



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 24, Issue 4

bowdoinham.com

July - August 2026

Bowdoinham Community School Celebrates The Arts

On the afternoon of May 13th, a huge crowd gathered at Bowdoinham Community School for its annual Spring Arts Show. In a community where the arts are so highly valued, students, staff and family members look forward to this event each year with great anticipation. As is tradition, every one of the 192 students had at least one piece of artwork mounted for display, spread across the entire school. The collection was curated by Ms. Alston Armstrong, the school's beloved first-year Art teacher.

Kindergarten and First Grade projects showed off their learning about color mixing and collage. Their creations also featured mixed media and still life with watercolors, as well as weaving techniques. Second graders featured their self portraits, and transformed the main hallway into a vibrant "Dance Party" display in the style of artist Keith Haring.

Third grade furthered their exploration of mixed media and still life, while enlivening the halls with a sense of movement through their koinobori display: flying fish kites in the Japanese style. Fourth and Fifth Grade projects showcased outstanding creativity and technical skill, developed over years as part of the school's Art program. Visitors were impressed by a range of realistic and abstract pieces, including some three-dimensional art exploring radial symmetry, and intricate ceramics.

To add to the excitement of the event, fifth grade band students gave pop-up performances around the school, and the Bowdoinham Rebel Runners 5K club ran a bake sale to support their



The colorful Kindergarten and First Grade display in the main hallway.

upcoming race. Meanwhile, the ever-popular Buy One, Get One Free Book Fair was flooded with customers in the Learning Commons. And as a nod to the less conventional arts, a station welcomed families to buy temporary tattoos for teachers to wear the following week. Proceeds from the "Tatted Up Teacher" fundraiser went to ensure every student in the school could have a book from the Book Fair.

Of the Arts Show, Ms. Armstrong said, "I wanted students to feel empowered by their art." In her first year at our school she has been impressed with what the children bring to the Art classroom. "My classes have been filled with eager understanding, and

the students' willingness to learn new things motivated me to create a display that celebrates them."

Congratulations to all our artists and musicians. You inspire us!



"Strawberries," ceramic piece by Alice

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SUMMER IN THE PARK

Summer has arrived, and with the kids out of school, it is the perfect time to enjoy the beautiful public spaces we have here in Bowdoinham.

Whether you want to boat or fish along our scenic waterways, pick up fresh produce at a local farm stand, hike the trails, enjoy a Sunday night concert in the park, have a picnic at one of our waterfront parks, or visit the skate park, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

These natural treasures give us a chance to get fresh air, unwind after a busy week, connect with nature, and spend time with family and friends.

As we enjoy these special places, we can all help keep them clean, safe, and welcoming. Please clean up after yourselves and your pets, pack out anything you bring in, be courteous to others, and use caution around the water.



Please note:

Please stay on the walkways in the new park so the vegetation has time to take root and thrive.

Outfits to Die For

By Lisa Wesel

Every once in a while, Kathleen Nation gets dressed up for a murder: A fur stole, elbow-length satin gloves, a string of pearls. Maybe some bejeweled cowboy boots.

For 33 years, Nation has participated in Mystery for Hire – Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, which describes itself as “Maine’s longest running professional mystery dinner theatre.” Many of her costumes include items she finds at the Gift Shop.

“We just finished a show at the Franco Center,” she said. “It was a takeoff of an awards show, and I played Clarinet Reed. We were all dressed to the nines.”

Mystery for Hire is a theater troupe that performs improvised scenarios for fundraising events involving a murder that is eventually solved by the audience.

“We partner with a facility that does the catering,” Nation explained. “We introduce the characters, they serve the first course, and then we set the scene. During the entrée, someone mysteriously dies. We plant the seeds for who might be the suspects, and the audience gets to interrogate them.

“We have no idea who the killer will be,” she said.

Nation, a former middle school drama coach, used to live in Monmouth, where she stored a lot of her costumes, but she downsized when she moved to Topsham four years ago. That left her short of the costumes she needs for her various performances.

“There are different themes,” she said. The Riverbank Campground in Leeds, for example, went for a western theme — a perfect use for the sparkly cowboy boots — while others have chosen 1930s noir. The Gift Shop,



whose inventory takes “eclectic” to a whole new level, is the perfect place to shop for just the right piece of clothing, jewelry, or accessory.

“I’m looking for the odd things that people don’t think of as needed, like an adult-sized Eeyore onesie or a fur stole,” she said.

The Gift Shop would like to thank everyone who made our spring plant sale the most successful one yet. So many people donated their plants, and so many people came to buy them, that the sale lasted for three weekends in a row. The income from that event will go a long way to covering our ongoing expenses. Plans are under way to construct a holding bed for perennials, so we can propagate plants on site for next year’s sale. We predict the Gift Shop Plant Sale will just keep growing!

In other news, the Gift Shop is going to expand its hours this summer! We understand that not everyone is available to visit us on Saturdays, either to shop or to donate, so starting June 2, we will be open Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. through mid-September. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!

Join us Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, 2026 as we celebrate Bowdoinham's 264th birthday with two days of all-ages fun along the Cathance River! Rain date: Sunday, September 13. From parades and fireworks to lobster crate races, live music, artisan booths, and the 26th Anniversary of the KenDUCKY Derby, Celebrate Bowdoinham 2026 has something for everyone. More details and additional activities are in the works and will be released once the official lineup of events is finalized, but here are some activities to look forward to! For more details visit: www.bowdoinham.com/event/celebrate-bowdoinham-2026

Friday, September 12th:

Bowdoinham Community School's Parent Partnership is hosting the annual CHICKEN RUN!! The Children's 1-mile Fun Run will begin at 5:30PM in front of the school, with the 5K to follow! It's a great way to start the weekend running and support our amazing school! Follow @bowdoinhamchickenrun on Facebook for updates and register at www.runinarace.com/BowdoinhamCommunitySchool. The Outdoor Cinema sponsored by the Recreation Department will return to the Recreation field following the chicken run.

Saturday, September 12th:

This year's Celebrate Bowdoinham Parade's theme is "Bowdoinham Wildlife"—celebrates our deep-rooted commitment to stewarding the town's natural resources—honoring the landscapes, waters, and creatures that define our community and reflecting our shared responsibility to protect them for generations to come.

We will kick off the festivities at 10:00AM and follow the traditional route: From the Community School (23 Cemetery Rd); up Cemetery Rd.; Right onto Center St.; Left onto Post Rd; Left on Main St; Left on River Rd; Left on Ridge Rd; Left on Cemetery Rd. (~1.8 mi)

We are still looking for parade entries, fireworks sponsors, and vendors so please apply on our recreation website or scan the code <https://bit.ly/4uzZAUp>.



Activities for all ages include the Merrymeeting Arts Center Zucchini Races at the Matthew Townsend Parker Memorial Skatepark in the morning, followed by facepainting, a strolling magician, lobster crate races, and a wildlife walk with Inland Fisheries & Wildlife in the Cathance Meadow Trails in the afternoon, and plenty of other games, inflatables, and amusements for all ages. The gazebo will also host local musical acts and a live animal show with Doctor Drew and His Animals Too.

As always there will be **food trucks** serving up your Celebrate favorites and don't forget to visit the artists, makers, and community groups in the vendor area. Help support our local businesses and find out what is going on in our community and how you can get involved.

New this year: SeaSpray Kayaking will be offering \$10/hr single and tandem kayaks, single and 6-person paddle boards or canoes from 10AM – 4PM at the Hand Carry Launch as well as an Introduction to Paddling Course at the hand carry launch. Advanced registration is required for the course only. \$20/per person from NOON – 2 PM. Ages 10 and up. Register by calling: (207) 404-1100.

As the day winds down, enjoy a little more music and a breezy picnic or food truck dinner before Celebrate Bowdoinham ends with the bang of **FIREWORKS** at 8:00PM! We are still looking for sponsors please consider donating to the cause by sending in a check made payable to "Town of Bowdoinham" and with "Firework Sponsor" in the memo.

CHICKEN RUN!



Lace up those running shoes and get your game face on for this year's Chicken Run. The Bowdoinham Community School 5K Chicken Run and Kids' 1-Mile Fun Run is happening Friday, September 11th at 5:30 pm. As always, this is sure to be one of the most fun community events of the year! Registration through our website is open until Thursday, September 10th at 5:30 pm.



Just visit <https://runinarace.com/BowdoinhamCommunitySchool/>. In person registration starts at 4:30 pm on race day. All proceeds benefit the Bowdoinham Community School. We hope to see you there!

Celebrate Our Natural Resources: Join the Parade!

Bowdoinham is proud to honor its deep-rooted commitment to stewarding the town's natural resources — honoring the landscapes, waters, and creatures that define our community in this year's community parade, and we want YOU to be part of the celebration! From rolling fields abuzz with pollinators and bounding with deer, to wetlands filled with peepers and cattails, riparian areas crawling with snapping turtles and sea otters, to wading birds in Merrymeeting Bay there is so much local wildlife to celebrate. Whether you're a farmer, local business, a community group, or just someone with a great idea, we invite you to be part of this cherished tradition.

The parade will take place on Sat. 9/12 (rain date 9/13) starting at the Community School, 23 Cemetery Rd. at 9 am. Participants are encouraged to showcase their creativity through floats, costumes, and props, whether it's fauna or flora related. Let's celebrate the diversity of species and ecosystems that make our town special.

Ready to join? Register by 7/21/26 on our website: www.bowdoinhamme.myrec.com. Got questions? Please email events@bowdoinham.com. We welcome you to help make this parade a true tribute to supporting and protecting our natural resources!



Town Hall Project Update

Spring has brought a wonderful amount of activity to our newly renovated Town Hall. The building has already hosted two baby showers, the Library's dahlia sale, an election security meeting, an Age Friendly Dance Through Life event, a Maine Old Cemeteries Association workshop, and its first wedding. Several more events are booked through the end of the year, with another wedding is scheduled for 2027.

Visitors have shared many positive comments about how lovely the Hall looks and how grateful they are that the Town found a way to revive this historic building. While much has been accomplished, there is still important work to be done.

The Town Hall Committee is currently fundraising to paint the steeple, replace the stone wall, and complete the landscaping. Once those projects are finished, the Committee hopes to explore sound-dampening panels to help reduce the echo in the hall.

Every donation, large or small, will help bring these final projects to life and ensure the Town Hall continues to inspire pride for generations to come. Your gift will help preserve its beauty, improve its spaces, and keep it a welcoming gathering place for all.

Donors contributing \$500 or more will be honored on **The Legacy Wall**, a permanent plaque in the Town Hall celebrating the generosity that made its restoration possible.

To donate, please mail or drop off your contribution at the Town Office, 13 School Street, Bowdoinham, ME 04008. Be sure to clearly mark your donation for the Town Hall Project. You may also donate online at www.bowdoinham.com/page/town-hall-donations.

To book your next event at the Town Hall or schedule a tour of the revived facility, please email Lisa-Marie Curtis at adminassistant@bowdoinham.com or call (207) 666-3099.

CELEBRATE BOWDOINHAM!

Sept 11 & 12, 2026
WATERFRONT PARKS

Join us for two days of family fun!

Parade: 10AM
Fireworks: 8PM

Parade - Food Trucks - Inflatables
KenDucky Derby - Live Music
Artist Showcase - Strolling Magician
Balloon Art - Face Painting
Chicken Run - Zucchini Races
Lobster Crate Races - Dunk Tank
Fundraisers - Games - Fireworks

Rain date: Sept. 13



Still accepting vendors & sponsors:
scan or visit bowdoinham.com



Open Farm & Studio Day

Sunday, July 26th

Farm & Studio Tours 9am – 5pm; Barbeque 4pm – 6pm; and Music 4pm – 7pm at Maily Waterfront Park

Join us on Sunday, July 26th for Bowdoinham's 15th Annual Open Farm & Studio Day (OFSD). The day will begin with farm tours at: Apple Creek Farm, Campo di Fiori, Six River Farm, and Stonecipher Farm. Come explore our local farms and see how our food is made!



And because Bowdoinham is a "Very Crafty Town" we'll have Cathance River Gallery, Dowing Arts, and Artistic Endeavors showcasing their fine crafts

and artists. Don't miss the wheel throwing demonstrations throughout the day at the Merrymeeting Arts Center Pottery Studio!

In the spirit of collaboration Apple Creek will be hosting artists Just Playing With Glass, Annandale Flowers, and Turning Arts Studio, as well as wood-fired food from 3B Catering. And Starrock Designs will be showcasing unique hand-printed botanical scarves at Campo di Fiori.

The celebration will continue at Maily Waterfront Park for a Food Pantry

pulled chicken and pork barbeque featuring fresh foods from local farms from 4-6 pm. Close the night out enjoying live music by Rough Sawn, a primarily acoustic band playing folk, American, and classic country from 4-7pm.

Come celebrate our farming and arts community! FMI including a download of the event map please visit www.bowdoinham.com/event/2026-open-farm-and-studio-day or scan the code.



BOWDOINHAM'S
OPEN FARM AND STUDIO DAY
 July 26, 2026

A Celebration of Bowdoinham's vibrant farming & arts community.

9AM-5PM

Explore farms & studios with live demos, fresh food, farm tours & stores, pop-up markets, & more.

4PM-7PM

Join us at Maily Waterfront Park (1 Main St.) for a Food Pantry benefit BBQ! Enjoy fresh local eats & live music.

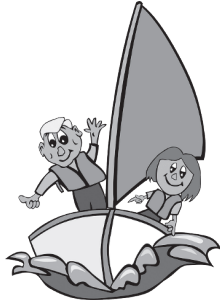
Plan your Bowdoinham adventure on beautiful Merrymeeting Bay!

Download the event guide

Follow the red signs to explore farms & studios showcasing the best of Bowdoinham!



Warm weather is upon us, and many will be spending time on our beautiful rivers and Merrymeeting Bay. Bowdoinham is home to many flavors of boating enjoyment, whether you like to gently glide across the water in your kayak, row with a group of friends, harvest the wind in your sails, motor into your favorite fishing spot or spend the day with family and friends whizzing around the bay safety and awareness are key to having a fun and memorable day on the water.



- Always wear a life jacket. If you think you will have time to put it on after you are in the water, think again.
- Stay alert and be aware of others on the water.

Live Well, Eat Well and Feel Better

by Mary Kelley

Fifteen people met with Bowdoinham resident and retired board-certified Family Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine Physician, Laura Arnold, MD, on Friday, June 5. She talked about how simple lifestyle changes can revolutionize our health. We had a lively discussion while enjoying some delicious hibiscus iced tea. You are invited to attend the next session on Friday, August 7 at 1:30 PM in the Kendall Room in the Town Office. The conversation will emphasize the role of activity and exercise in a healthy lifestyle. No charge, all are welcome.

Sponsored by the Age Friendly Committee.

Boating Safety Tips

- Always operate your boat at a safe and reasonable speed for your surroundings.
- Never drink and drive!
- Check the weather before leaving shore and carefully watch for weather changes.
- Always wear an engine cutoff switch.
- Watch out for wildlife.
- Be familiar with the body of water. Look at a map for depths

and any potential hazards. Lake associations, Maine guides, and local wardens can be a great resource.

- Check tide charts. Our rivers and bay are tidal waters.
- Bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and wear a hat and sunscreen to avoid overexposure to the sun.
- Always tell someone where you are going, and when you will be back.

SUNDAY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

FMI & MENU DETAILS:



**7/5 - COUNTRY STORE / THREE ROBBERS PUB
CILANTRO**

**7/12 - MERRYMEETING ARTS CENTER
BACK WOODS ROAD**

**7/19 - BCDI
NOVEL JAZZ**

**7/26 - BOWDOINHAM FOOD PANTRY
ROUGH SAWN**

**8/2 - HAVEN HOMESCHOOL COLLECTIVE
RED BEANS AND RICE**

**8/9 - BOWDOINHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION**

**8/16 - BOWDOINHAM ROWING CLUB
HERON HEMINGWAY**

**8/23 - BHAM COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
LEOPARD GIRLS**

**8/30 - COUNTRY STORE / THREE ROBBERS PUB
MAGIC EIGHT BALL**



Waterfront Access & Resilience Plan Underway

Bowdoinham is launching an exciting new effort to strengthen and expand public access to our waterways while planning for long-term resilience.



Thanks to a **\$50,000 grant from the Maine Coastal Program**, the Town is developing a Waterfront Access & Resilience Plan to guide future improvements for fishing access and paddle put-ins across the community.

This planning project will take a close look at where and how people access the water today, identify opportunities to improve access, and evaluate how climate-related impacts—like flooding and erosion — could affect these sites in the future. The goal is to create a clear, community-informed roadmap for making our waterfront more accessible, resilient, and enjoyable for years to come.

Your input will play a key role. As part of the process, the Town will be launching a public survey to gather feedback on existing access points, unmet needs, and ideas for future

improvements. This survey — along with upcoming opportunities for in-person input — will help ensure the plan reflects the priorities of Bowdoinham residents.

We encourage everyone to:

- **Keep an eye out for the upcoming survey** this August online, in paper form and at Celebrate.
- **Watch for opportunities to participate in public meetings** to be scheduled during the first week of August and later in the winter.
- **Check the project page regularly for updates and ways to get involved**

You can follow progress and learn more about the project here: www.bowdoinham.com/project/waterfront-access-resilience-plan.



This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of Bowdoinham's waterfront — stay tuned and get involved!

Summer Road Work



It is that time of year again. No matter where we are traveling, we run into road work of some nature or another. From the trimming of trees, mowing roadsides, replacing of culverts, tearing up and repaving of roads, to the placement of new utility poles. Summer is the peak season for towns, utility companies and the Maine DOT to get this much needed work done.

These areas are set up to keep drivers as well as workers safe so at the end of the day everyone gets to return to their families. The workers do their part; our part begins with patience. Give yourself extra time, drive slowly through work areas, stay alert, follow instructions and when needed move over so you are not passing too close to workers or their equipment. We all want to have a safe and enjoyable Summer.

Summer Road Work in Bowdoinham

During the summer, our Public Works Department will be working on grading shoulders and ditches as well as clearing vegetation within the right of along the Town's roadways.

FYI: The right of way on public roads is normally 50 ft, this means the right of way may extend 10-15 feet from the edge of the road. Crews will be clearing within this right of way.

TIDEWATER TREE CARE



- Tree removals
- Tree and shrub pruning
- Tree preservation
- Free estimates and Insured

tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com

207 737-9365

Recreation News

Celebrating a Successful Youth Baseball & Softball Season

This spring marked another outstanding season for Bowdoinham's youth baseball and softball programs, and the Recreation Department is proud to celebrate the energy, growth, and community spirit that made it such a success.

We started off the season with exceptional playing conditions across our town fields. Thanks to an early stretch of warm weather, our fields were in excellent shape right from the start. Players, coaches, and families

all benefited from dry, well-prepared surfaces that allowed for more consistent practices, fewer weather-related interruptions, and an overall enhanced game-day experience. The strong conditions gave our young athletes the perfect setting to develop their skills and enjoy the game.

We were also thrilled to debut a major new addition this year: the solar-powered digital scoreboard on Middle Baseball Field. This marks the first season of use for the scoreboard, and it was an immediate hit with players and

spectators alike. Not only does it bring a modern touch to the field, but its solar-powered design reflects Bowdoinham's commitment to sustainability. From keeping score to tracking innings, the new scoreboard added excitement and a professional feel to games played on Middle Field. Special thanks to Major donors for this project **Scott Temple Well Drilling** and **Priority Real Estate Group**. Thank you also to all those who supported this fundraising effort!

Most importantly, this season showcased the dedication and enthusiasm of our players. Across all age levels in both baseball and softball, we saw tremendous growth, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Whether it was a first hit, a great defensive play, or simply learning the fundamentals of the game, each participant contributed to a season full of memorable moments.

This success would not have been possible without the support of our generous local sponsors. The Recreation Department extends its sincere thanks to **Colonial Hardwoods**, **Harvest Tide Organics**, **Bisson Moving**, **Stonecipher Farm**, **Labbe & Sons**, and **O'Farrell Energy** for their continued commitment to our youth programs. Their support helps make these opportunities possible and strengthens the connection between our community and its young athletes.

We would also like to recognize the many volunteer coaches, parents, and community members who gave their time and effort to ensure a smooth and enjoyable season for everyone involved. Your dedication makes a lasting impact on our youth and keeps our programs thriving year after year.

As we wrap up another fantastic season, we look forward to building on this momentum next year. Thank you to everyone who helped make this season one to remember—we can't wait to see you back on the fields soon!

LE TOUR DE BOWDOINHAM 2026 CHARITY RIDE

SAT. 15 AUGUST - 9 AM

BOWDOINHAM FOOD PANTRY

9 MAIN ST. BOWDOINHAM

REGISTER @ WWW.BIKEREG.COM

11, 25,
& 35 MILE
ROUTES

REST STOPS
@ MILE 11 & 25

FIND ROUTES ON
STRAVA, HAMMERHEAD,
& RIDE W GPS

REGISTRATION FEE:
FOOD PANTRY
DONATION

PURCHASE PASTRIES &
COFFEE AT THE VENUE:

- BOWDOINHAM COUNTRY STORE (54 RIVER RD) &
- FARMERS MARKET (MAILLY PARK)



EVENT INFO
& JERSEY
SALES:



SPONSORED BY:



Le Tour de Bowdoinham – SATURDAY 8/15 - 9:00AM

Start and finish at Bowdoinham Food Pantry at Mailly Park in downtown Bowdoinham!

Search “TdB 2026” on Ride with GPS or Strava to get the map.

Come ride the scenic rolling hills, see the farmland and forests, and enjoy the views along Merrymeeting Bay.

The registration fee for this ride is a donation of non-perishable food items or a monetary donation to support the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. Donations can be made by visiting their website bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org, scan this code or bring a personal check.

Please drop off donations before the ride starts in the collection bins at the designated parking lots. Then make your way to the food pantry and grab your collectable keepsakes for the ride donated by Merrymeeting Arts Center. Need to fuel up before the ride? Stop by the Bowdoinham Country Store or the Farmers’ Market also at Mailly Park for some coffee and pastries.



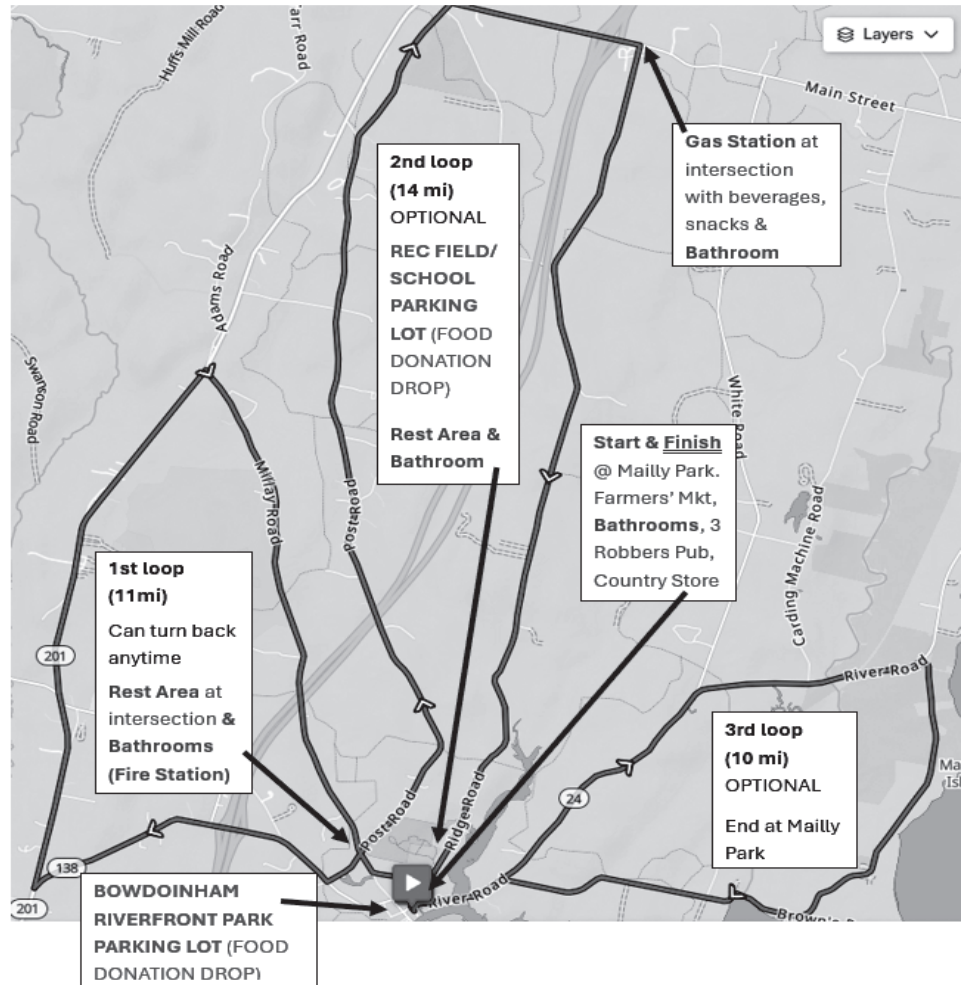
Please pre-register for the ride at www.bikereg.com/le-tour-de-bowdoinham. By participating in this event, Riders assume all liability during this ride.

Also, our **event jersey** is on sale now! To get a discount order by July 15!

Check it out at the QR code or visit Jakroo.com and search for Le Tour de Bowdoinham in the Team Store:

Just so ya know...

This is mostly a self-supported 34-mile ride that includes a rest stop at mile 11 (across from the Fire Station 28 Millay Rd.) and mile 24 (Rec field parking lot). There are turnback options at mile 11 and mile 25. The ride will be



held rain or shine unless there is severe weather. There are a couple of store options on the route in case you need a boost.



Parking: With the event coinciding with the Farmers’ Market, please park at the new Bowdoinham Riverfront Park across RT 24 from Mailly or at the Bowdoinham Community School (2nd loop rest stop).



Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative

Please join us on **Sunday, July 19th** at Bowdoinham's Maily Waterfront Park for BCDI's second annual OKTOBERFEST! We'll be serving up a traditional, locally-sourced German meal, featuring bratwurst, potato salad, kraut, pretzels, beverages, and more. The meal will be accompanied by Novel Jazz, who will be entertaining you with their mainstream swinging jazz while you enjoy dinner made by us! There will be to-go options if you prefer, and we will be accepting cash, check, PayPal, and credit cards. It is sure to be a cheerful and delicious evening – hope you can join us! Prost!

Thank you for your support during BCDI's May Membership Month! Your membership does two important things for BCDI. First, it provides direct funding to our community operations; including Neighbors Investing in Neighbors Loan Program, Farmland Inventory, and Community Conversations. Second, your supportive engagement provides a vote of confidence for our mission and role as a community organization. Your involvement in our unique organization enables BCDI to support the kind of community we are proud to call home!

If you are not yet a BCDI member, or have not renewed your 2026 membership, please consider hopping over to our website (www.bcdimaine.org) or social media pages to learn more. Membership begins at just \$10. Scanning this QR code will also bring you right to our membership payment page – easy-peasy, but oh-so crucial to our organization. Thank you for your support!



We are thrilled to announce that

BCDI PRESENTS
OKTOBERFEST

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Join us for brats and brezeln!
6PM
Maily Waterfront Park
Bowdoinham

The poster features a stylized illustration of two men in traditional Oktoberfest attire. The man on the left has a large black mustache and is wearing a white shirt with a black flower emblem. The man on the right has a black beard and is wearing a black shirt with three white flower emblems. Between them are two beer mugs with the BCDI logo and a large, stylized pretzel. The background is dark grey with white stars and a white banner at the top.

BCDI has received a 2026 Maine Community Foundation Community Building grant. The mission of the Maine Community Foundation is to bring people and resources together to



Maine
Community Foundation

build a better Maine. The \$10,000 award is instrumental to our sustainability, allowing us to focus on facilitating small, low-interest, hyperlocal loans that grow Bowdoinham businesses and foster community engagement. This grant will also help BCDI grow our outreach and mission! We appreciate the support and generosity of the Maine Community Foundation!

Bowdoinham Food Pantry: Summer 2026 Updates

By John Treat, Director

For many of us, summer is a time of outdoor fun, adventure, and relaxation: family vacation, summer camp, days at the beach, and more. This summer, many families are feeling the pinch of rising prices for food, fuel, and other daily necessities. Some are also losing vital support due to recent policy changes. According to the latest analysis from the Maine Center for Economic Policy, nearly 14,000 Mainers have lost SNAP benefits since last July, including more than 4,000 children.

Summer can also be a time of special challenges for some of us. Families with school-aged children may feel extra strain when school lunches aren't available. Folks on limited income may struggle to keep their homes cool. People stuck at home, for whatever reason, may feel left out while others enjoy the out-of-doors.

Some of these challenges are easier to address than others, but we can all try to bear them in mind, and try to help out where we can. There are also a few current programs that may help address some of these issues, and we want to make sure our readers are aware of them:

- **Bowdoinham Food Pantry Sharing Table:** This summer, we are trying out a "sharing table" for community exchange of food. The idea is simple: give what you can; take what you need. The table is located outside the Bowdoinham Public Library at the Coombs School, on the covered porch; it

offers fresh produce, shelf-stable items, and a small fridge for perishables. More information and donation guidelines are available at the table, or call us at (207) 751-7779.

- **MSAD 75 Summer Meals Program:** Free summer meals are available for children throughout the MSAD 75 school district. All children are eligible, regardless of income or the school they attend. Families can pick up breakfast and lunch for their child once each week from June 29 through August 21, 2026, from a participating site: Bowdoinham Community School (Tuesdays, 10am-1pm) or Richmond Public Library (Wednesdays, 10am-1pm). It isn't too late to sign up, but you must do so before you start picking up meals. To sign up, email johnsona@link75.org.
- **Maine Senior FarmShare Program:** Operated by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), the Maine Senior FarmShare Program (MSFP) provides eligible adults the opportunity to receive a share (worth \$50) of first-quality, fresh, local produce, at no cost, directly from local Maine farmers during the growing season. For information on eligibility, and to apply, visit: bit.ly/MSFP2026.

We at the Bowdoinham Food Pantry are also busy preparing for our key summer events:

- **Sunday, July 26 - Bowdoinham Food Pantry Benefit BBQ Supper:** One of our key fundraisers during the year is the annual BBQ Supper, hosted in conjunction with Bowdoinham's Open Farm and Studio Day, and with support from the Town of Bowdoinham. The supper highlights the beautiful fresh produce available from area farms, as well as the culinary expertise of our volunteers. Watch our Facebook page for more information.
- **Saturday, August 15 - 2026 "Le Tour de Bowdoinham" Bicycle Ride:** If you or someone you know loves to ride, come join dozens of others for a benefit ride through the scenic rolling hills, farmlands and forests around Merrymeeting Bay. The registration fee for this ride is a donation of non-perishable food items on the day, or a monetary donation to the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. For more information, please visit bit.ly/LTdB2026.

As always, if you or someone you know needs assistance with food, please get in touch. To all of you who support our work, in whatever way you do, please know how grateful we are.

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WOOD FLOORING CONTRACTOR

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THE BOWDOINHAM SHARING TABLE



GIVE WHAT YOU CAN - TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

Sponsored by the Bowdoinham Food Pantry

WHAT IS IT?

A sharing table is a space for exchanging food. Anyone can participate: take a can of soup, swap a zucchini for pasta, or donate extra beans. Neighbors helping neighbors.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN; TAKE WHAT YOU NEED! IT REALLY IS THAT SIMPLE.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Information on donation guidelines is available at the table. Food safety rules prohibit home-baked or preserved items, meat, dairy, and shelf-stable products over 12 months past their "best by" date. Please ensure fresh produce is clean and in good condition. Volunteers will frequently check the table to restock and tidy up.



WHERE IS IT?

The Sharing Table is outside the Bowdoinham Public Library at the Coombs School, on the covered porch. It offers fresh produce, shelf-stable items, and a small fridge for perishables.

COME CHECK IT OUT!



For more information, contact the Bowdoinham Food Pantry at 207-751-7779 and leave a message

Merrymeeting Arts Center

By John Blunda

MAC is seeking donations for their Celebrate Bowdoinham Silent Auction to raise funds for our Art for Everyone initiative on September 12th. Donations will be accepted in August. 50/50 Artist split on all items sold. Contact galler@merrymeetingartscenter.org if you're interested in donating an art piece. More details as the event draws near!

Are you interested in joining the MAC team? Reach out to mac@merrymeetingartscenter.org to discuss the various opportunities available.

For all up-to-date announcements throughout the year, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or subscribe to our newsletter to keep up with new classes and more:



EVENTS:

July 12: MAC hosts Bowdoinham's Summer Concert Series Kickoff

Come join us at the Maily Waterfront Park as we help the town kickoff the beginning of the annual Summer Concert Series. While feasting on the sounds of The Back Woods Road band, you can feast on BBQ from Smokin Phils Belly Busting BBQ Food Truck! Sample desserts from our annual Bake Sale fundraiser, and take a chance to win some cool prizes with our 50/50 raffle! The concert, food and fun starts at 6p and goes until 8p.



You can peek at the menu using the QR code:

July 26: Open Farm & Studio Day (11am-3pm)

MAC opens its doors for special Sunday events, featuring:

- The Pottery Studio will feature potters showing the basics of wheel throwing and hand building.

- Free admission to our art exhibition from local artist Kelly Moeyken. You can read more about Kelly's work below.
- You'll also be on hand for our Community Art Weave project! We will have a frame set up and recycled materials available for creating a one of a kind, community driven art piece to be displayed until Celebrate Bowdoinham. Come by and add your touch to the *Weaving Together Project!*

EXHIBITS AND SHOWS:

Kelly Moeyken

- **Opening Reception: Friday, July 10 at 5:30pm**
- **Gallery Hours: Saturdays July 11, 18, 25 from 10am-2pm**
- **Open Farm & Studio Day – Sunday, July 26 from 11am-3pm**

About the artist: Kelly Moeyken is a Maine-based mixed media artist working in paper, clay, and other materials. Her practice is rooted in process and repetition, using hand-built and assembled elements to create densely textured surfaces and rhythmic compositions. Through quiet accumulation and careful attention to detail, her work explores materiality and time, unfolding slowly through surface and form. Moeykens' work ranges from small, repeated clay flowers to intricately cut and assembled paper elements, creating surfaces that are both visually immersive and deliberately restrained, emphasizing labor, process, and material presence.

Margaret Leonard

- **Opening Reception: Friday, August 7 at 5:30pm**
- **Gallery Hours: Saturdays August 8, 15, 22 from 10am-2pm**

From the artist: My artistic practice began formally during my attendance at Portland School of Art (now

MECA&D) from 1978-1982. Attending artists residencies over the years has given me a chance to delve into my work and leave the financial survival vs. painting behind. I am inspired by nature, form, color, light and creating a composition that is balanced and works as a whole. Most recently I have been intrigued with older vehicles and incorporating them into a painting as metaphor or in a more literal sense. Plein air, collage and work based on socio-political issues are part of my oeuvre as well.

WEEKLY:

Open Pottery Studio Sessions

Mondays 4-6pm, 6-8pm

Wednesdays 6-8pm

Saturdays 9-11am

Whether you're a seasoned potter or someone who's never touched a wheel, our Open Pottery Studio welcomes you. Every week, we transform our space into a sanctuary for creativity, connection, and quiet focus. No appointments needed. No pressure to produce perfection. Just you, the clay, and the gentle hum of wheels spinning.

CLASSES:

Photography Mini Camp with Leah Haraden

July 30th and 31st, 1-3:30pm

Ages 8-15 Class fee: \$30

Your child will learn about the artistic side of photography using good composition techniques, available light through hands-on practice with a variety of challenging subjects and in-class assignments. Students must provide their own camera, be it digital, film or even a smartphone. The student's work will be proudly presented at a gallery exhibition in September. For an additional \$10, each student can have at least one professionally-printed image to keep.

continued next page

Morning Jo

By Jo Werther

“Don’t believe everything you think.”

Most of us have a kind of running commentary in the back of our minds. It narrates what’s happening in any given moment as well as how we think and feel about it. And it tells us endless stories about ourselves, other people, and the world around us.

Are you a glass half-full kind of person? Or a glass half-empty one?

Do you believe you can’t really help what you think or feel? To some extent, it’s true. But it’s also true that, if you raise your awareness of your typical “spin” on things and then try a different “spin,” you might be surprised at the ways your thoughts and feelings change.

The “Maybe, Maybe Not...” story.

A farmer awakens one morning to find that his horse has run away in the night. He wonders how he will manage the enormous amount of work to be done. “What a terrible thing to have happened!” His friends cry. The farmer replies, “Maybe, maybe not...” The following day, his horse returns with a herd of horses. “What a fortunate turn of events!” His friends declare. And the farmer replies, “Maybe, maybe not...”

A week later, the farmer’s son tries to ride one of the horses, falls off, and breaks his leg. Friends arrive with food and offers of help. “What an unfortunate accident!” they lament. The farmer replies, “Maybe, maybe not...” Two weeks later, a war breaks out. The young men of the village are sent to the front line. The farmer’s son is still unable to walk and thus cannot go. Their friends express gratitude. “What a life-saving twist of fate,” they sigh. And the farmer replies, “Maybe, maybe not...”

When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.

It’s not that any one way of seeing things is more correct or more “healthy” per se; it’s about becoming more aware of the way our own “habits of mind” affect the way we tend to think and feel.

The ability to change our perspective is a secret superpower. Give “Maybe, Maybe Not” a try and see what happens!

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

MAC

continued from previous page

SUMMER CAMPS:

In partnership with the Bowdoinham Rec Department and supported by the MAC, our experienced educators and artists are holding three sessions at the Bowdoinham Community School for different age groups. For more info, you can either visit artandnaturecamp.my.canva.site, or use your smartphone to scan the QR code:



Art and Nature Camp with Katie Hudak & Julia McLeod

July 20-24 OR August 3-7 from 9am-3pm

Ages: rising 1st-5th graders

Class fee: \$250 for the week (Scholarships available)

Art Camp with Katie Hudak, Catherine Scanlon and Leah Haraden

August 10-14 from 9am-3pm

Ages: rising 5th-9th graders

Class fee: \$250 for the week (Scholarships available)

VANDALISM

Over the past year, the Town has seen an increase in vandalism in public spaces - including the Maily Park restrooms, the recreation fields, and rented portable toilets. With the community’s help, those responsible were identified and held accountable.

Vandalism costs taxpayers money and can disrupt access when facilities must close for cleanup and repairs.

You can help keep our public spaces safe, clean, and welcoming. If you see damage or suspicious activity, please report it to the Town Office as soon as possible at 207-666-5531.

Time to settle the most important summer debate. Which one is correct?



Bowdoinham Second Baptist Church

The Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham, celebrating 206 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 held a baptism for three new members on Sunday, May 17th. Tracy Fuller, Jenny Colson, and Karen Snow dedicated their lives to Christ through an immersion baptism. Baptism symbolizes death to sin and resurrection to the new life in Christ and the receipt of the Holy Spirit. A celebratory luncheon was held following the service.

Our pastor, Ken Smith, is preaching a series of sermons on Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount.

The church will be holding outdoor services on the church grounds on July 19 and August 16 followed by a free church barbeque. All are welcome.

The church continues to be blessed with the musical talents of Ashby Hayward who plays the piano on Sundays. We cordially invite you to attend a service and hear the good news. Our sermons are live streamed

on Facebook on Sundays between 10:00 and 10:30 www.facebook.com/bowdoinhamsecondbaptist and are also posted to YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCs5iwnUANMu4HthRYzkJVCw.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Scheduled Events:

Worship Service at 9:30 AM on Sunday

Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month

Potluck luncheon on the third Sunday of the month after the service

Men's Breakfast at 7:00 AM on Saturdays

Bible Study Tuesday at 9:30 AM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday at 6:30 PM

July 19th: Outdoor Service and free BBQ Sunday

August 16th: Outdoor Service and free BBQ Sunday

AA Meetings are held each Monday and Thursday evenings at 7 PM



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

Update on the progress of the Town-wide revaluation

Rob Duplisea, CMA

Zeb Pike, CMA

RJD Appraisal

The Town's Assessing Agents, RJD Appraisal, have been working on the revaluation for the past several months. We are in the final stages of the project. Currently we are performing the final assessment reviews. This consists of a roadside review of each property for their final assessments.

The final step will be one on one meetings with taxpayers. These meetings will be the last week of August/ first week of September and will be held at the Town Office. Notices will be mailed out to each property owner. These notices will have the new assessment, including a new tax estimate, and information on exact meeting times and location.

We keep a regular schedule at the Town Office so please don't hesitate call with any questions.

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Nazarene News

Pastor Christina has been on a sabbatical and will be returning at the beginning of August. In the meantime, people from our very own church have been filling in on Sundays. Come by and say hi, and join us for our cookouts after church on July 12 and August 9.

Teen Bible Quizzing will be starting again in September. This is a great activity to help kids have fun getting into the Bible. It's like being on a quiz show, but you can know the answers in advance! This year we will be working our way through the book of John at about a chapter a week. This is for kids in 6th-12th grade. Call or text the church at 207-751-6888 for more information.

Spring and summer clothes are out at the Clothes Closet. The Clothes Closet is open on Wednesdays from 2:30-5pm and by appointment. The clothes are free and anyone is welcome. Donations of clean clothes in good condition

can also be dropped off during open hours and by appointment. Call or text the church at 207-751-6888 to make arrangements or for more information. Thank you for all your great donations! So many grateful people go home with quality clothes for themselves and their families.

Interested in learning more about the Bible but don't know where to start? That is not uncommon. We offer Bible studies for beginners. Call or text the church at 207-751-6888 for more information.

Our Sunday services are at 11am. We have Sunday School for all ages at 10am. Can't get out to the service? We are livestreaming on Facebook or Youtube at Bowdoinham Church of the Nazarene.

Our church prays for our community regularly, but if you desire prayer specifically, please feel free to call or text the church at 207-751-6888. Let us be a blessing to you.

Cathance Meadow Trail

We're pleased to share that the Town has been awarded a **Maine Trails Grant** in the amount of **\$62,820.97** to support important improvements at the Cathance Meadows Trail system. The main focus of the project is expanding and improving the main trail using Universal Design Standards, ensuring that it is inclusive and usable by individuals of all abilities.

As part of this work, the main trail will be improved leading up to a new, fully accessible viewing platform — creating a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy the Meadows' scenery and wildlife. The project also includes replacing a culvert along this section, an important upgrade that will improve drainage and long-term trail durability. Further it will

include installing metal gates at the two main access points, unauthorized motorized vehicle access will be restricted, protecting sensitive areas, reducing erosion, habitat disruption, and littering — all of which have been ongoing concerns.

In addition, we're excited to expand the trail system this summer with the creation of a new loop trail. This addition will provide more opportunities to explore the Meadows while helping to spread out trail use and enhance the overall experience.

We look forward to sharing more as work gets underway — Cathance Meadows continues to grow as a special place for the community to connect with nature.

Bowdoinham Gas & Diesel: An Exciting New Chapter

Submitted by Ann Tourtelotte

Bowdoinham Gas & Diesel has been part of our downtown landscape for decades. When George and Irene Gliba decided to retire in 2017 after 17 years of operating the gas station and repair garage, Doug and I purchased the property, along with the open lot across the street, formerly known as G & G Gas.

Because we were still working full time, we transitioned the business into a self serve gas station. Over the years, the aging system presented a number of challenges, including the retirement of the diesel tank, which left only gasoline available to the public.

Now, we are taking a huge leap forward and are relocating the entire operation across the street to the open lot, where all new above ground tanks and dispensers will be installed. Construction and visible changes began at the beginning of June and is expected throughout the summer. Community members are invited to stop by and watch the progress as the project develops.

The new site is designed to address past issues and restore diesel service for everyone especially local farmers. The project is expected to be completed by fall, with the hope that the "old" station will remain operational until the "new" one is ready, resulting in little to no downtime.

Why Doesn't Bowdoinham Accept Glass For Recycling?

By Solid Waste Committee

In the past Bowdoinham accepted glass for recycling. At the behest of the Select Board, the Solid Waste Committee researched the issue to evaluate possibly accepting glass for recycling again. You can find the 8 page report under the Solid Waste Department tab on Bowdoinham's web site. You can also watch the report presentation to the Select Board via the Town Hall Stream for the 5/12/2026 Select Board Meeting.

The report evaluates three critical factors for recycling glass; economics, environment and safety. Bowdoinham has strongly supported, through tax funding, recycling with a positive environmental impact, i.e., reusing recycled material.

Currently glass is considered trash and is collected curbside. It is paid for by the user through the use of trash tags. Recycling glass would only save money if you have enough glass to eliminate using a trash tag. This is not the case for the vast majority of citizens. Our trash vendor, Maine Waste To Energy, takes trash and converts it to energy by burning. Items that don't burn are buried in a landfill.

Our recycling vendor (Casella), as

well as other Maine recycling vendors, sort glass out of the single stream and use it on their own property, e.g., to cap their own landfill. Glass cannot be sorted cleanly enough for any other purpose. Any extra glass goes in the landfill. Recycling glass would only be environmentally positive if the glass was reused, not buried.

Glass is heavy, weighing about 10X the weight of standard recycling material. Based on weight, a rough estimate shows recycling glass could cost over \$25,000 a year. Even if that estimate is high by 25% the number is still almost \$20,000 (you can find the data in the report). In the end we would pay the recycler, out of taxpayer funds, to use the material only for their own, non-environmentally responsible, purposes.

In the past Bowdoinham's recycled glass was sent to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Unfortunately the MRF we used closed and currently there is no other MRF in a reasonable distance given the weight and the transportation costs. Also the market for recycled glass is tight as the value of used glass is minimal. Raw material used in glass manufacturing (like silica)

is plentiful and inexpensive, making it more cost effective for manufactures to use the raw material instead of the complex recovery process needed to reuse recycled glass.

Some Maine towns accept glass only to bury it, at no advantage to the environment and at the cost of handling and burying it. Bowdoinham's public works land is mostly wetlands, and glass cannot be buried on wetlands. This option would cost taxpayer funds and serve no environmental purpose, even if we could find an acceptable burial site.

Another option explored was the possible use of crushed glass, e.g., as fill. There are several issues with this, but the main one is safety. Crushed glass is characterized by a lack of cohesion, the smooth surfaces slip. Any place with crushed glass fill is not stable.

The larger issue with the lack of cohesion is glass will migrate to the surface. It will get caught in roots of grass so any livestock grabbing a mouthful could be ingesting glass. Or it can cut children or adults working/playing in the area. Some Maine towns have had to remove buried glass, at taxpayer cost, to mitigate these hazards.

In conclusion accepting glass as recyclable material in Bowdoinham would increase taxes, not save money by significantly lessening volume of trash, and could cause a severe safety and liability problems if used for alternate purposes. At this point facts do not support Bowdoinham accepting glass for 'recycling'.

At the end of the report there are seven different articles showing that many other small towns in America are experiencing the same difficulties - we are not alone. Please read the entire report, with footnotes citing fact sources, for more information.



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Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day August 28, 2026

For Topsham & Bowdoinham Residents

Come drop off your household hazardous waste items for safe, responsible disposal.

For Topsham and Bowdoinham residents only, no commercial haulers or waste.

No preregistration required. Call the Topsham Solid Waste Facility at 725-2757 with any questions.

Acceptable Materials

House

- Bug Sprays
- Drain & Toilet Cleaners
- Floor Cleaners
- Furniture & Metal Polishes
- Mercury Thermometers
- Oven Cleaners
- Rug & Upholstery Cleaners
- Smoke Detectors
- Spot Removers

Garage

- Antifreeze
- Brake & Transmission Fluids
- Car Wax & Polishes
- Driveway Sealer
- Engine Degreaser
- Fiberglass Epoxy & Resin
- Fuels (Gas, Diesel, or K)
- Roofing Tar

Workshop

- Adhesives
- Paint, Oil & Latex Based
- Paint Thinners & Strippers
- Solvents
- Stains & Varnishes
- Wood Preservatives

Garden

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Pesticides

Miscellaneous

- Flea Collars & Sprays
- Formalin & Formaldehyde
- Gun Cleaning Solvents
- Hot Tub & Pool Chemicals
- Lighter Fluid
- Moth Balls
- Photo Chemicals
- Rubber Cement
- 1-lb. Propane Cylinders

Where

Topsham Public Works
10 Maintenance Way, Topsham

When

Friday, August 28, 2026
3:00 – 6:00 PM

Cost

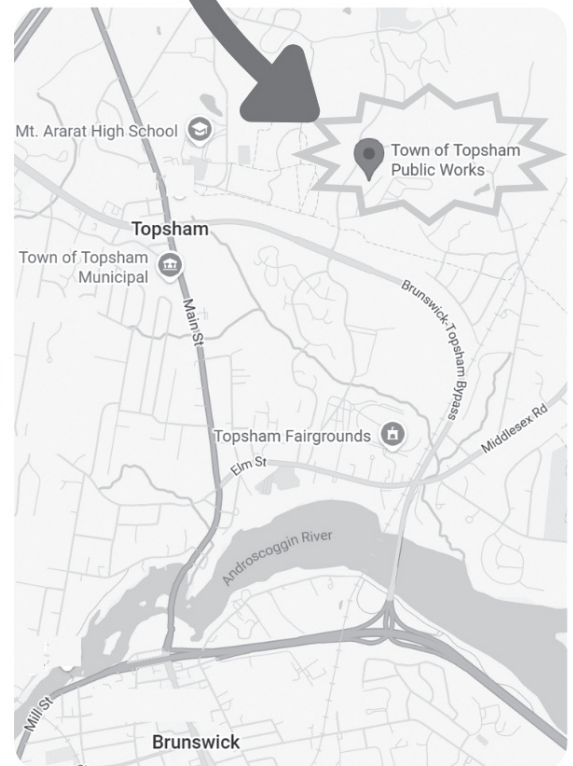
\$40 per unit
1 unit = 5 gallons or
1 unit = 20 lbs of powder

To Safely Transport Items:

- Never mix chemicals together
- Leave items in original containers
- Tighten all caps and secure all lids
- Pack similar items together in boxes
- Identify unlabeled substances

Unacceptable Materials

- Ammunition/Explosives
- Asbestos
- Batteries (Car or Alkaline)
- Batteries (Li & NiCad)
- Biological & Infectious Waste
- Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Electronics
- Empty Containers
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Industrial Waste
- Needles or Syringes
- Prescription Drugs & Meds
- Tires
- Trash
- Waste Motor & Vegetable Oil



Lasting tribute to one of Bowdoinham's earliest and best citizens

By Frank Connors, Cemetery Sexton

On a bluff above the Kennebec River, on the southeast side of the old Hill Farm, you will find one of Bowdoinham's most interesting gravestones. The massive, impressive, tall slate stone is a lasting tribute to Elihu Getchell, one of the town's earliest settlers and leading citizens.

In his book, *History of Bowdoinham*, Silas Adams writes that Getchell was born in 1742, "probably in this town," and almost certainly on or near the place where he is buried. "Town records place him at the head of interests of the town," Adams says, "he was a man of property and was prominent in business life, as well as town matters." He was a town Selectman for at least 16 years, spanning the decades from 1768-1805. He was elected to lead the local Committee of Correspondence in 1775 when the colonies were separating from England, and when ammunition was purchased to defend Bowdoinham in the Revolution, it was stored at his farm.

Getchell built at least three sea-going schooners in a shipyard on his property, had a grist and sawmill at the head of tide on the Abagadasset River, and bought the first set of weights and measures for the town. He was a pew holder in the Hall's Corner Methodist Church (corner of Carding Machine Road and River Road, today).

In 1797, he worked with other Selectmen to establish the three-rod road from Bowdoin to Cathance Landing (what is today Main Street) and had it built at no cost to his town. Adams called him, "one



Bowdoinham Select board member Joanne Joy was "very impressed" to be introduced to the Elihu Getchell gravestone during a flag placement just before Memorial Day.

of Bowdoinham's most wealthy and active early citizens," and added, "for more than 40 years he held continually the most responsible offices in the gift of the town."

Getchell died September 6, 1806, at the age of 64. There is a line at the bottom of his stone that says he died of Kidney disease.

Find the grave: Drive River Road (Maine Route 24) north toward Richmond. A mile past the intersection with Pork Point Road, see the mailbox at 1085 River Road. Proceed another 50 yards, notice the field on your right. Park off the road as best as you can. Walk through the field to the top of the ridge. (You will see a grove of Black Locust trees). The stone is near the center of the Getchell-Hatch-Hill Cemetery, you will notice the area needs restoration.

Tax Year 2026 Property Tax Liens



- 30-Day Tax Lien Notices will be mailed out July 21, 2026
- Tax Liens will be applied August 28, 2026

If you have not paid your property tax, please do so as soon as possible. **Once 30-Day Notices are mailed, the Town can only accept Guaranteed Funds (i.e., cash, pre-paid bank check, money order).** All payments are applied to the oldest outstanding balance first.

The Town offers several payment options. You may pay with cash, check or debit/credit card. You can come to the Town Office, mail your check, or pay online at www.bowdoinham.com/tax-payment.

If you are unsure of the total amount owed, including interest, please contact our office at (207) 666-5531. We will be happy to assist you. (NOTE: Additional charges will be assessed for credit card and online payments.)

Town of Bowdoinham Notice

NOMINATION PAPERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Nomination papers will be available at the Town Office on Friday, July 24, 2026, for the following positions:

2 (Two) Select Board Member, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a 3 (Three) year term

Papers are to be picked up at the Town Office and are to be returned by:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026, BY 4:00 PM

Tina L. Mago, Town Clerk



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À LA CARTE:

Thoughts on Food and Cooking

By George Oliver

“Hot and Cold Food Flashes”

It is summer and the last thing we want is to be inside cooking hot meals. On the other hand, we do not want to eat cold food every day. Grilling can take care of some of the heat, but grilling is not aggravation proof compared to a kitchen range.

One solution is to have basic food available that can switch from hot to cold meals easily and quickly. Call them foods with split personality. Yes, pizza can be eaten cold, but that is not its calling in life; cold gazpacho soup warmed up becomes a defeated salad. We are looking for innate temperature flexibility.

Finished dishes are not generally hot/cold flexible. The idea is to have ingredients on hand that could easily switch as a base for either a cold dish like a salad, or a hot main dish. I have talked many times about the advantage of always having cooked rice and pasta in the fridge. To that flexible duo, we can add potatoes and beans.

Hot Rice and Pasta: Either can be quickly reheated, stir-fry style, in a large pan with oil/butter, a quick cooking summer vegetable or two (like summer squash or corn), and a protein like raw shrimp, chicken tenders or thinly sliced red meat. Add an herb or two and a splash of stock, and you have a hot lunch or dinner in less than 15 minutes.

Cold Rice and Pasta: On the other hand, cooked rice or (short) pasta



can, of course, make a quick salad as well. Toss a portion of cold ziti, say, with cold rotisserie chicken pieces, grape tomatoes, cucumber or cooked green beans, feta cheese, and a dressing of your choice. Lunch is done in 10 minutes. For a nuttier flavor, use

brown rice or whole wheat pasta. You can also try quinoa or other grains for variety.

Do not overlook inexpensive potatoes as a dual player. Like pasta and rice, cold potatoes in the fridge gives you many possibilities for easy hot and cold dishes. Baby potatoes are quicker to cook ahead than regular ones; zap a pile of them in the microwave for 3 or 4 minutes and then refrigerate them for later.

Hot Potatoes: Cubed cooked potatoes (or halved minis) are easy to reheat and brown in a fry pan as a side dish for a pork chop or piece of local sautéed fish. In the morning, your cold pieces tossed in a pan would be ready when your eggs are done. Put those “fries” on a bed of spinach wilted for a minute in a pan or microwave oven, and boom, you have breakfast as quick as a drive thru.

Cold Potatoes: Potato salad is always a standby, but you can put cold cooked potatoes in a regular green salad, too, or add diced cooked sweet potatoes to a chicken salad. Mash cold potatoes and add canned salmon for fish cakes, which can be eaten hot or cold.

There are many kinds of potatoes grown in Maine (check farmers markets in late summer for them), so do not be afraid to experiment with colors, shapes, and sizes.

The fourth partner in the hot-cold tag team is beans. In fact, I always have plain canned beans in the pantry for a quick meal—kidney, black, cannellini, lentils, chickpeas, etc. Canned beans are very friendly. It is cheaper, of course, to cook a pound of dried beans than to open cans. A pound of dried beans yields the equivalent of 4 to 5 cans of commercial beans. Canned beans give you quickness; dried gives you value.

Hot Beans: ...especially canned, might need some addition fussing over to give them more flavor, depending on what you are using them for. For example, a quick sauté of chopped onion, peppers, and celery before you add the beans ramps up their flavor profile. From there you can add cooked rice or pasta for a skillet dish. Beans and pasta is classic Italian; so is cannellini beans and shrimp.

Cold Beans: ...in salads of all kinds, and bean dips; lima beans and tomatoes either hot or saladified.

If you keep some combination of cooked rice, cooked pasta, cooked potatoes, and cooked beans in your refrigerator, you can jump from cold meals to hot meals easily.

And for dessert? The perfect hot-cold combo: Baked Alaska!

George Oliver lives in Bowdoinham. He can be reached at golivergo5@gmail.com.

Emerald Ash Borer

By Mike Rolands

As anticipated, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has arrived in Bowdoinham. Less than a decade after first being identified in Maine and a year or two after it appeared in neighboring towns, its presence here has been confirmed by the Maine Forest Service (MFS). While not surprising, this is clearly a wake-up call and a moment to consider our options both as individual property owners and as a town.

After receiving a report of characteristic symptoms on a tree along the roadside on Millay Road, an MFS technician investigated in April and determined that the damage observed was indeed caused by EAB. So far, according to State Forest Entomologist Mike Parisio, this is the only confirmed occurrence in Bowdoinham, but it is certainly an indication of more to come. As a result, Bowdoinham is now included among the towns currently under quarantine and regulation in order to prevent or at least delay the spread of the beetle. Parisio states that landowners within a ten-mile radius should now be alert to the threat to their ash trees and that experts are available to help.



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is described by MFS as “one of the most serious invasive species threatening our forests,” able to injure or kill all varieties of ash soon after its arrival, adding that trees injured by EAB quickly “become brittle and threaten the safety of property and persons around them.” Because of this imminent threat, MFS recommends that property owners, municipalities, and others learn more about their trees and determine whether EAB is a concern. More information can be found on the State’s EAB webpage at maine.gov/eab (or maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/eab/index.shtml#quarantines), which includes links to many other great resources.



Beyond monitoring the progress of the beetles, there are a few limited measures that can be taken to mitigate the damage they cause. First is not to transport infected trees in any form beyond the immediate area, though they may be dismantled and burned for firewood (only on-site, never moved). Cutting down infested trees in the early stages of attack (about 30% or less of tree canopy destroyed) will reduce the number of beetles produced that will subsequently search out healthy trees for attack. Trees that are cut down should not be moved; but burned, chipped, or mulched within a year of felling.

Optimistically, a non-native species of wasp known to be a parasite of EAB has — very selectively and apparently with some success — been released in infected areas, including some in

Maine. However, this approach is restricted by state budgets, labor, and wasp availability. In addition, release of this wasp biological control agent is suited more for large geographic regions such as towns or counties rather than individual homeowner properties.

For trees that are of particular value or importance, or that present a significant expense or safety risk when dead, treatment by several insecticides injected into the roots can be effective, but ranges with the particular insecticide. But again, it’s expensive and must be repeated every one to three years (depending upon insecticide used) until the threat is gone, so is appropriate only for trees of aesthetic or sentimental value. Further information on insecticide applications can be obtained from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine Forest Service, or the Maine Board of Pesticide Control.

As a largely rural community that values the beauty of its natural environment, a threat to any significant proportion of our trees must be taken seriously. Beyond aesthetics, however, the destruction of our ash trees presents a potential danger to public safety and the likelihood of a considerable expense if and when the removal of infected or dead trees becomes necessary.

A number of concerned Bowdoinham residents are getting together to raise awareness, provide information and possibly take action to help identify and preserve some of our ash trees on both public and private property. Anyone interested in learning more or getting involved can contact them at bhameab1@gmail.com.



JOIN US FOR THE 2ND BIENNIAL

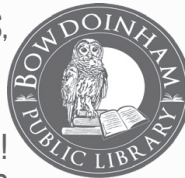
NOT YOUR MOTHER'S GARDEN TOUR

THIS YEAR'S TOUR WILL INCLUDE FIVE PRIVATE GARDENS,
A COMMUNITY GARDEN, A WORKING ORGANIC FARM
AND TWO OPTIONAL ADD ONS:

A PIZZA OVEN LUNCH AND A PICK-YOUR-OWN BOUQUET!
TICKETS & INFO 666-8405 OR BOWDOINHAMLIBRARY.ORG

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 10AM-2PM

ALL TO BENEFIT THE BOWDOINHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



All-Way Stop Demonstration Planned This Summer

The Town will be implementing a temporary *all-way stop* at the intersection of Main Street (Route 125) and River Road (Route 24), near Three Robbers, as a demonstration project this summer.

This change is designed to improve safety at a busy intersection where visibility can be limited — especially during the spring and summer months when traffic to the waterfront and community events increases. The temporary setup will stop traffic in all directions and help the Town evaluate whether an all-way stop could be a good long-term solution.

The demonstration will run through the summer, and community feedback will play a key role in determining next steps. A survey will be released this fall, and we encourage residents, visitors, and businesses to share their experience.

Stay tuned for more information, and thank you for helping us make Bowdoinham's roads safer for everyone!

TAX CLUB PLAN – PROPERTY TAXES APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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.

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, 2026, and must abide by the requirements of the plan. Applications are available NOW.

You may pay in the office, by mail, or schedule payments online through the Town's online payment system which can be found on our website under Online Services.

For more information on the 2026/27 Tax Club Plan, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531, or email our Assistant Clerk at assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com.

Cemetery News

Greetings from the Bowdoinham Cemetery Advisory Committee (BCAC)!

We have been busy preparing for the Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) Workshop for Cemetery Preservation, June 12-15 at the Ridge Road Cemetery Gr35. A report of this event will be in the September- October News. One of the stones recommended for restoration during the Workshop is that of Dr. John Bates, a Civil War Veteran featured in Frank Connors "Stones Telling Stories" in the May - June Bowdoinham News.

After the MOCA Workshop, BCAC will be focusing on the Village Burying Ground Gr36 (across from Community School) for the rest of the year. Linda Temple and Joanne Joy continue Public Works verifying, assessing and upgrading the maps, section by section. Tobey Frizzle with the Public Works crew and Albert Stehle continue restoring and resetting stones starting from the East (Ridge Road) end of the cemetery. You will notice the improved appearance of that first section.

Public Works continue working on the South bank of the cemetery, toward Sampson Brook, which has succumbed to erosion over the years, carrying away some stones. This is a major project in terms of cost, the area is not visible from Cemetery Road as it is at the far side of the cemetery and down the bank. Public Works is also doing major restoration on the granite wall at the Maxwell Cemetery Gr17 on River Road. This cemetery has a large Trust Fund, the interest from which is used to maintain that cemetery and any others in Bowdoinham with the remainder, which is substantial, hopefully will cover much of the V.B.G. South bank's work.

Adam Smaha, the Keeper for the Coombs Cemetery Gr46, will also

become the Keeper for the Harward Cemetery Gr27 on Pork Point Road. We welcome his enthusiasm. We now need Keepers for the following cemeteries: Maxwell Cemetery Gr17 River Road, Hill cemetery Gr19 River Road, Whitmore Plot Gr77 River Road, Williams Plot Gr57 Abagadassett Road. Whitmore Plot Gr77 and Williams Plot Gr57 must be found first. They are known and recognized by the Town; but in recent years, we (BCAC) have mislaid them. Elaine spoke with a young woman who had recently moved to East Bowdoinham and thought she had seen the Williams Plot which had been described as "behind Harry Prout's carrot shed." If that young woman reads this would she please contact BCAC or the Town Office. We would all be grateful.

At the end of the summer BCAC plans to submit a request to the Select Board to change the names of some cemeteries back to their original names to match their signs. They are Hill Cemetery to Hill-Getchell-Hatch Cemetery Gr19, Curtis Cemetery to Curtis-Jennings-Hatch Cemetery Gr56, Coombs Cemetery to Coombs-Buker Cemetery Gr46, and Brown's point Cemetery to Browne-Heath Cemetery Gr24. Are there anymore?

Elaine Diaz is retiring from BCAC after 10 years, as of July 1; and this will be her last Cemetery News. Nina Mendall and Joanne Joy will very ably carry on with this; and of course, Frank's Stories will continue.

For any concerns, questions, suggestions, or issues to report, please contact one of the following: Nina Mendall BCAC Chair 666-8838, Linda Temple Volunteer Coordinator 666-3343, William, and Patricia Oh 798-2316, or Frank Connors Sexton 725-4043. Thank you and have a great summer!

Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

Town Office

13 School St.
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.
Phone: 666-3228
Website: bowdoinham.com/SWR
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)
Town Office sells Trash Bags

Bowdoinham Public Library

13a School St.
Phone: 666-8405
Website: bowdoinhamlibrary.org
Hours:

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

Animal Control

666-3127

Fire and Rescue

666-3505 (non-emergencies)

Public Works

666-3503

Sagadahoc Sheriff Dept.

443-8201

Water District

(Payments Due Quarterly)
737-4721

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

July

- 3 Town Office & Departments Closed
- 7 Beginning of Concerts at Maily Park
- 11 Library Garden Tour 10 am -2 pm
- 26 Open Farm & Studio Day

August

- 7 Live Well, Eat Well and Feel Better 1:30 PM
- 15 Le Tour de Bowdoinham 9:00 AM

September

- 7 Town Office & Departments Closed
- 11 Chicken Run 5:30
- 12 Celebrate Bowdoinham
- 28 Household Hazardous Waste 3 pm - 6 pm

Town Board and Committee Meetings

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

Select Board

2nd and 4th Tuesday of month

Planning Board

4th Thursday of month at 6:00pm

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of month at 1:30pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee

1st Thursday of month at 4:00pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Wednesday of month at 6:00pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of month at 6:30pm

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

TBA

Town Hall Committee

4th Wednesday of month at 2:30pm

Emergency Medical Services

TBA

Town Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 8:30am - 4pm • Wed 11am - 6pm

Town of Bowdoinham
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