close at 8:00 P.M.

More information to come following M.S.A.D #75

District Budget Meeting, being held on May 18th.

Please see our Town Website for updates

on Election information.

Andrews B. Campbell, P.A.

Fifty years experience in legal matters great and small.

Taking vaccine tort claims.

Accepting selected cases at Law and Equity.

207-666-5601

COLONIAL HARDWOODS

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WOOD FLOORING CONTRACTOR**

666-3069 OFFICE

831-5718 CELL

EXPERT INSTALLATIONS, SANDING, FINISHING,
AND CUSTOM WORK

HEADQUARTERED IN BOWDOINHAM FOR OVER 25 YEARS

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Chris Lajoie, Principal, Bowdoinham Community School

A day in the life of the Bowdoinham Community School might start as early as 4:30am. If there was snowfall overnight that's when our head custodian, Mr. Jimmy Babine, arrives to start snowplowing, shoveling, and sanding. The walkways of the school will be mostly clear by the time Mrs. Vicki Russell, our stalwart Administrative Assistant, sits down at her command center in the main office a little after seven. Even though school doesn't start for a couple hours you'd probably see our Head Cook, Sherry Card, and a small handful of early-bird teachers arriving too, preparing for the day ahead.

Students start showing up as early as 7:45am. Some get extra tutoring from their teachers in reading or math. Others tote flutes, trombones and bell kits for before-school Band rehearsal. Between 8:45-9:00 you will find Patrizia Bowker, our Title I Paraprofessional, out in front of the school, greeting all arriving students with a hearty, "Buongiorno!" Many students grab breakfast and head to their classrooms for morning meetings.

Our primary goal this season is The Village Burying Ground, which is across from Community School on Cemetery Street. We need lots of volunteers, so please mark your calendars for the following Saturdays: June 3, July 15, August 12, and September 9! We will be starting from the west, or Center Street end of the cemetery and working east, section by section. We will be cleaning stones, and possibly picking up any debris, although the Public Works Dept has been doing a great maintenance job! The area to be worked on will be well signed. We will start work at 9AM. There will be a sign-in table at the front of the section, staffed by the Cemetery Committee members. A trained volunteer will be handing out cleaning kits and demonstrate MOCA (Maine Old Cemetery Association) approved stone cleaning techniques. Children under 12 should be working with an adult. On average, it takes about 1 ½ hours to completely do a stone. All cleaning supplies will be provided; but we recommend sun hats, bug spray, sun screen, and gloves if you wish. We will have water, lemonade, and cookies. We will be there

The day goes quickly from there. Students in every grade level dig into academics that would impress most outside observers. In the early grades there is a focus on foundational literacy and math skills, including phonics. Peeking into each class you will see students engaged - sometimes in a whole group lesson, but more often working interactively in small groups, or independently. There are a lot of smiles. You will pass the aquarium that is home to about one hundred salmon eggs; second graders are studying their life cycle before releasing the salmon fry into Sabattus Stream later this Spring.

The older students are engaged in rigorous reading and writing. You will see persuasive and literary essays in various stages of the writing process. Students excitedly discuss their reading in book clubs, and integrate science and social studies content; a cross-disciplinary unit on Immigration has just begun. In Math, students are counting, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. This is academic work not for the faint of heart, but our kids dig into it. If it is Wednesday, our Civil Rights Team comprised

of fourth and fifth graders will be meeting to discuss topics and work on projects. Meanwhile our Kindergarteners will be donning bright orange rainpants, hiking out to our outdoor classroom for Woods Wednesday activities. Throughout the school the classrooms are buzzing, but the hallways are calm and quiet.

The day doesn't end with dismissal at 3:20. Students stay later every day of the week: maybe for Coding Club with Bowdoinham high schooler, Ryan Sweet; maybe for Chess Club with volunteer Dan Feldman; maybe for Special Chorus practice with Ms. Adrian

Morneau; maybe for play rehearsals with our Theatre Program Director, Dana Legawiec. Even after Recreation basketball has ended the gym is busy in the evenings. We welcome community members who are walking for exercise, and volleyball or pickleball players. A public meeting is wrapping up at 9:00pm when evening custodian, Ms. Lindy Pulsifer, does her last check of the school, locks the doors, and sets the alarm. Today was a good day.

Do you have a question about our school? Email Principal Lajoie - lajotec@link75.org

Cemetery News

until about 4PM, but each volunteer should feel free to leave whenever they wish. The reason for working from the west end is that the east or Ridge Road end is very wet; and Public Works and the Town are addressing the drainage problem. We recommend parking in the school lot on the Ridge Road. There are Porta-Potties there, as well.

Another main goal is to repair/secure several monuments in the Village Burying Ground and the Ridge cemetery. We hope to assist Susan Tuttle the Keeper with cleanup in the Brown Cemetery in October; but more about that later. Linda Temple and Elaine Diaz will continue to contact Keepers and offer kits and assist with current cemetery assessments and getting any GPS coordinates we don't yet have. With these we can precisely locate any cemetery on a tax map which in turn will give us information on abutters, access, and ownership. We don't have phone numbers for all of the Keepers, so if you haven't heard from us and especially if you use only a cellphone, please call one of us. (Contact information at end of this column). We appear to need

Keepers for the following cemeteries:

- GR 20 Purington Plot, Brown's Point Rd
- GR 15 Webber Cemetery, Post Road
- GR 25 Thomas Cemetery, River Road
- GR 43 Jack Family Plot, Post Road.

If you are or want to take care of one of these, please contact Elaine or Linda.

Currently, we have five members on the Committee, and very much need two more. The current members are as follows:

Nina Mendall, Chair, njmendall@comcast.com (207)666-8838.

Peter Mendall, Acting Secretary, pjmendall@comcast.com (207)666-8838.

Patrick O'Hanlon, pjo'hanlon@hotmail.com (207) 666-1069, (603) 986-8124.

Linda Temple, Volunteer Coordinator, wwells9@myfairpoint.net (207) 666-3343.

Elaine Lamoreau Diaz, Volunteer Coordinator, elainediazhome@gmail.com, (207) 666-9255.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Second Baptist Church

The Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham, celebrating 203 years in Bowdoinham, continues our mission to bring the Truth and Love of God into our community and world through the lives of committed and growing Followers of Jesus Christ.

The Church has held some successful community events over the last year including a Christmas organ concert, performed by Ryan Sweet, where donations were accepted for the Bowdoinham Food Pantry and the Town's home heating fund. Easter services included a Good Friday Service as well as the traditional Waterfront Sunrise Service, breakfast, and 10:00 service.

Pastor John Ross will be retiring this summer and the church leadership is in the process of hiring a new pastor. The church body thanks Pastor Ross for his dedicated service to our congregation and community since 2014. He has helped us navigate through challenging times especially by keeping us connected throughout the pandemic. We wish him well in his retirement and hope he will fill in on occasion.

The church continues to be blessed with the musical talents of Ryan Sweet and Judy Rathbun who play the piano on Sundays. We welcome you to join us.

Scheduled Events:

Worship Service at 10:00 AM on Sunday

Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month.

A free church luncheon is held after the service on the third Sunday of the month.

Wednesday evening Bible studies are offered and in the summer months, we hold "Back Yard Camp Fire Bible Studies". This takes place at various homes in the community.

Men's Breakfast at 7:00 AM on Saturdays

Women's Bible study at 9:00 on Sundays

Also, AA Meetings are held each Monday and Thursday evening at 7 PM.

For more information, you can go to the church's website at: www.bowdoinhamsecondbaptistchurch.org or visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/bowdoinhamsecondbaptist.

Volunteer Workday in May



The Cathance River Trails in the village have made it through the winter in good shape. Some touch up work needs to be done, however. The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) is hosting a volunteer workday to prepare the trails for the season ahead on Saturday, May 6 starting at 10:00 (rain date is May 13). Please meet by the bulletin board at the start of the trails - just beyond the "Yellow House" at the bridge. We will be checking trail signs, doing some brush clean-up, and will make sure all is ready.

Last season, the three trails got some professional trail markers, had a major culvert and road upgrade (thank you Public Works), benefitted from some brown tail moth removal, and had two benches installed. This season, we can look forward to some exciting developments. The Merrymeeting Arts Center is hoping to install some of Bryce Muir's whimsical outdoor sculptures which will enliven the area. The Aging Committee is also talking about rating the trails for accessibility and may have recommendations for future improvements.

Please join us on Saturday, May 6. While it isn't necessary, you may email Wendy Rose at wendelynrose@gmail.com to let her know if you plan to attend.

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: 11:00am-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)

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

COBB'S REPAIR SERVICE



AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR & DIESEL SPECIALIST

6 WALLENTINE ROAD – BOWDOINHAM, MAINE 04008

(207) 666-5985

Stones that tell stories:

Silas Adams was an Historian and a soldier.

Silas Adams was born in Bowdoinham, Feb. 22, 1841, one of ten children born to John and Henrietta (Hatch) Adams. In his 80+ years, he'd become a soldier in the Civil War, father of six children and the writer of the major history of our Town of Bowdoinham.

Adams enlisted in the 19th Regiment of Maine Volunteers in 1862 and served with that unit until the battle at Gettysburg, where he was wounded. After that pivotal battle in Pennsylvania, he was nominated for a military college, graduated as a lieutenant, and finished the war as an officer in charge of the 41st U.S. Colored Troops. Discharged in 1865, he returned to Bowdoinham and married Rebecca (Skelton) in 1866. They had six children, and she died in 1890. In 1891 he married Ellen (McFadden) who died in 1895, and after Ellen passed, he married Hattie (Hathorn) in 1902.

Soon after his return to Maine, Adams commenced working on a Maine Central Railroad mail train, a job he continued for many years. In 1884 he authored a 25-installment History of Bowdoinham in the local weekly newspaper, *The Bowdoinham Advertiser*. When Bowdoinham's 150th anniversary was celebrated in 1912, he used that body of work to author his *The History of the Town of Bowdoinham*, a 285-page book that has stood at the Town's historical center for more than 100 years. Adams was a featured speaker at the dedication of Bowdoinham's Soldiers Monument in 1912, and served as a commander of our Town's GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Post. He died March 12, 1926 at Waterville, Maine, and is buried in Bowdoinham's Ridge Cemetery.

Find the grave? From Bowdoinham village, drive out Ridge Road past the Community School. You'll see the Cemetery on your left in about four miles. Turn in the first gate on your left, drive 100 yards till the elevation starts to change. You'll see four identical stones on your left, one for Silas,

one for Rebecca, one for Ellen and one for Hattie. You should also see a GAR marker and a 12x18 inch memorial flag. At first look the rounded-top marble stone appear blank, the engraving is on the back side. This is one of Bowdoinham's best cemeteries, take time to wander.



Photo credit Silas A. Morin

Andrews B. Campbell, P.A.

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Taking vaccine tort claims.
Accepting selected cases at Law and Equity.

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EXPERT INSTALLATIONS, SANDING, FINISHING,
AND CUSTOM WORK

HEADQUARTERED IN BOWDOINHAM FOR OVER 25 YEARS

Bowdoinham's 2023 – 2034 Budget

Tom Walling April 10, 2023

It probably won't surprise many residents that the fiscal budget for the coming year will show an increase over this year's. This is because the town is faced with the same pressures and needs that every family faces, only on a bigger scale. We are obligated to provide certain services such as fire protection, passable roads, town administration, solid waste disposal and recycling, and recreational opportunities which make for a pleasant and livable town.

Our town is growing every year with each new house that is built and each new family that moves in. As the town grows, our cost to meet those obligations grow with it.

The budget you will be considering on June 14th at our annual Town Meeting will ask you for \$2,458,960 which is an increase of 157% making this the biggest increase in years. Let's look at some of the changes that make this necessary.

One of the biggest shocks to our finances is the enormous increase in cost for ambulance service. North East Ambulance informed us in January that they could no longer provide coverage at their contracted rate. Additionally, Topsham indicated that they would no longer be our primary back up. We have been scrambling since then to put a plan together to protect our neighbors who need emergency medical care. Although the cost of continuing with North East is high (\$250,000) the alternative of building our own ambulance service is many times higher and would take too long to accomplish to even consider at this point. We are working toward a plan that will have a qualified Community Paramedic (CP) stationed in Bowdoinham 10 hours a day, 6 days a week. The CP and ambulance would be provided by North East with assistance from Bowdoinham EMS staff. During the remaining unstaffed hours, the ambulance would remain in Bowdoinham, so it could be staffed by volunteers with the required credentials for those 14 hours.

This additional workload for the Fire Department / EMS will require a full-time Fire Chief to handle the increased complexity of keeping the EMS staffed,

trained, and certified. Also, the Fire Department is always in need of volunteers for call-outs, and recruitment will become a bigger part of the job.

Other positions that are to become full time are an Assistant Clerk in the Town Office, the Recreation Director, and a third Driver / Laborer in Public Works.

The Town Office is understaffed to the extent that it is closed to the public when there is an employee out sick or there is a training session scheduled. Staff have even deferred vacation time because of the high workload.

The Recreation Director has expanded his role with the Age Friendly Committee to better serve our senior population as well as working to give our youth a sense that the town cares for them too.

Another Driver / Laborer will allow the town to take over the plowing of the smaller roads and parking areas without using independent contractors. During the rest of the year, there is enough work to be done on roads, ditches, building maintenance, etc. to keep another worker productively busy. Public Works is in the same bind for vacation time as the Town Office and this position will also relieve some of that pressure. And in the future, the state of Maine would like to contract with Bowdoinham to plow and sand the Post Road for a payment to us of \$72,000.

Our town infrastructure has been deteriorating for several years as can be seen by the cracked, pot-holed and crumbling edges of our roads. It can also be seen by the sad appearance of our beloved Town Hall and the cramped office spaces in the Coombs building. This budget calls for beginning a planned improvement cycle of road paving with the goal of getting all the town roads to the level of "maintenance only" until the natural life expectancy is met without having to do frequent and costly repairs that stop short of "doing it right".

This budget calls for \$650,000 to be put into the Capital Reserve Fund so that we can stop paying for major projects with long-term bonds thus keeping more of our revenue for town expenses rather than paying interest to the banks.

These are the biggest drivers of the increase in the budget. There are, of course, smaller amounts that do add-up, but none of the others are as eye-watering as these. Make sure that you understand the direction that this budget is trying to set for Bowdoinham. We are moving into a future where more and more is being asked of our town, and we must begin to invest in the infrastructure and services that make Bowdoinham such a desirable place to live.

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF...

I'm Cara, I live right in town and I just joined Portside Real Estate Group as an Associate Broker. I'd love to help you buy or sell your next home!



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207.607.5965

Road Maintenance

A Planned Network Strategy of Maintaining Pavements in Good Condition to Maximize their Useful Life as Cost Effectively as Possible.

To accomplish this goal, the Town should be maintaining 10 miles of shoulders and ditches per year. Part of this is being able to maintain our road shoulders and ditches to keep the water away from the road base. For this to be possible the town is proposing to purchase an excavator to clear and regrade ditches as necessary.

As you have most likely noticed, several of our roads are badly in need of repaving, as they were last paved over 10 years ago and some of our roads do not have the recommended 3.25 inches of pavement. The road pavement standard is 2 inches of base pavement and 1.25 inches of surface pavement. However, in the past, Bowdoinham opted to only complete the base pavement.

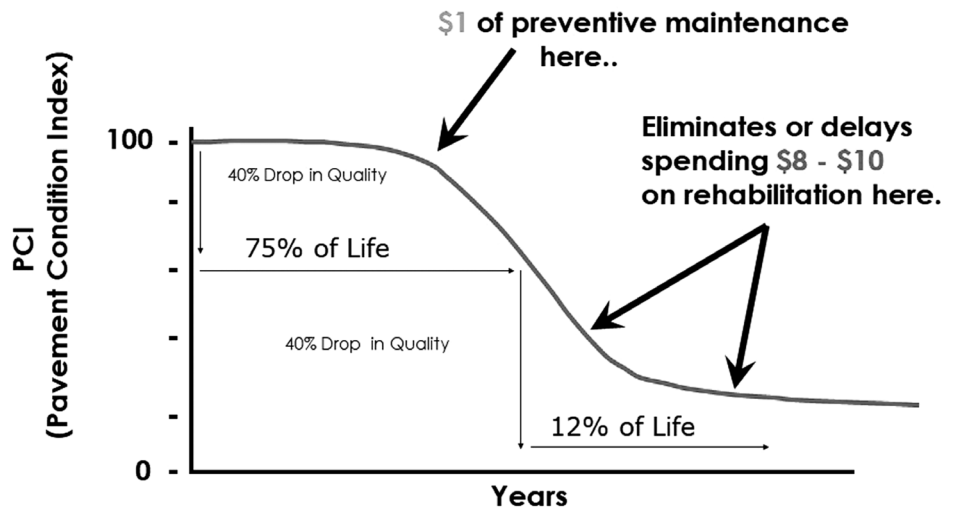
To address the Town's current state of roads, we have created an aggressive - year road plan to catch up on our road maintenance. Our goal is to implement a pavement preservation road plan.

The Town of Bowdoinham is responsible for about 30 miles of roads. If the Town wants to maintain a 10-year maintenance plan, the Town should be paving 3 miles of road per year.

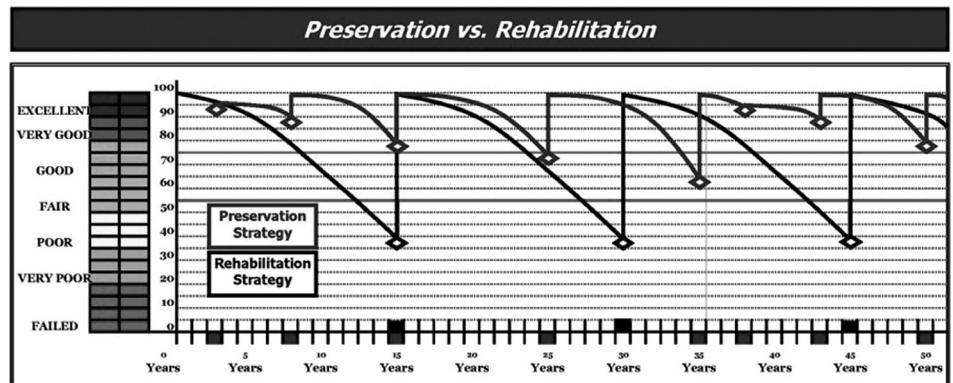
To pay for this paving, the Town will need to raise \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year to pave 3 miles of roads a year. If the Town had to borrow this funding every year, we would add \$45,000 in annual debt payments per \$350,000 bond and pay \$100,000 in interest. This would ultimately add \$450,000 to the Town's annual debt service payment.

Instead of borrowing, we're recommending that the Town include \$350,000 per year for road maintenance in its operating budget. This would save the Town approximately \$100,000 in interest per bond and \$450,000 per year in the operating budget long term, greatly reducing interest expense and ultimately helping to control resident taxes.

Life of a Pavement



Progressive Pavement Management



PRESERVATION STRATEGY:

- Years 3 & 38: Fog Seal
- Years 8 & 43: Chip Seal (Single)
- Years 15 & 50: AR Chip Seal
- Year 25: Bonded Wearing Course
- Year 35: 1-3/4" Hot Mix Overlay

TOTAL COST/SY OVER 50 YEARS = \$28.65

REHABILITATION STRATEGY:

- Year 15: CIPR with 2" HMA Overlay
- Year 30: CIPR with 2" HMA Overlay
- Year 45: CIPR with 2" HMA Overlay

TOTAL COST/SY OVER 50 YEARS = \$48.00



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Excavation - Road Work - Land Management

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

MAY

- 1st Second half of Tax Payment due
- 13th Food Pantry 10th Birthday Celebration 11 am to 3 pm
- 20th 50th Annual Plant Sale 9 am – 4 pm
- 25th Blues Buzzards: First of Sunday Concerts at the Waterfront Season 6 pm
- 27th Foraging Walk with Cooking Demo & Tasting at Dandelion Spring Farm 1 pm – 3 pm
- 29th Town Office Closed

JUNE

- 10th First of Saturday's Farmers Market of the Season 8:30 am
- 14th Town Meeting 7 pm @ Bowdoinham Community School
- 19th Town Office Closed
- 22nd Olympian Bill Becklean on Rowing & Boys in the Boat at Town Hall. 1 pm
- 24th Foraging Walk with Cooking Demo & Tasting at Dandelion Spring Farm 1 pm – 3 pm

JULY

- 4th Town Office Closed

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 6:00pm
(November will be on the 3rd Thursday)

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of Month at 1:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee

1st Thursday of Month at 4:00pm

Town Hall Committee

Last Tuesday of month at 6:30pm

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