



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 2

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March/April 2015

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Contractors, Part II

By Wendy Rose

**B**owdoinham has a wealth of builders to handle all of your building needs.

#### Ahlers Building and Design Hal Ahlers

When Hal was young he, he had a lot of experience working with family members and then master builders, which gave him the foundation he needed to start his own business in the early 1990's. He can take on projects from new construction through renovation—"Whatever people want," he says. He has had crews of 2-12 but always likes to be directly involved in any job. "I'm a hands-on person," he says. "I enjoy the actual building. I get more satisfaction at the end of the day when I've had a hand in it."

Framing, construction, finish work, cabinets, built-ins, and what he calls "maintenance carpentry" are all a part of Hal's repertoire. His favorite kinds of projects are the ones that involve some design or creative work. It doesn't need to be a large assignment, but if it involves some creative problem-solving, Hal is able to apply his experience to find a good solution. He especially likes to take advantage of a site's natural assets—the light, the landscape, and the sight lines. "I'm really interested in green building methods and try hard to have efficient energy solutions for any project," he says. "Getting up to date on all the new technology is one of the fun parts of the job." Hal would love to see the day when every house would generate more than enough electricity through smart building techniques and then contribute the excess energy to the grid.



Having lived in Maine since 1981, Hal has developed a large network of customers throughout the area. He usually works within a 50 mile radius, and has done a number of projects along the coast from Portland to Bristol. "I really enjoy working with people," Hal says. "It's fun to work out good solutions with them." He has found that it is

important to be in sync with his customers, and he finds great satisfaction in their pleased reaction to the work he's done.

Hal is busy through the winter and early spring, so it's important to be in touch with him soon if you have a project for the coming summer. You can reach him at 844-4225 or at harolddewolffa0@gmail.com.



#### Clewley Remodeling and Renovations Daniel Clewley

Daniel has many talents and has

worked as a photographer, musician, and taxi cab driver. The career he always returns to, however, is construction and carpentry. "I like to see something I've built," he says. "It gives me a real sense of accomplishment."

Daniel had a successful remodeling business in the Berlin, NH area for a number of years. However, when the mill closed in 2005 and then the deep recession hit, he turned to other endeavors. Now that things are picking up in the construction field, he has turned back to working with wood. "Put me and a piece of wood together and it's like it was meant to be," he says. "I like to fix up old things and get them working again."

While Daniel is new to Bowdoinham (he came last August to help fix up a mobile home for his brother), he grew up in Falmouth and has lived in Maine for most of his life. He learned his trade by working with experienced carpenters and enjoys projects such as decks, laminate and hardwood floors, cabinetry, doors, countertops, and shelving. He especially likes to renovate and/or save old wooden items such as doors. He usually takes on projects where he can work on his own, but for larger jobs, he knows other craftsmen who can help.

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## Contractors, Part II

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You can find Daniel on Home Depot's Red Beacon list. It includes skilled tradespeople who can do projects for Home Depot's customers. To qualify, Daniel is licensed and insured and has been thoroughly vetted. The Red Beacon Program along with his website and business cards have all been helpful ways Daniel has become known in this area. He is also doing sub-contract work with other carpenters.

Next to carpentry, Daniel loves doing photography. Right now he is concentrating on nature photos, but in the past he has also done portraits and wedding photography.

You can get in touch with Daniel by calling 518-7777, emailing him at [day-springphoto@comcast.net](mailto:day-springphoto@comcast.net) or through his website, [www.dayspringphotography.com](http://www.dayspringphotography.com). "If customers have a special need, I will work with them to find a solution and figure out a payment plan that works for them," he added.

### MJF Enterprises

*Mark Favreau*

MJF Enterprises is a good name for Mark Favreau's business since it serves as an overarching name for all the entrepreneurial ventures that he has developed since leaving BIW in 2002. One of these ventures, his carpentry and construction work, was something he learned while apprenticing with his grandfather who had a passion for building furniture. When Mark had an opportunity to become self-employed, he immediately got underway putting his carpentry and construction skills to work.

Today, Mark takes on projects such as custom tile work, kitchen cabinetry, bathrooms, roofing, siding, additions, decks, flooring, shelving and remodeling. "I love doing complicated patterns in wood and tile, and especially enjoy doing wood inlays," he says. "I can take on a wide

range of things from a single window to a tile backsplash to a roof to siding."

Because Mark grew up in Brunswick, he has a wide network of family, friends, and customers throughout the region. They have kept him busy through the periodic economic downturns, and he already has a number of jobs booked for the coming season. His son currently works with him on various projects. Since the schedule is filling in, folks should call soon if they have a project they would like to talk over. "I always like to work with a new customer," he says.

As many know, Mark is also busy during the winter with his plowing customers. He currently has 70 households on his list along with a town contract to plow the dirt roads. For a big storm like the

has time for vacation. As it turns out, he spends his free time participating in Ironman Triathlons. He will often do one to two full Triathlons a year along with three to four shorter ones. (Full triathlons include a 2.5 mile swim, 11.2 miles of biking, and a full 26.2 mile marathon run.) If you see someone in a wetsuit swimming in the Cathance River in May, it is probably Mark and his brother training for an upcoming event.

Mark has lived in Bowdoinham since 1990 and loves being a part of this community. "One of the nice things about living here is how the town supports the local businesses," he says.

### Tourtelotte Excavating

*Doug Tourtelotte*

"I enjoy being self-employed," Doug says. "I love the work and having a challenge."

Ever since Doug was boy, he worked with his father who was in the logging business. This gave Doug a start in logging, but he

eventually moved into excavation work and has now been in that business for 31 years. "We do anything that has to do with dirt," he says.

The business now includes Doug's son, Adam Samson who has been helping out since he was 15 years old—half his life! Their work might include developing house lots, digging septic systems or ponds, working on roads, and doing demolition work. They have even moved buildings and worked with local contractors to build a spec house. The specialty of the business is house lots and septic systems. During the winter season, Doug and Adam keep busy with logging. With four dump trucks, four excavators, and logging equipment, they have the tools they need to take on large projects. "Customers know that when they speak with one of the operators on the job, they're speaking with one of the owners," Doug says.



one that hit on Jan. 27, Mark is plowing day and night to keep roads and driveways clear.

The other venture that Mark enjoys (but doesn't

have as much time for) is crafting stone benches at his workshop at 50 Bay Road. The benches at Bowdoinham's waterfront park were made by Mark along with others at a number of parks and golf courses. "The benches were meant to be an activity for my down time, but there isn't a lot of down time available for them," he says.

After plowing all winter and doing construction projects during every available moment, it's hard to think when Mark

Even though things slowed down quite a bit during the recent recession, Doug is encouraged to see a lot more activity both last season and in the projects that are booked for the coming season. He works mostly in a 50 mile radius and has gone as far as Portland and Oxford. While word of mouth brings most of his customers, the business is now on Facebook and is developing a Website.

One of the things Doug has enjoyed the most about being self-employed has been the flexibility it gives him to get involved in town government and projects. While he initially didn't think of himself in the role of Town Selectperson, "I wanted to be involved and help make positive changes," he says. "We currently have top notch help in the Town Office and things are working well." Doug has also enjoyed contributing to town projects, such as the skateboard park, and is happy to help in any way he can to improve his home town.

Now is a good time to contact Doug or Adam about upcoming projects since they are already booking things for the coming season. Doug can be reached at 729-2445 and Adam at 837-3935 or you can email Doug at [dougnann@live.com](mailto:dougnann@live.com). Their website, [www.tourtelotteexcavation.com](http://www.tourtelotteexcavation.com) will be completed soon.

## Food Pantry Capstone Projects

By Wendy Rose

Two Bowdoinham high school seniors are devoting their talents and energies to help out the Bowdoinham Food Pantry through the second half of their school year. Both Abby Andreasen and Colin Blake have chosen the Food Pantry as the subject of their Senior Capstone projects. Kathy Tome, the Coordinator of the Food Pantry, is delighted to have their help. "Not only am I thrilled that they selected the pantry as their senior project, but it's heartwarming to work with and see young adults get involved with the community and help those who are less fortunate," she says. "We shouldn't have to wait until we are older to help out and give back in our community. I really believe that it opens people eyes."

The first senior, Abby Andreasen, has been volunteering with the Food Pantry from the very beginning. She organized the Pantry's float entry in the Celebrate Bowdoinham parade in 2013, helped to move the pantry to its present location next to the Merrymeeting Art Center, and volunteers whenever she can. She has

seen the number of families it serves grow from 20 to 103.

For her Capstone project, Abby has chosen to organize a food drive for the pantry on Saturday, March 7th from 10-2. Folks can drop off donations at the village center where the pantry is located with a possible second site at the Recycling Barn. When asked why she chose this as her project, Abby says, "I wanted to help out my town before I graduated from high school. A food drive is a good way to have people think about their neighbors and to be aware of the need." Abby advises people to bring items such as pasta, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, granola or snack bars, and personal care products. "My main goal is to help people," she says. "I feel bad that folks who need food have such a hard time." One of the things that has surprised her in her volunteer work is seeing the number of families who have food needs.

Another great need is being met by high school senior, Colin Blake. He is creating a website that will serve as an outreach and information tool. Since he is required to do a presentation on this project by April, he is working hard to get all the elements in place as soon as possible. Colin feels that the Food Pantry is "a great charity," and he is happy to be helping out.

Besides the efforts of these young people, the Food Pantry received a big funding boost thanks to Jeremy Cluckey who bravely leapt into the Cathance River during Bowdoinham's Holiday Festival in December. He raised \$944 from 20 people who pledged donations for his polar bear plunge.

Kathy summarizes, "When I started this mission about a year and a half ago, my focus was to feed nutritious food to those in need, mostly children. I never dreamed that it would grow into something so wonderful. I have the most amazing volunteers who give their time to support our mission. I have young and young at heart who come and make all of this possible. Whether it be their time or money, the people of Bowdoinham are the best!!!"

## The Second Half of your 2014 Real Estate Taxes is due APRIL 15, 2014

You can also pay your taxes online by going to [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) and clicking the payment link or

To pay by mail: Town of Bowdoinham  
13 School Street  
Bowdoinham ME 04008  
Phone: (207) 666-5531

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Wed. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm



## Community Updates

There is a lot happening this Spring! For more information on any of these projects, please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Skatepark Project – We will have an Open Skate at Bath Skatepark on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm (*age brackets/times TBD*). Equipment is available to rent: helmets \$3 and boards \$5. The Town will pay half the rental fees for kids that pre-register. Kids (6 grade+) may stay and skate 12-3pm for \$5 (normal cost is \$10). Waiver & registration forms are required, *parents must sign the waiver form in person or the form must be notarized!* Parents can have the form notarized at the Town Office. Forms are available at the Town Office, on the Town website or at [www.bathskatepark.com](http://www.bathskatepark.com). Please contact Nicole Briand to pre-register.

Public Restrooms for Maily Waterfront Park – The Town has hired Pine Tree Engineering to design bathroom facilities with the tentative schedule of putting the project out to bid Spring 2015 for construction in Fall 2015.

Signage Project – The Town is in the process of reviewing the Signage Proposals that the Town received for the creation and installation of Welcome and Directional Signage, with the tentative schedule for the installation of the Welcome Signs this spring and Directional Signs this summer.

Merrymeeting Trail – As the new year begins, the Merrymeeting Trail Work Group is excited to share news of our progress and successes in 2014. The Merrymeeting Trail is a 25 mile planned rail-with-trail connecting Topsham, Bowdoinham, Richmond, and Gardiner; from the Kennebec River Rail Trail in Augusta to the Androscoggin River Bicycle and Pedestrian Path in Brunswick. It will be part of the greater Capital to Coast trail system stretching from Augusta to Bath, which recently received designation from the

state as a Trail of Statewide Significance! We are one of only four trails in the state with that designation.

This year we have taken significant steps toward building the institutional structure needed to manage the trail system. Over the past four months, representatives from each municipality have been meeting to shape the agreement into its final format.

Kennebec Estuary Land Trust has received two rounds of funding support from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation totaling \$112,830 for outreach, matching funds for trail construction, trail engineering, and necessary pre-engineering groundwork. The Town of Bowdoinham has received \$20,000 to do design work on our segment of the trail that will connect Bowdoinham to Richmond.

A new, exciting piece of outreach material is our Capital to Coast Brochure (hot off the press). We also have received approval from MDOT for an interim on-road route along with the signs. We plan to have the signs installed this spring.

For more information, please visit [merrymeetingtrail.org](http://merrymeetingtrail.org) or Like us on Facebook. We look forward to many more successes to report in 2015!

Business Workshops – We are doing a series of three joint Business Workshops with the Town of Richmond. All three workshops will be held at the Old Goat in Richmond from 6 to 8pm and are free for Bowdoinham and Richmond residents and business owners.

- March 31<sup>st</sup> - The Business Plan: The Entrepreneur's Best Friend. If you are a new start-up entrepreneur or have been in business for some years, developing a Business Plan can be a great help! It brings focus to questions you may have and is a map and compass for your future direction.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> - The Financials: Getting those Pesky Numbers in Line. Knowing how the business numbers work together provides powerful information to the entrepreneur. This workshop will take the mystery out of the various business financial forms and will give you the tools you need to master this aspect of your

business.

- April 21<sup>st</sup> - Marketing: Reaching out to your customer. Crafting a great message about your business and then finding the best ways to broadcast that to your potential customers leads to business success. We'll look at the elements of a good marketing strategy in order to help your business reach its potential.

Planning Board – The Planning Board is working on their annual review of the Land Use Ordinance and will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed amendments on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Kendall Meeting Room, 13 School St. The proposed amendments are available at the Town Office and on the Town's website.

Open Studio Day – Mark your calendars, our second annual Open Studio Day is planned for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Artists and crafters interested in joining the event should contact Nicole Briand.

Open Farm Day – The planning for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Farm Day is underway. Farmers interested in participating should contact Nicole Briand.

Summer Concert Series - Concerts will be moving back to Sunday evenings (6-8pm) again for 2015. The schedule will be available in May. If your band is interested in joining the series, please contact Nicole Briand.

Bowdoinham Farmers' Market - The Farmers' Market will be opening for the season on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and will continue to be open on Saturdays 8:30am-12:30pm thru October. The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market is accepting new vendors for our upcoming season. In order to participate in the FM vendors must provide: proof of product liability insurance, copy of their current vendors permit from the State of Maine, if organic, a copy of that certification and for any prepared foods a copy of the State's certification of the kitchen in which the food product was prepared. Those interested in joining the market should contact Pete Galle at [galle@gwi.net](mailto:galle@gwi.net) or 666-3936.

## News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Lee Parker

With another fun Ice & Smelt Festival behind us the Merrymeeting Arts Center is gearing up for the rest of the winter and spring!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the planning and the day. Whether you built ice fantasies, created artistic beards decorated smelt, watched the ice carving, enjoyed soup and breads or launched sky lanterns you participated in the Ice & Smelt Festival and helped make it a success.



### Pottery Project

A six week session of classes started the second week of February. Classes are planned to offer individual attention and encourage creativity. Offerings included High School Clay Class, Children's Hand-Building, and Women's Night Out. Additional classes and workshops will be offered this spring and all suggestions for clay activities are welcome!

### Exhibit & Activities

The annual spring show for young artists, "Emerging Artists: Fiddleheads and



Art For Everyone



until the beginning of June with the gallery open Saturdays from 10am to 1pm.

Look for activities to celebrate spring – a fern walk, fern art activities, fern lecture, and fiddle concert. Watch the website for dates and details.

### April School Vacation

The Art Center will offer drop in art during the April school vacation on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Come make kites and weather permitting we will fly them!

### Open Studio Day

The Merrymeeting Arts Center gallery and its Pottery Project will be open for visitors. The resident potters will have demonstrations during the day.

For more information, please go to [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org), follow us on Facebook or call 370-5002 and leave us a message and we will get back to you.

*\*Special thanks to: The Maine Facial Hair Club, Sub Zero Ice Carving, the Bowdoinham Food Pantry, and the many cooks, artists and potters.*

Ferns" will open with a reception for the artists on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:30pm. We welcome works in any media related to fiddleheads and ferns (whimsy appreciated) by anyone 18 and under. Artists should plan to attend the opening. Please submit your art work on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> between 10am-1pm at the Merrymeeting Arts Center, 9 Main Street, or call Peggy Muir to make an appointment (504-1132). The show will run

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## Contact BHS

Mail:  
PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

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[info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org)

Website:  
[www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety)

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

## Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

This year BHS will study the history of photography in general, and research Bowdoinham photographers past & present, in particular. Please help us by providing:

- Old Bowdoinham photographs to scan and return. *Please identify and date your photographs.*
- Donation or loan of old photographic equipment.
- Your time and expertise.

Some ideas we have for this year are:

- Date Your Old Family Photos
- Earle G. Shuttleworth, Jr., Maine State Historian, "Forever Young" Childhood -Late 1800s & early 1900s photographic postcards.
- The Glass Negatives of Bowdoinham's Bainbridge Porter Brown
- One of Frank Connors incomparable Bowdoinham slide shows, possibly "Memorable Bowdoinham Photos"
- "Instead of TV" Stereoscopes, View Masters, Scenic Picture Books

Our November 'Celebration of Bowdoinham History' will be a compilation

of all we have learned and collected on photography in Bowdoinham over the course of the year.

Please help us ID these photographs:





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## News from the Library

By Kate Cutko

Join us at the library on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for a lively discussion hosted by Erin Merrill. Erin comes from a long line of Maine hunters. Since she began hunting in 2002 she has hunted moose, turkey, deer, rabbit, coyote and bear while also learning to fish. She writes about her hunting adventures, the Maine woods and issues facing outdoor women in Northwoods Sporting Journal and at her blog, [www.andastrongcupofcoffee.com](http://www.andastrongcupofcoffee.com). Erin is currently President of the Friends of Becoming an Outdoors-Woman in Maine board as well a member of the Outdoors Writers Association of America. You may have seen Erin's article titled "Sportswoman's Alliance" in the Novem-

ber 2014 issue of DownEast Magazine.

Erin will be joined by Carole Dyer of Bowdoinham. Carole has dedicated countless hours to both conservation efforts and to maintenance and teaching of traditional outdoor skills and hunting methods. She served on the board of Land for Maine's Future, and had membership and leadership in the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Durham Rod & Gun Club, and the Maine Bird Dog Club. She, like Erin, has been involved in "B.O.W.", Becoming an Outdoors Woman. Her marriage to a State Game Warden,



the late Russ Dyer, brought her all over the state and prompted her to write, along with another warden's wife, "The Maine Way" a fish and game cookbook, now in its second printing.

These two women will be joined by an audience of other women who hunt-ready and willing to share their experience, talk about what motivates them to hunt, and maybe share a few secret spots. Well, maybe not. Please join us for an entertaining evening. For more information contact the library, 666-8405.



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## News from Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

By Ed Friedman

On August 25, 2014 Friends of Merrymeeting Bay working with Stantec, an environmental consulting firm, and the Department of Marine Resources used an electro-fishing unit to capture 2 common carp from each tributary of the Bay. Following capture, radio tags were surgically implanted in each fish and, after a recovery period, fish were released. Tags should last three to five years. By December 26<sup>th</sup> we successfully relocated 9 of the 12 fish, some of whom returned to their capture point.

Carp were introduced into the Kennebec/Merrymeeting Bay system in the 1880's and have since proliferated, rooting for food in our extensive mud flats and shallow, warm water. While pollution, log drives and erosion, all far less than they once were, also create turbidity, carp populations may be the most prominent current cause. Some older citizens

remember when local rivers ran relatively clear [early in the 20th century] and while other possible sources of excessive turbidity have been eliminated carp remain and have increased.

Carp-originated sediments tend to stay suspended due to wind and limited tidal exchange [note our extensive current study in previous newsletters and on the website]. Excessive turbidity limits photosynthesis to waters of less than a meter in depth. This, in turn, limits the growth and distribution of submerged aquatic vegetation [SAV]. SAV's provide spawning and nursery habitat for local and diadromous fish populations increasing fish productivity substantially. Invasive carp populations are controlled successfully in other areas [usually via seine or gill netting] during their winter aggregations with resultant increases in water clarity and SAV growth. Winter aggregations are found by following radio-tagged fish, often termed a "Judas fish." This project begins to investigate where our carp go and whether such control measures might be implemented here.



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## Annual Rummage Sale

By Jessica Sullivan

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> & Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Town Hall. With a \$1 admission, you can take advantage of our early bird sale that begins on Friday at 5pm and ends promptly at 7pm. Saturday the doors will open at 9am and close at 1pm.

This event is made possible by the generous people in Bowdoinham who donate their gently used things for the benefit of the Bowdoinham Community School. ALL proceeds go to the school's field trip and special events fund.

We have a drop off site, so if you don't want to wait until April 27<sup>th</sup> to clean out your donations, please call either Brigid Palmer at 737.9634 or Jess Sullivan 504.7103 to set up a drop-off time. Visit us on Facebook at Bowdoinham Community School Rummage Sale.

*\*Please no large appliances, TV's or computer monitors.*

## Recreation News

By Lisa West

There's lots happening as the winter season comes to an end and we gear up for spring!

- Adult Pickle Ball, Basketball and Volleyball programs are planned for February, March and possibly April. Please contact Lisa West at [lwest@bowdoinham.com](mailto:lwest@bowdoinham.com) 666-3504, or check out the town website or facebook page for dates and times.
- Baseball/Softball registration forms are due mid-March.
- Children's Museum passes are available for free at the Town Office. One pass can be used up to 6 people per day. This pass can only be used once per day and is available on a first come basis.
- Cross Country Skis, snow shoes, and skates are available to use for the winter season.
- Family Swim takes place at Bowdoin College on Sundays at 4:30pm.
- "Folk Fun for Little Ones" in the Library on Saturdays with Susan Brown in March. Let us know if you are interested in another session of 4 weeks.
- Zumba takes place at the Second Baptist Church basement. Cost is \$5.00 per class. Contact Stephanie Dustin at 666-8333.
  - o Zumba Gold (low impact Zumba for active seniors) classes on Saturdays 9-10am.
  - o Zumba Tone (easily modified for all levels of fitness) on Mondays 5-5:45pm.
- The Walking, Biking & Paddling group is now designated as an ACE Team (Active Community Environment). Under the Healthy Maine Partnership, ACE is a national group supporting and promoting safe, accessible recreation facilities. This new start to the program is still under construction but soon we will need your support. Stay tuned.

For more information, please visit the town website at [www.bowdoinham.com/recreation](http://www.bowdoinham.com/recreation). Don't forget to LIKE our facebook page, Bowdoinham Recreation Department to get our updates.

## Ridge Road Church News

By Albert Stehle

On January 1<sup>st</sup> it snowed enough to shovel the tarp out when I finished and went to lock the door I dropped the key, the only key! After searching all around the door then sifting through all the shoveled snow, I said, not so quietly, "this is how it's going to be?" Completely baffled, I went to talk with the neighbor, "check all pockets?" How would a dropped key end up in my pocket? But I check anyway, nothing. How about that small leg pocket? And yep sure enough there it is. *"So this is how it's going to be!"*

This past year we got the serious brick work done, replaced the south side of the roof and even got a tarp that looks like a new roof shingles. Now, for the first time in a long time the church is dry and

the roof is no longer the main issue, that would now be the floor and those repairs are underway. When spring finally arrives the trim will be complete and the south side will once again be looking proud.

The saving of the Ridge Church has been completely done with donations made by Bowdoinham residents (past & present). The crew and I might have a few hours in, but it is not my money buying what's needed, it's your generous donations. The church pays its own power bill and is current on its tax bill.

I would like to thank the 70+ folks who made their way, before Christmas to view the tree and check-out the work being done. Despite the cold, they stayed and shared their stories of the church with me.

This has been the most enjoyable project I have undertaken. The history I have learned, the untold stories the building tells when you take your time. I feel like I'm the luckiest person in Bowdoinham.

## News from Long Branch

By John Favreau

As this article hits the mailboxes of Bowdoinham, we should be working diligently on completing our next tiny house. We designed this model so that it can be adapted to a variety of layouts. If you want to come check out the progress, we will try to have the doors open on Saturday mornings. The next tiny house to be constructed is scheduled to start in May. Our vision for the tiny house program is to eventually create a teaching platform surrounding the building of tiny houses. We are talking about developing both a longer term internship style program as well as having week-long workshops covering the entire construction process. This is our vision, but we want to take our time with this program's development. We plan to get a few more tiny house builds under our belt before introducing the educational element into the tiny house program. This organic approach will allow us time to establish an efficient production system for the construction process.

We are extending this organic approach

to our overall mission at Long Branch. We are still fully committed to our mission of being a center in our community for self-reliance. Over the past three and a half years, we have tried many different and varied approaches to meet this mission. These efforts have taken us in many different directions and have sometimes diluted our resources. Our original vision for the school was having a vibrant workshop-centered operation. Three and half years ago, the "Old Fire Station," was not quite ready for its next life. Today, it is getting closer to that reality. Once the workshop is fully operational, it will not only support the building of tiny houses. It will be a place of learning that creates a variety of products that support our local economy and a self-reliant lifestyle. We will continue to offer our popular classes and a broad range of classes including blacksmithing. We post our entire line of classes on our website, [longbranchschool.com](http://longbranchschool.com). We also have a select number of classes offered through local adult education outlets. If you have any suggestions or if you are interested in offering a class through Long Branch, please contact us. You can reach John at 751-8760 or Pete at 319-6324.



## Cub Scout News

By Cathy Curtis

Pack 699 is enjoying the winter months and getting ready for their annual Blue and Gold Banquet on March 1<sup>st</sup> and Pinewood Derby on March 21<sup>st</sup>. In January a winter fun day was held with sledding, S'mores, hot cocoa and an outdoor flag ceremony. Scout Sunday was held on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our charter organization, the 2nd Baptist Church of Bowdoinham for hosting the scouts that day and including them in their worship service. Home Depot in Topsham hosted a "Build your Pinewood Derby Car" evening where staff was available to cut out car designs chosen by the cubs. Sand paper and paint were available to the cubs as well. Dens are busy completing achievements toward their Badges of Rank which will be awarded in the spring. Thank you to those who have contributed to the bottle box located near the Town Landing. Pack 699 has an account at Bootlegger's in Topsham if you would like to drop your returnables there. We are saving up for a spring overnight as well as summer camp. Boys in grades 1-5 are welcome to join Cub Scouts at any time, contact Cathy Curtis at 666-8434 [curtisc@link75.org](mailto:curtisc@link75.org).



## Boy Scout News

By Athena Mann

Scouting came to America after an act of kindness, (a good turn), from an English "Scout" to an American business man traveling abroad. Boy Scouts of America's motto, "Do a good turn daily," in keeping with that single act of kindness over one hundred years ago.

The Winter in Bowdoinham is an easy time of year for all of us to live by the Scout motto. With the cold temperatures and the amount of snow falling, there is always opportunity to help a neighbor in our community with acts of kindness and compassion. A special recognition to MJF Enterprises owner, Mark Favreau, who has been spotted "Doing a good turn" by our Boy Scout Troop. Thank you, Mr. Favreau for your kindness and good example, helping a fellow 'Bowdoinhamer' clear their driveway of snow free of charge. We know there are many good turns happening throughout our community everyday, and we would like to thank all who reach out to their neighbors, bringing joy and good will to one another.

Troop 699 is looking forward to Springtime, and the opportunity to recruit new members. We are small in number but look forward to growing and being a bright light in our community. All boys, 11-18 years of age are welcome to join. We look forward to the Cub Scouts cross-over and welcome boys new to Scouting anytime. If you are interest in learning more about the Scout program please contact Dave Mann 837-4270 or email [dmann88napa@gmail.com](mailto:dmann88napa@gmail.com)

## News from the Second Baptist Church

By Cathy Curtis

The Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham would like to welcome their Interim Pastor, Rev. John P. Ross, who has been serving the church since November 16, 2014. He is providing inspiring sermons focused on prayer, acting in faith, and living a Christ centered life in a hurting world.

Pastor Ross originates from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia and is a graduate of Crandall University, Moncton, NB, Tyndale College and Seminary in Toronto and the Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago. For over 27 years he has served churches in New Brunswick, Massachusetts and Maine where he has served in Dexter, Caribou and Kittery Point. He is currently employed by Cabelas in Scarborough. He states, "I really love the people of Second Baptist Church and am looking forward to welcoming and serving the community. Many are looking for hope and this is what we offer."

The church is also pleased to host a variety of community groups including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Senior luncheons and programming are held at the church and Zumba is offered on Mondays at 5pm and Saturdays at 9am. Also, AA Meetings are held each Monday and Friday evenings at 7pm.

For more information and the Church's Sunday Schedule, you can go to the church's website at [www.bowdoinhamsecondbaptistchurch.org](http://www.bowdoinhamsecondbaptistchurch.org).

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## News from Committee on Aging (COA)

By Patricia Oh

The Advisory Committee on Aging would like to thank all of you who shared your experiences and opinions about aging in Bowdoinham at the community focus group in January. What you told us will be key to planning the programs, activities and events COA will sponsor in the upcoming year. Complete results of the update to the needs assessment are available on the town website (<http://www.bowdoinham.com/aging-bowdoinham-committee>).

Members of the focus group clearly shared their desires to grow older in Bowdoinham. Participants were proud of Bowdoinham's reputation as a good place to live and a place that welcomes people who move into town from other places. Among the strengths of Bowdoinham identified by residents in the focus group were:

1. A positive attitude toward older people and their contributions to Bowdoinham.
2. The community tradition of neighbor-helping-neighbor.
3. Opportunities to engage in meaningful volunteer work.
4. Activity and Resource list, produced by COA, that keeps residents aware of

### Bowdoinham Durable Medical Equipment Program

The Town is now accepting donations of medical equipment such as canes, walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, commodes, that are in good working condition for town residents to use. There will be donation and loan forms to be filled out when someone donates equipment or borrows the equipment. The equipment will be stored at the Bowdoinham Fire Station. If you have anything you would like to donate or borrow please contact Ann Davis 798-1830 or email [adavis@bowdoinham.com](mailto:adavis@bowdoinham.com).

activities in town and nearby.

5. COA-sponsored social and recreational opportunities that give residents a chance to meet neighbors who share their interests.

Items 4 and 5 above were instigated by COA in response to focus groups held in 2012 as part of the Comprehensive Planning Process for the town. COA has been distributing monthly activity and resource lists, offering recreational opportunities for different interests and fitness levels and operating the Shipmates Senior Club, open three hours each Thursday in space donated by the Second Baptist Church. These efforts have been met with enthusiasm.

The primary barriers to aging in the community identified were:

1. Accessibility to town services, public spaces, and other buildings open to the public by residents with mobility limitations that require use of a walker or wheelchair.
2. Care Partner support.
3. Opportunities for alternative transportation to meet the needs of residents who are no longer able to drive or who chose not to drive.
4. Availability of housing options for residents who wanted to age in the community, even when they were no longer able to maintain their current homes.
5. Finding someone to help with chores in the home and with basic home main-

tenance.

These are challenging barriers. Addressing them will require significant time and resources from COA, Bowdoinham town government, and residents of all ages. All across the United States, cities and towns are waking up to the need to create age friendly communities that will benefit residents of all ages. Bowdoinham's culture of self-help will inspire us. Bowdoinham residents banded together to build a new elementary school with volunteer labor and materials paid for by chicken barbeques We did that for our children sixty years ago. In the years to come, we will find a way to keep our older residents actively engaged in the community, participating in the recreational and social opportunities that they enjoy; and thriving in the home of their choice. The Advisory Committee on Aging looks forward to continuing to work with the Select Board and with town residents to make Bowdoinham the age friendliest town in Maine!

### Coats for Seniors

Thank you to all of you who donated a cozy winter jacket to the Coats for Seniors program! If you know of an older adult who needs a coat, please contact Patricia Oh, Coordinator of Older Adult Services at 666-5531, ext. 110 or [p.oh@bowdoinham.com](mailto:p.oh@bowdoinham.com).

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New Site Prep, Driveways,  
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Land Clearing, Treework

## Floodplain Maps & Insurance Update

New Floodplain Maps for Bowdoinham will become effective on July 16, 2015. If the new maps put your property into the floodplain it is important that you obtain flood insurance before the new maps become effective.

### What is the NFIP?

Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) due to escalating costs to taxpayers for flood disaster relief. The NFIP is based on the agreement that if a community practices sound floodplain management, the Federal Government will make flood insurance available to residents in that community. FEMA maps include the Special Flood Hazard Area, which is the area that has a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Development may take place within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) provided that it complies with local floodplain ordinances that meet NFIP criteria.

### What are a FIRM and a FIS Report?

When FEMA maps flood hazards in a community or county, two regulatory products are produced – a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report and a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). An FIS is

a narrative report of the community's flood hazards that contains prior flooding information, descriptions of the flooding sources, information on flood protection measures, and a description of the hydrologic and hydraulic methods used in the study. A FIRM illustrates the extent of flood hazards in a community by depicting flood risk zones and the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA).

### Why are the maps being updated?

The coastal flood hazards identified in the current FIRMs for Sagadahoc County are outdated and do not incorporate FEMA's newest guidance on coastal analyses. FEMA strives to improve its risk identification and continually evaluates and incorporates new approaches where and when necessary. The new County-wide Preliminary maps that were issued on January 31, 2014 incorporate updated coastal engineering analyses and data in coastal areas of Sagadahoc County. Additionally, the inland areas have new Approximate A Zones and Detailed Zone AEs were redelineated using updated topographic data. The current FIRMs are vector base. 2013 Digital Orthophotos was used from Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems as the base for the new County-wide FIRMs.

### How can I purchase flood insurance?

A policy may be purchased from any licensed property insurance agent or broker who is in good standing in the State in which the agent is licensed Call 1-800-720-1093 or visit [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) to find a flood insurance agent near you.

### What factors determine flood insurance premiums?

A number of factors are used to determine flood insurance premiums, including the amount of coverage purchased, the flood zone, the deductible, location, age, occupancy, type of building and buildings relation to the floodplain.

### Why should I get insurance now?

The 2014 law protects policyholders from significant and unanticipated increases in flood insurance costs, *therefore subsidized rates continue to apply*. And both the policy and its subsidized rates can be transferred to the new owner. Grandfathered rates can also be transferred at the time of sale.

### How do I find out if a structure or property is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area?

You can schedule a time to view the new maps at the Town Office by calling 666-5531. You may also view historic and effective FIRMs digitally at FEMA's Map Service Center website at [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov).

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### Plumbing Tip *Low Water Pressure in the Shower*

If your water pressure is fine everywhere in the house but in the shower it may be your showerhead is clogged with minerals. Carefully unscrew the showerhead from the shower arm being careful not to move the arm. Soak the head in a vinegar solution for several hours then scrub with a nailbrush. Reattach making sure the washer is still in place.

## Thank you

We would like to express my gratitude to the Bowdoinham community, FHC, and the Eastern Star for making the 2014 giving tree a huge success. The giving tree helped out 17 families and the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. A Christmas dinner was also provided by a community member and given to a family. I would also like to thank Lynn Spiro again for hosting the Giving Tree.

A big thank you also goes out to FHC for the ten Thanksgiving Dinners for residents of Bowdoinham.



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Community Calendar

### March

**7th**

Open Skate, 9am-12pm  
Bath Skatepark, Bath

**18th**

Women Who Hunt, 7pm  
Bowdoinham Public Library

**26th**

Public Hearing - Land Use Ordinance  
Kendall Meeting Room, 7pm

**28th**

Bean Supper, 4-6pm  
Bowdoinham Fire Station

**31st**

Business Workshop, 6-8pm  
Old Goat, Richmond

### April

**7th**

Business Workshop, 6-8pm  
Old Goat, Richmond

**15th**

**Property Taxes Due**

**21st**

Business Workshop, 6-8pm  
Old Goat, Richmond

**25th**

Bean Supper, 4-6pm  
Bowdoinham Fire Station

### May

**2nd**

**Open Studio Day**

### Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held in 2nd Floor Meeting Room 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

#### Biking, Walking, Paddling

4th Monday of Month at 6:30pm

#### Committee on Aging

1st & 3rd Fridays of Month at 3:00pm

#### Community Development Advisory Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at [www.bowdoinham.com/calendar](http://www.bowdoinham.com/calendar).

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