



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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September & October 2015

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Businesses Old & New

By Wendy Rose

Bowdoinham has new businesses joining the village with businesses that have served as cornerstones of our community.

The Alcove

Rachel Murphy

One of Bowdoinham's newest businesses went from idea to reality in just six weeks, clearly meeting a need. Opening on May 1, 2015 in the Knights of Pythias building on Main Street, The Alcove provides an office and co-working space for self-employed folks who need a professional place to work or meet with clients. "I was working from home for a year, but because of the demands of my toddler, I really needed a place outside of my home to get things done," said Rachel Murphy, a self-employed bookkeeper and coordinator of The Alcove. Like many others, Rachel tried working at coffee houses and other public spaces, enjoying the social atmosphere, but not accomplishing as much as she wanted. As soon as she learned that others were interested in a co-working space and that the ground floor at the Knights was available, she and her husband rented it and transformed it into offices.

The Alcove operates on a membership basis offering 4 dedicated office spaces (all rented) and a large, open office area with work stations for those who wish either 24 hour access (\$115 a month) or 9-5 access (\$75 a month). Those with short-term needs can obtain a day pass for \$25. "We offer two free trial days if people want to try things out," Rachel commented. Member amenities include a high speed internet connection, and

a fax/printer that all can use. "It's a focused, quiet version of a coffee house with a collaborative atmosphere," Rachel adds. "We want to listen to the needs of our members and offer services they might want such as advice on retirement planning for self-employed individuals."

Rachel and her husband, a self-



employed contractor, have lived in the Bowdoin/Bowdoinham area for much of their lives. The immediate, positive response they have had to The Alcove has led them to take a leap and purchase the former Bowdoinham Post Office building just up from the Alcove on Main Street. By the fall, they will have renovated that space to accommodate their current members. In the future, they hope to expand the rear of the building and perhaps offer studio space on the second floor for artisans. Because 7% of the workforce is self-employed, Rachel feels the need for co-working space will grow. "Bowdoinham is a place where people want to live and it would be nice for folks to be able to work here as well," she says.



To talk with Rachel about membership you can call her at 449-1819, email her at alcovework@gmail.com, check out the Alcove Facebook page, or just stop in and check it out.

AV Systems of Maine

Bill and Kim Wayman

This profile is starting with the ending. After talking with Bill and Kim at length, Bill answered my final question with a tour. We went to the lower level of their lovely, owner-built home out on the Pratt road which is surrounded by beautiful gardens. We entered the room of my dreams—floor to ceiling bookshelves! Filled with books! Looking out on the forest! With a very sophisticated work station! Bill invited me to pull one of the books from the shelf, and (just like in the movies) one of the shelf units swung open. Behind it, an alcove (with a popcorn machine) led into a sophisticated home theater—beautifully decorated with ceiling moldings and lighting sconces on the walls. The front row's reclining seats and second row's raised sofa faced a huge screen. Bill had me lean back, lowered the lighting, and began the movie. The picture clarity and surround sound put me right into the movie. I could definitely live here!

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Businesses Old & New

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Home theaters are only one of the many things Bill can install for home owners, businesses, or community groups. His website, www.avsmaine.com features the full array of projects from simple TV systems to multiple TV's and sound units (for taverns) to the systems at the new hospital in Augusta to a library that does movies, to community outdoor movie events. Bill's background with a national electronics store as well as his years building homes gives him a unique set of skills that enables him to work with whatever challenges a building or project may present. From straightening out a nest of wires to installing complicated systems, Bill enjoys the challenge of each project.

Because Bill charges a flat rate rather than an hourly rate for projects, he is able to take his time to listen to his customers and really understand what the issues and needs are. "My truck is like a giant hardware store," he says, so he is able to handle any surprises that may arise. He is also able to order and quickly receive any special equipment or electronics within two days.

Kim was the one who suggested that Bill use his background to start his own business in 2010, and they attended workshops to help them with the planning process before they got underway. Kim handles the financials and paperwork so Bill is free to focus on the projects. A key to their growth was optimizing the reach of the business website which increased their business threefold. 2015 promises to be their best year yet.

"I really enjoy being self-employed because I have more control," Bill says. "I can set my own schedule, can be more flexible, and I can do a better job of meeting customer needs. My goal is to make systems easy to use. It should be fun."

You can reach Bill by calling 666-8953 or through email at info@avsmaine.com.



Banana Banners

Robin Riendeau

A large purple barn with a monumental banana on the side is hard to miss, especially since it has a place of honor on the main road leading into Bowdoinham. This landmark has housed Banana Banners and its owner, Robin Riendeau, since the sign business started in 1993.

Chances are that the graphics you see on the local oil dealer trucks, police cruisers, business signs, boats, or race cars have been done by Robin and her long-time employee, Karen. "I would love for people to know I am a full-service sign shop," Robin says. "We don't just do banners." The barn houses a garage for working on vehicles of all sizes, a paint room, a large inventory of vinyl, up-to-date technology for creating signs, and a large workspace. Robin does a lot of her own designs, but is happy to collaborate with her customers.

"I have always been in the graphic industry," Robin explains. "My dad was an offset printer, and I always did the banners for the family business." Robin's first job was painting 4 x 4 signs for the local Little League team when she was 12. After moving to Maine from Massachusetts, and working for a screen printer, Robin decided to start her own business. In spite of economic ups and downs, Robin has been able to raise her two children, send them off to college, and maintain a workflow that keeps her and Karen busy.

Robin has seen many trends over her 22 years in the business. "Twenty years ago, many signs were carved wood with gold accents," she says. Now, synthetics are often the first choice since they are longer lasting and less expensive. Recently, Robin has seen more businesses start ups in the surrounding area. "I'm happy to see the economy getting healthier again." Signage can make a big differ-

ence for small businesses: eye-catching appeal, good graphics, and branding help the business stand out. "My goal is to educate people about their graphics and signage," Robin says.

Typically, Robin is busiest in the spring through fall months, but would love to even out her work flow to include Nov. through Feb. Her work space can accommodate any project even through the winter months.

"I love having a business in this town," Robin says. "There are some amazing businesses that I've loved working with." To contact Robin, you can call 666-3951 or email her at ahpeel@gwi.net. Her website at www.ahpeel.com gives good examples of the type of work she does. She even has a newsletter with her latest updates on the business. Or you can drop in at that amazing purple barn at 160 Main Street.



Bowdoinham Country Store

David Skelton

As soon as David walked into the Bowdoinham Country Store on a business scouting trip about 15 years ago, he liked what he saw. "The store was full of customers, everyone was friendly and it was a great country store flavor," he says. He was in the market for a small business after a career at LL Bean and other companies, and the Bowdoinham store was the answer. He re-did the foundation, fixed other parts of the aging building, and picked up where the previous owners left off. "The best part of this business is the people in the community," he says. "We solve the world's problems and keep up with local happenings. There's a positive, good feeling."

This year has seen an encouraging upswing from the challenges of recent years. There were some slow smelt fishing years, FHC moved out of town with its 100 plus employees, the recession hit, and competitors opened in the area. Struggles with refrigeration units nearly closed things down last year. Fortunately, the town and loyal customers stepped up through a crowd funding effort, and David has

been able to take care of some emergency needs. "The crowd funding made the difference for survival," David says. He has now started to add more items to the shelves, bring in produce through a new supplier that can offer smaller quantities, and is thinking about a facelift and roof.

David puts in over 50 hours at the cash register alone. "I am the face of the business and should be up front," he says. Ten other staff help keep the store open for long hours seven days a week. "The meat department is staffed by an excellent meat cutter and we can offer top quality meats at a reasonable price. We grind the meat fresh daily," he adds. Deli sandwiches are also available at any time at the meat department. "I want to be sure customers know we still make sandwiches even though they are now made in the back rather than the front of the store."

David welcomes suggestions for improvements and recently added a Monday delivery service to a local apartment complex for a very small fee. Folks should feel free to email him at bones1717@hotmail.com or drop in for a talk.

"I feel like I'm a part of the town." David says. As the crowd funding effort shows, Bowdoinham is grateful to have a local store with all it is able to offer.

Bowdoinham Hardware Store

Corey Troup & John Cote

Walking into the Bowdoinham Hardware Store is like going back 50 years to the local hardware stores that carried everything imaginable. The wooden floors and brick walls of the historic building at 20 Main Street create a surprisingly large space for items like tools, hardware, fishing gear, feed, paint, plumbing and electrical supplies and so much more. Pallets of soil, mulch, and feed spill into the side yard. "It's like a clown car," says Corey Troup, co-owner of the store. "We add 50 new items each week, many things as a result of customer requests." Corey's experience with the big box building supply stores and hardware chains means he has good contacts with suppliers, so the store has high quality items at prices

that are often less than the big chains.

"This fall, we'd like to add more hunting and fishing gear," Corey says. "We'll be the biggest hunting and fishing supplier on this side of the Bay." Other seasonal additions will be canning supplies, stove pipe, insulation and getting-ready-for-winter supplies. "Bowdoinham is a very handy town," adds John Cote, co-owner. Local residents and businesses can stop in and pick up that one last item to complete a task and save a trip into Topsham.

John and Corey are native Bowdoinham-ers. They have been close friends for years and have talked about opening a hardware store for a long time. "Every town needs a hardware store," according to Corey. When the former credit union building on Main Street became available this spring, the men felt their years of planning had found the perfect opportunity. Folks were so excited to see them getting underway, they stopped by to volunteer and helped stock the shelves. They are now open seven days a week and have 19,000 people as friends on their Facebook business page. Corey spends a couple of hours most evenings responding to customer questions through the



Facebook page, helping folks think through their projects.

The business has been more successful than John and Corey expected. From day one, they have had heavy traffic

with 60% of their customers coming from outside of Bowdoinham. "We want to be known for selling good stuff," they assert. They want folks to know that they have a quick turn around on any orders. "If we don't have an item in stock, we can order it and get it in within a couple of days," Corey says. About half of their business comes from special customer orders. "Our customers are our neighbors and friends, and we are very thankful to have them." To check to see if something is in stock, the number to call is 666-8953.



The Town Landing

Lynn Spiro

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, baked goods, coffee with friends, the latest news, advice, and a refreshing break for boaters and bikers. Lynn Spiro has been at the center of this whirlwind ever since

she took over the business in 2003 when Jeanine Beaudoin decided to sell. Lynn's life-long family friendship with Jeanine's partner, Diane, was the link that brought Lynn up from Massachusetts to settle in Bowdoinham, raise her family, and use her background in the food service industry to help the Town Landing grow and thrive.

One of the more dramatic events during her tenure was the runaway truck that lost its brakes and came crashing through the front of the restaurant in July 2012. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the building sustained a crushing blow. Townspeople sprang into action, helping Lynn to remove debris, clean, and build a new front wall. "It was a huge shock," Lynn says, "but one of the most humbling experiences. There was an outpouring of help from customers, the fire department, and volunteers."

Lynn started a new tradition a few years ago with her "Cruise' Ins." Antique car owners show off beautiful renovation jobs, people crowd in to view the wide array of vehicles, and Lynn uses the proceeds to support local Bowdoinham groups. "I've been able to contribute \$6,500 over the last 6 years—about \$500 to \$600 from each event," Lynn says. "If any group would like to partner with me to raise some money, they can call at 666-3872 or stop in to talk with me."

Lynn is proud of the food she offers, working hard to find vendors that provide the best options. "People are particular about their food," she says. "I can do special orders and try to offer what people want." Her new liquor license enables her to sell beer and wine, something a number of her customers had requested.

Lynn sums it up, "Bowdoinham, on a regular basis, defines community."

Thank you to our Fireworks Sponsors!

Wishing you a fun and safe Bowdoinham Celebration

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 11th

- 5:30pm: Kids Fun Run (1 mile)
- 6:00pm: Chicken Run (5K Race)
at Community School
Registration 5:00-5:30pm
- 8:00pm: Family Movie Night
at Maily Waterfront Park

Saturday, September 12th

- 8:00am: Celebrate Bike Rides
at Recreation Fields
Registration 7:00-7:45am
- 10:00am: Parade
Route: Fire Station (Post Rd) to
Main St; down Main St to River
Rd; then River Rd to Ridge Rd to
Cemetery Rd to Center St; back to
Fire Station
- 11:30am: Coin Scramble
Sponsored by Alder Stream Fence
- 12:00pm: Citizen of Year Award
- 12:30pm: Karate Demonstrations
by Shotokan Karate
- 1:30pm: Lobster Crate Races
- 3:30pm: KenDucky Derby Race
- 6:30pm Juggling Performance
- 8:30pm: FIREWORKS!

ACTIVITIES

(SATURDAY)

- 10am-4pm: Bowdoinham's Best
at Merrymeeting Grange
- 11am-3pm: Silent Auction
- 11am-4pm: Open Skate
- 11am-4pm: Library Book Sale
- 11am-4pm: Historic Photographs Exhibit
- 11am-4pm: Bay Clay, Brick & Pottery Show
at Merrymeeting Arts Center
- 11am-4pm: Pottery Show
at Pottery Studio
- 11am-4pm: Tiny Home Tours
at Long Branch School of Maine
- 4-6pm: Bean Supper
at Fire Station, 57 Post Rd
- 5-8pm: Mechanical Bull
- 5-7:30pm: Chewonki's Hero Adaptions
Many of the world's most beloved
superheroes are inspired by
animals living in your backyard.
Come find out what super abili-
ties actually exist, then make your
own super hero!
- 6-8pm: Facepainting, Tattoos &
Balloon Twisting
Sponsored by Five County Credit Union

KIDS ACTIVITIES

(SATURDAY, 11am-4pm)

- Bouncy House, Obstacle Course, Rock
Wall Slide, Bungee Run & Velcro Wall
(\$5 Hand Stamp)
- Games (\$1/game, prize every time)
- Facepainting & Balloon Twisting
- Jay the Strolling Magician
- Kids "Art Tent"
sponsored by Merrymeeting Arts Center

Chicken Run

The run starts at the Community School.
Pre-Registration:
18 & under \$10.00, Adults: \$15.00
Pre-Registration forms must be submitted
by 4pm, Wednesday, September 9, 2015.
Race Day Registration:
18 & under \$12.00, Adults: \$18.00
*All proceeds benefit Bowdoinham Commu-
nity School!*

Family Movie Night

Presents a favorite skateboarding movie
for kids, Airborne, (rated PG). Drinks &
Popcorn will be available, proceeds will
benefit the Skate Park.

Celebrate Bike Ride

Register at the Recreation Fields, 7:00-
7:45am. \$10 and free for kids 16 and
under. We have two route options; a 10
mile and a 20 mile route. Both routes
start & end at the Recreation Fields.
*All proceeds to support the Bowdoinham
Recreation Department!*

Bowdoinham's Best

Bring your entries Friday, Sept. 11th
4-6:30pm to the Grange Hall: Kids Arts
& Crafts, Kid-grown Vegetables, Recycled
Creations, Bowdoinham-Grown Fruits
& Vegetables, Flowers & Floral Designs,
Canned Goods and this year's special
category- Garden Farm Art. For more
information, please contact Adelaida at
737-4149 or adelaidagaviria@gmail.com
Enter your favorite pie into the Pie
Contest for a chance to win \$100. For
more information, please contact Susan at
666-8162 or Brown_531@myfairpoint.
net.

Rabies Clinic

Saturday, October 24, 2015
at Town Hall, 9-11am

The Town Office will also be open
9-11am to register your dog(s) for
the 2016 year. A neutered/spayed dog
license fee is \$6.00; otherwise it is
\$11.00.

**For more information, please visit
www.bowdoinham.com/celebrate-bowdoinham**

News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Peggy Muir

Merrymeeting Arts Center encourages art, education, and community, celebrating the cultural heritage and natural environment of Merrymeeting Bay. We are looking for talented and creative people to join the Planning Committee. Come and share your ideas for exhibits, classes and events! All are welcome. Call 207-370-5002 and leave us your name and number. We promise to get back to you!

Exhibits

How quickly the summer has passed at the Merrymeeting Arts Center. If you haven't already had an opportunity to see the summer exhibit

"Bay Clay, Bay Brick, Bay Pottery" be sure to stop in before it closes on September 12th. The show, made possible by a Community Arts & Humanities Grant, a combined grant of the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Arts Commission, features works by area ceramic artists as well as information on the bay clay deposits and the pottery and brick industries they made possible. The Bowdoinham Historical Society found fascinating history on these which is included in the exhibit.

Education

Merrymeeting Arts Center's first ever Summer Arts Camp was a 10-week program that met every Wednesday from 9 to 11. Volunteers were organized to share topics such as piñata-making, fairy house building, letter boxing, shadow puppetry, plant art, and theater. With an average of about 12 children each week, it has been a creative and successful pilot.

Toad Project

The Toad Project is a project of the

Merrymeeting Arts Center (MAC) in collaboration with the Restorative Justice Project of the Mid-Coast and Bowdoinham's Longbranch School. Fundraising is underway to raise funds to enable youth-at-risk to renovate Toad, a 22-foot sailing scow that once occupied an important place in the arts community of Bowdoinham and Merrymeeting Bay.

In 1999 beloved Bowdoinham artist Bryce Muir launched Toad, the scow he built based on the designs of the historic cargo vessels that used to ply Merrymeeting Bay. Over the years Toad became a fixture at Cathance Landing in Bowdoinham and was known for the "yarting"

sketch tours of the Bay that Bryce and Peggy Muir conducted with local artists. Today, Toad is in a state of disrepair, and the community is at

risk of losing both a treasured asset as well as an important part of its rich history as a center for the arts.

The Toad Project is a proposed community-based initiative. The Project seeks to renovate and rehabilitate Toad and ensure its future as an asset for the town of Bowdoinham. But the project also has a broader objective of contributing to a more peaceful, inter-dependent world and honoring the vision and legacy of Bryce Muir, who passed in 2005.

Your contributions, small or large, will allow us to restore Toad while helping youth at risk get their lives on a different trajectory by learning valuable skills and deepening their ties to their community. To contribute go to <http://www.gofundme.com/toadproject>. Be sure to see Toad in the parade and check her out at Celebrate Bowdoinham!

Pottery Project

The Pottery Project is reorganizing its space to enable more potters to be involved and able to use the studio. A meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd from 10-12 at the studio (green building

down by the waterfront). Come and see what is happening! All skill levels and ages are welcome! Check out the studio at Celebrate!

For more information, please contact the Arts Center at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com or 207-370-5002 or visit our website at www.merrymeetingartscenter.org.

A CALL FOR ART

The Merrymeeting Arts Center is seeking works in all media for a fall show "Garden Farm Art." The show will have its opening on Friday, October 9th, 5-8pm and will run to the beginning of December.

Images of farms and gardens, farmers, plants and animals of all kinds are encouraged. We hope both emerging artists and professionals will participate. Sculpture, drawing, painting, textile, ceramic works will be used. Any work made using plant matter must be very well dried.

Works should be brought to the Arts Center (9 Main Street, the grey building with red roof down by the waterfront in the village) on Tuesday October 6th, 2-6pm. For further information on the Arts Center's exhibit, please call Peggy at 207-504-1132 (cell).

Participants are also invited to include their work in an earlier one-day event, as part of the Harvest Hall Exhibition at the Bowdoinham Grange during Celebrate Bowdoinham on Saturday, September 12th. Works for Celebrate should be brought to the Bowdoinham Grange on Friday, September 11th, 4-6pm. For information on Celebrate, please call 207-522-1880. Note that entries for the Celebrate exhibition will be displayed mainly on tables, while art for the "Garden Farm Art" Show at the Arts Center can use the gallery walls.



Boy Scout News

By Athena Mann

Troop 699 enjoyed a great week at Camp William Hinds in July, earning Merit Badges, moving forward on their trail to Eagle. In June, they forged a lifelong memory as they paddled along the Moose River Bow trip in Jackman. The Moose River trip was a first adventure of it's kind for many of the Scouts.

Scouting is an adventure based program, teaching skills of independence, leadership, and service. There will be a Scout joining night, September 16th, at 6pm in the Bowdoinham Community School Gymnasium, for boys of all ages. Boys between the ages of 11-18 years are eligible to join a Boy Scout Troop, ages 6-10 years are eligible to join the Cub Scout Pack. This combined meeting will have leaders and scouts from both units available to answer questions and share stories of their adventures.

As Fall approaches we will take part in BSA's national fundraiser, selling Trail's-end popcorn. Purchasing popcorn from a Scout encourages him to earn his own way, develops his public speaking skills, while supporting our local scout unit, and our council camp programs. Over the next 3 years the Marines, Army, Maine National Guard, Air Force, and Navy, are training by building new structures, bridges and roads throughout Pine Tree council's four camp properties. With your support in our fundraising efforts, supplies needed may be purchased and projects will be completed with their

help. As always the option to purchase and send popcorn to our service men and women overseas, is a great way to show your thanks and support to our Troops, and our local Scout Troop!

For more information about Boy Scout Troop 699, please contact Dave Mann, Scoutmaster of Troop 699, 207-837-4270 or email dmann88napa@gmail.com



Cub Scout News

By Cathy Curtis

This summer scouts from Pack 699 attended Webelos Resident Camp at Camp Hinds in Raymond and Day Camp at Camp Gustin in Sabattus. Activities included swimming, boating, fishing, sports, outdoor cooking, nature study, archery and shooting sports. A highlight of Day Camp was a demonstration of remote control airplanes by SkyStreakers R/C Club. Thank you to Heather Magaw, Jenifer Berry, Austin Berry, Athena Mann and Cathy Curtis for volunteering at Camp. We look forward to our Fall kick-off in September-a great time to join scouts. Watch for our float in the Celebrate Bowdoinham Parade.

Recreation News

By Lisa West

Have you heard about the new "Diamond in the 'Ham"? It is the renewed baseball field beyond the right field fence of Middle Field. This project resurrected an old Cal Ripken field into a full sized diamond for middle and high school age players. It has taken three years to transform a vision into reality. Many dedicated volunteers, including many of our local youth, who are passionate about the game of baseball and the future of the local programs have spent endless hours improving and maintaining this hidden treasure.

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News from Bowdoinham Historical Society

By Betsy Steen

The Historical Society has lots happening.

The Carriage Shed

The carriage shed is going up! Contributions are coming in, and we are moving closer to our goal of raising \$10,000, THANK YOU! Come by and see the progress.

Celebrate Bowdoinham

BHS will have:

- A display of Bowdoinham photos including Frank Connors' collection.
- Demonstrations of early photographic methods.
- "Kids Touch History" activities.
- BHS Photography Contest Entries.

Gala Yard Sale

It's time to start thinking about BHS's Annual Yard Sale. This year it will be 9am - 4pm on Sept. 19th with the 20th as the rain date. All earnings will go to the Carriage Shed. Donations of items to sell are welcomed.

As always, we encourage people to bring a table and sell their own treasures, \$15 a space. We do the advertising and provide a GREAT location and good parking.

And of course, Don't miss the sale, you never know what you may find!

For more information or to donate items, please contact Lara Ashouwak at lashouwak1@gmail.com or 666-8161.

Southard House Museum

BHS and Southard House Museum tentatively plan to hold a joint event "Photos of Two Towns" on Sunday, October 25th. Both the fascinating Southard House in Richmond and BHS Meeting House will be open with vintage photos of Richmond and Bowdoinham. New additions will be photos taken by Kennebec Journal reporter Frieda Witham and well-known Lewiston Evening Journal photographer Lloyd Ferris.

Bowdoinham's Roads

In 1962, Norman Foss created a book listing every home on River Road between Pratt's Corner (White Rd) and Richmond, including a photograph and any history he could find about the building and its families. It is a wonderful document! We wish he'd done the whole town. (This book is in the library)

YOU could help finish the job. We will have house forms available at BHS's Celebrate tent. Please do your home, OR take ownership of a road or portion of a road or neighborhood to research. We have resources to help with this for older homes. What we do today is tomorrow's history.

BHS is Looking For

- Card tables or other folding tables for use in the Meeting House, also folding chairs.
- Photos and information on Bowdoinham farms.
- Photos of members of the Given and the Small families.
- Other old Bowdoinham-related photographs.

Contact BHS

Mail: PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email: info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook & Website: www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

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

DON'T MISS IT!!

**Saturday, Sept 19th, 9am-4pm
at The Meeting House**

Support Bowdoinham's Historical Society, find some new treasures or make some money selling yours, chat with your neighbors, and see the progress on BHS's nearly restored Meeting House.

For more information, to sign-up for a table, or to donate, please contact Lara Ashouwak at lashouwak1@gmail.com or 666-8161.

**Bowdoinham Historical Society:
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ChristianRobinsonPlumbing@gmail.com

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Master Plumber #MS90010707 Master Plumber #MS90010708

Plumbing Tip Save your paperwork

It is very important when you purchase a new fixture to save the paperwork. Many fixtures no longer have the manufacturer's name on them and with many repair parts specific to a brand it may be impossible to find the part to repair an otherwise perfectly good fixture. Also know that with many of the reputable brands if the homeowner calls the company with the model number and problem the appropriate part may be sent free of charge.

ABCs, IBAs & FOMB

By Ed Friedman

Merrymeeting Bay is designated a Globally Important Bird Areas (IBA) by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) in recognition of its value to conservation of birds and their habitats. The Bay is part of an international network of key sites designated as such in an effort to further global bird conservation. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) acts through research, advocacy, education and land protection to protect and improve the Bay environment.



Some places, like Merrymeeting Bay are exceptionally important - even essential - for bird conservation. Directing protection and management efforts towards these sites is crucial if viable populations of many species are to survive. Conservationists have long understood this fact, but only in recent years has this ABC program emerged to recognize these sites formally.

More information on ABC is available on their web site: www.abcbirds.org or by phone at 1-800-247-3624. More information on RF effects is available at www.mainecoalitiontostopsmartmeters.org

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

By Lindsey Walton

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. The areas served include Brunswick and Harpswell, and all of the towns in Sagadahoc County where Site-Based Mentoring Programs serve approximately 250 youth each year.

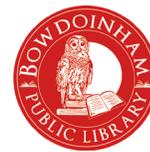
Mentors are needed now for their School-Based Programs which match volunteers (Bigs) and children (Littles) in a friendship for at-least one school year. Matches spend one hour a week at the child's school sharing lunch, conversation, games and fun activities. Many Littles have said that their favorite time of the week is the time that they get to share with their Big. It's an experience that is valued and enjoyed by both Bigs and Littles and has a meaningful impact! There are openings for volunteers at all schools where BBBS serves, but more specifically there is an immediate need for mentors at Bowdoin Central School (grades K-5).

For more information on how to start something amazing with a child this fall, please contact our Program Staff at 729-7736 x3, e-mail school@bbbsathbrunswick.org or visit our website at www.bbbsathbrunswick.org.

News from the Library

By Kate Cutko

We celebrate fall at Bowdoinham Public Library by gathering up all of your old books to sell! Book shoppers will get two opportunities to purchase used books. The first is under the Library's tent at Celebrate Bowdoinham, on September 12th. The second is on Saturday, October 10th at the Coombs Municipal Building. Both sales have the same great pricing: \$1 for hardcover books and .50 for paperbacks. We accept your donated books right up until sale day, so clear a few shelves and help benefit the library. If you would like to help at either sale, please call the library.



Beautiful potted Mums will be available for sale at Celebrate Bowdoinham, also benefitting the library.

Two monthly book groups, weekly story time, wireless internet, downloadable audio and ebooks, a telescope, large print books... who needs more reasons to stop in to the library?

Public opinion needed! If the library subscribed to a daily or weekly news publication, would you come to read it? Which newspaper would you like most to read? Please let Kate Cutko know your thoughts at kcuto@bowdoinham.lib.me.us or 666-8405, thanks.

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Bowdoinham Food Pantry

Open Fridays 3-6pm, 9 Main Street

Want to Donate? Checks can be made out to Bowdoinham Food Pantry, P.O. Box 246, Bowdoinham, ME 04008. Have donations to drop off? They can be delivered to the pantry, Town Office or Town Landing, during normal business hours!

For more information, visit our Facebook page or contact us at 751-7779 or bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com.

*We are always looking for
more volunteers!*

Boston Post Cane

By Pamela Ross

In August of 1909, The Boston Post publisher Edwin Grozier gave some 431 gold headed canes to municipalities (no cities included) across New England. Mr. Grozier gave them with the request that the cane be presented to the oldest male citizen of that town, to be used by them until his time of death. Around 1930, after some public discussion, it was decided that the cane could be presented to a man or a woman, they being the oldest citizen of that town.

On Saturday, January 25, 2015, during her 100th birthday celebration, Olive Frizzle was awarded the Boston Post Cane. Bowdoinham Town Officials Wendy Cunningham, Chair of the Select Board, Brian Hobart, Select Board Member and State Legislator, and Pam Ross, Town Clerk, were honored to have been a part of the celebration. Wendy Cunningham read the proclamation and presented Olive with the gold headed Boston Post Cane and a plaque adorned with the proclamation. Olive's two sons, Allan and Gordon Frizzle live in Bowdoinham. Five generations of Olive's family were present and the pictures of the momentous event and the Boston Post Cane are proudly displayed at the Bowdoinham Town Office.

We would like to thank Paul Baines, a fine woodworker and craftsman, of Bowdoinham who made Olive a replica of the Boston Post Cane to have as her own. She proudly displays her cane for all to see in her room.

News from the Committee on Aging

By Kathy Pszczolkowski

It is September and time to **Celebrate Bowdoinham** and we are looking forward to seeing you! Stop by our tent for free, freshly popped popcorn, BINGO called by Helen Read, or a game of cribbage. All of the entries in the "A Great Place to Be" Photo contest will be on display so be sure to drop by and vote for your favorite!

Tuesday, September 22nd is the Town of Bowdoinham Advisory Committee on Aging **Wellness Fair**. This year it is bigger and better! This Second Annual Aging Well(ness) Fair will be held from 9am until 12pm at the Town Hall. There is no fee for any of the activities or information that will be offered at the fair, but we are suggesting that each person bring a donation of a non-perishable food item (or cash) for the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. Activities will include free (donations accepted) flu shots, balance assessments, and chair massages. Learn how to get up after a fall and how to eat healthy foods on a budget, try some new exercises get information about dental health, maintaining a healthy brain, finding low-cost (or no-cost) telephone equipment, and more! Providers participating: CHANS, Head to Toe Physical Therapy, SEARCH, La Vonne Rhodes massage therapist, AARP, Access Health, Alzheimer's Association, Bowdoinham EMS, Bowdoinham Food Pantry, Bowdoinham Local Health Officer, Cathance Fitness Center, Maine Center on Deafness, and UNE Dental

School.

A Great Place to Be Photography Contest is open to people of all ages with a knack for taking beautiful and interesting photographs. Photos of nature, architecture, activities, friends, family, and pets are all welcome, as long as it is taken in Bowdoinham. Entries are limited to one per person so pick your favorite. Photos should be no larger than 5x7 and unmounted with the entrant's name and contact number in pencil on the back. Entries will be displayed at Celebrate Bowdoinham in the Advisory Committee on Aging tent. First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded to the photographs with the most popular votes. For more information, contact Patricia Oh (email: poh@bowdoinham.com or phone: 666-3351, ext. 110).

ACOA is considering offering a **Caregivers' Support Group** where caregivers supporting older family members come together to share experiences and offer mutual support. If you are a caregiver and would like a support group please contact Patricia Oh.

Rides INC

Rides INC (Rides In Neighbor's Cars) is a new volunteer door-to-door driver service that provides rides to older residents of Bowdoinham and Bowdoin who have chosen to stop driving or who are living with a disability that prevents them from driving. If you are interested in getting a ride or want more information, please call Barbara Cree, Coordinator of Rides INC at 666-3873.

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Long Branch News

By Pete Feeney

The Long Branch School of Maine just celebrated its fourth anniversary. It has been four years of exploration and discovery. Four years later, we are confident that we have refined our business model to a point of being a sustainable business while also meeting our original mission statement. Our present business strategy is much more focused than we had originally set out. Having a product-centered curriculum with tiny houses presently being our main product is working for us. The benefit of reducing our overhead has allowed us to let our business grow organically. An example of this organic approach is the tiny house program. We plan to build a few more of these tiny houses before offering classes around them. One interesting development with our tiny house program is a design contest. We are collaborating with the Bath Regional Career and Technical Center to create a tiny house design contest for its pre-engineering program students. We continue to offer some of other popular classes such as mushroom walks, cheese making, and blacksmithing. We will be shifting our curriculum to include workshop/trade-related classes. This will happen once we have the workshop fully ready to facilitate these types of classes. If there are any classes of this nature that you would like to see offered, please let us know. Also, if there are any master gardeners or farmers that would like to offer some springtime classes, we would love to hear from you.

Community School News

By Chris Lajoie, Principal

On July 27th, a humid day halfway through the summer, 28 volunteers showed up at Community School with brushes, rollers, and ladders. Teachers, parents, grandparents, and current and former students put in over 100 volunteer hours to paint classrooms in the school, many of which, reportedly, had not seen a fresh coat in fifteen years. We also had logistical support from other community members, and discounted pizza from our friend, Lynn, at the Town Landing. What a perfect living example of our school's vision – we are In It Together for our kids!

Indeed, our school thrives on a spirit of volunteerism. There is an endless number of ways for our community members to be involved in the lifeblood of the school. Here are a few ways many of our community members get involved:

- Lunch Bunch – volunteers come in during lunch periods to read a book.
- Electives – community members can present a four-week elective (once a week for an hour) to students, which can be on a topic of your expertise or passion.
- Substitute - our community members with some teaching experience or interest in working directly with kids can apply to be added to our list of substitute teachers and ed techs.

Please be in touch with me to get more information about volunteering: lajoiec@link75.org or 666-5546. We could not do the tough work of educating our children without our community support.

Town Committee Members Needed

By William Post & Nicole Briand

The Select Board is seeking volunteers to serve on the following Town Committees.

- Solid Waste Advisory Committee is a five member committee that provides advice to the Select Board on solid waste management and recycling. In particular, the Committee is charged with updating the Town's Solid Waste Management Ordinance and assisting the Town Manager and Solid Waste Director in reviewing operations at the Recycling Barn.
- Finance Advisory Committee is a five member committee that assists the Selectmen and the Treasurer with financial decisions regarding development and administration to the municipal budget and the investment program for the Town of Bowdoinham.
- Community Development Advisory Committee is a seven member committee, whose purpose is to develop and assist in plans designed to support and enhance community and economic development.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee is a seven to eleven member committee, whose purpose is to implement and update Bowdoinham's Comprehensive Plan.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Town Manager Bill Post at 666-5531, or wpost@bowdoinham.com. Thank you.

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

September

11th
Chicken Run, 5:30pm
Bowdoinham Community School

Family Movie Night, 8pm
Maily Waterfront Park

12th
Celebrate Bowdoinham
Maily Waterfront Park

19th
BHS Annual Yard Sale, 9am-4pm
The Meeting House

22nd
Wellness Fair, 9am-12pm
Town Hall

October

9th
Garden Farm Art Show Opens, 5-8pm
Merrymeeting Arts Center

10th
Library Book Sale
John C. Coombs Municipal Building

24th
Rabies Clinic, 9-11am
Bowdoinham Town Hall

25th
Photos of Two Towns
Richmond's Southard House Museum &
BHS's Meeting House

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held in Kendall 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
4th Monday of Month at 3:00pm

Community Development Advisory Committee*
3rd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

*Committee has openings for new members.



Open Saturdays - 8:30am to 12:30pm
at Maily Waterfront Park

Visit us on Facebook!

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

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