



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 2

[bowdoinham.com](http://bowdoinham.com)

March - April 2025

## Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Jen Kelley

Spring is just around the corner but before Mother Nature gives us the "all clear", we have a few indoor activities to tide you over. We've got workshops. We've got art exhibits. Or show us your own artistic side and join our Open Mic Night. Flex your creative muscles with MAC!



### Candle Dipping with Asia Roberge Saturday, March 1st (2 - 3pm)

Great family activity! When winter winds blow and spring can't come soon enough, come spend a relaxing Saturday afternoon making beeswax candles. We will be hand-dipping taper candles of your chosen shape and color design. Suitable for ages 10 and up (younger children are also welcome but may need adult assistance). Join us for this slow yet oh so rewarding traditional craft! Cost: \$25

Visit our website to sign up: [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org)

### MAC Open Mic Night!

Sundays, March 2nd + April 6th (4 - 6pm)  
*\*Recurring the first Sunday of every month*

MAC hosts an Open Mic Night. Musicians, storytellers, poets, comedians and audience members - come one, come all. It's a great time to practice new material, dust off some old classics, or simply enjoy some community. Free!

### The Obscure

#### Opening Reception:

Friday, March 28th (5:30 - 7:30pm)

#### Additional Viewing Hours:

Saturday, March 29th, (10am - 2pm)

Presented by Merrymeeting Community & Adult Education affiliated artists, this exhibition celebrates the power and beauty of obscurity. In a world saturated by constant visibility, artists explore the quietude of unseen spaces and the profound impact of unnoticed actions. Through diverse mediums,

the show invites viewers to examine the allure of obscurity, questioning the need for external validation and celebrating the power of quiet, unobserved contributions. Join us to find meaning in the subtle, the hidden, and the overlooked.

### Quest for the Quiet - Peter Herley Exhibit

#### Opening Reception:

Friday, April 4th (6 - 8pm)

#### Additional Viewing Hours:

Saturdays April 5th, 12th & 19th (10am - 2pm)

Artist Peter Herley will be showing paintings from his series The Quest for Quiet, in addition to some larger works. Peter is interested in the deep and mysterious aspects of life, and has been active in the arts for most of his life. His work has been shown around the country and internationally.

### Introduction to Digital Photography with Leah Haraden

Saturday, April 5th (1 - 4pm)

Join professional photographer Leah Haraden for an engaging and informative basic digital photography class. This course is designed for beginners, providing a supportive and comfortable learning environment for those who have always wanted to learn more about their camera's capabilities. We will cover essential photography principles, including camera settings, composition techniques, and natural lighting. Participants will learn how to use their digital cameras effectively, understanding features like aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. Through a mix of in-class demos and practical hands-on exercises, you will gain more skill and confidence in capturing stunning images. By the end of the class, you will have a foundation in photography that

will enable you to take beautiful photos, whether for personal enjoyment or to share with friends and family. Bring your camera and a willingness to explore the exciting and limitless world of photography! Cost: \$35

### Pottery Open Studio (ON-GOING)

Mondays & Wednesdays (6pm - 8pm)

with Zachary Fields

Saturdays (9 - 11am)

with Catherine Scanlon

\$10 suggested donation covers studio use, clay, kiln firing, and glazes. Open to the public, no experience necessary! Bring your ideas and we can help make them a reality. There is no traditional instruction offered during this time, only an attendant available for suggestions and answering questions

THANK YOU to our generous donors this past month. When you're a nonprofit, every little bit helps! Technically, Mercury isn't in retrograde, but it sure feels like it. We appreciate any and all donations that help us continue with our mission of ART FOR EVERYONE. Monetary donations will be added to the Heron Fund. The Heron Fund is our scholarship fund for all MAC organized studio programs and events. It is made possible by the generosity of the Muir Family and donations from MAC friends and supporters like you. Donations can be made on our website and allow us to remove financial barriers for program participation and ensure Art for Everyone. [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org)

As always, donations to the Heron Fund allow us to offer "pay-what-you-can" options! MAC is a Non-Profit and donations are tax deductible.

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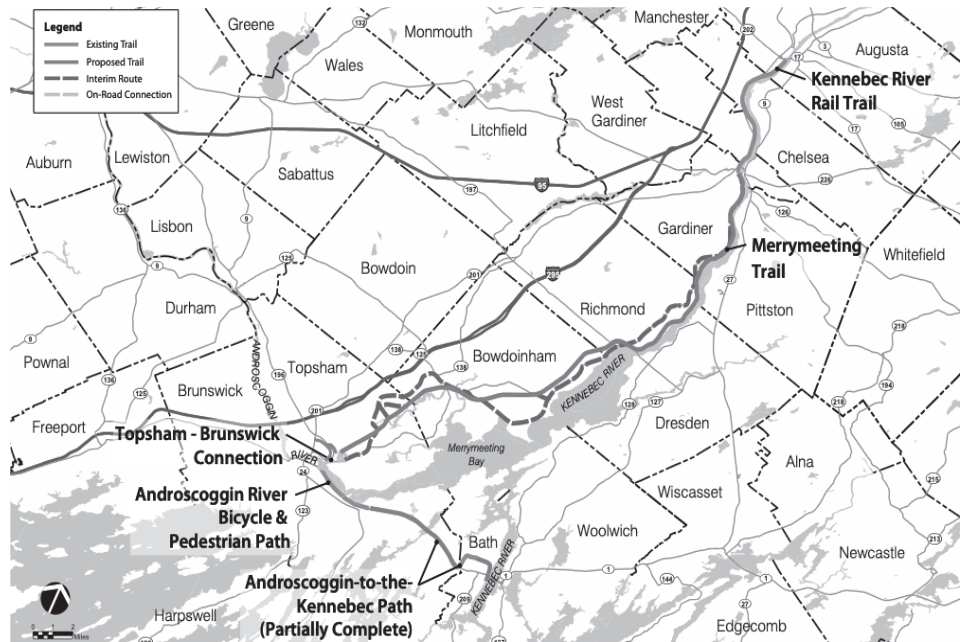
# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Merrymeeting Trail – An update

You may have heard about the Merrymeeting Trail — a 26-mile multi-use trail in midcoast Maine, connecting the villages of Topsham, Bowdoinham, Richmond, and Gardiner. It will utilize the long-unused “Lower Road” railroad corridor, owned by the State of Maine, and link the Kennebec River Rail Trail in the north to the Androscoggin River Bicycle and Pedestrian Path in the south — joining Augusta to Brunswick (and one day to Bath!) in an incredible “capital to coast” connection.

For over 15 years, towns and volunteers along the route have worked to make this vision for connected communities a reality. The Merrymeeting Trail would be an amazing asset for these communities and the surrounding region — creating a natural, multi-use connector that runs through villages, forests, fields, and along beautiful rivers. It would attract visitors, support local economic activity, and improve public health.

In August of 2023, the Rail Corridor Use Advisory Council convened by MaineDOT (charged with making a recommendation around future use of the Lower Road rail corridor) voted to recommend the creation of a trail along the corridor! Now, a new bill — *LD 29, Resolve, to Require the Department of Transportation to Implement*



*the Recommendations of the Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council* — has been introduced by the Maine Department of Transportation and referred to the Legislature’s Transportation Committee. LD 29 is sponsored by Senate President Mattie Daughtry of Brunswick and co-sponsored by Rep. Sally Cluchey of Bowdoinham and a hearing will be scheduled sometime soon.

If you’d like to show your support there is a sign on letter found at this QR code. More info and the letter here: [www.merrymeetingtrail.org](http://www.merrymeetingtrail.org), or at the town office.



### Sudoku

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down, and every 9 x 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

	2	8				1	5	
	3			6	4		8	
9	7	8						
7	8	9		1	2		6	
1	2			4	5			7
4			9			2		
3	6	5	7	8		1		
8	9	7			1	6	5	3
	1		5			9	7	8

*Find solution to Sudoku on page 10*



# Tourtelotte

## EXCAVATING

(207) 666-5941  
188 Millay Road  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
[www.tourtelotteexcavation.com](http://www.tourtelotteexcavation.com)

Excavation - Road Work - Land Management

## Bowdoinham Food Pantry

By Jennifer Stonebraker

It is with both gratitude and a touch of sadness that I share my decision to step down as Director of the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. Serving this community in this role has been a truly rewarding experience and a great honor.



To our clients — thank you for placing your trust in us. It has been a privilege to support you and to ensure that

everyone in our community has access to the nourishment they need and deserve.

To our volunteers and supporters — your generosity and dedication are the heart of the pantry. Your hard work and compassion make this vital resource possible, and I am deeply grateful for all that you do.

While I am moving on, I have full confidence that the pantry's mission will continue to thrive under the leadership of this remarkable community. The commitment

to serving with dignity and care remains as strong as ever.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this journey. Bowdoinham is a special place, and I know its spirit of kindness will only continue to grow.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Jennifer Stonebraker,  
Outgoing Director



*"Over the years, we have built an incredible organization that plays an essential role in our community. I am confident that, together, we will navigate this transition with resilience and ensure that it does not negatively impact our services, operations, or reputation."*

-Sally Cluchey, Board Chair



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Morning Jo

By Jo Werther

Did the winter blues get you down this year?

If so, you are not alone. Shorter days, longer nights, and this winter's bitter cold were especially hard on many of us. In our communities near and far, changes are afoot. Feelings of uncertainty surely added to the chill. We're living in some challenging times.

**Grief: it's not just about death.**

Most people tend to think of death when the word "grief" is used. But the truth is that the loss of anything meaningful to us can cause feelings of grief. And if our overall emotional well-being has been challenged by difficult to bear emotions like worry, fear, sadness, or anger, we grieve the losses that are giving rise to them.

**Connection is always the best medicine.**

Grief is exhausting. It can be lonely. We tend to withdraw from other people just when connection is what we're needing most. So whether you're struggling yourself or wanting to support someone else who is, go ahead and reach out. Let family and friends know how you're doing. Ask how they're doing. You'll be amazed at what a huge difference even a small gesture will make to the other person. And to you too.

**The Peace of Wild Things.**

Treat yourself to this poem by Wendell Berry. Breathe it in. Luxuriate in a long exhale. And remember that Spring is right around the corner.

Comments? Something you'd like me to address next time? Email me at [jowertherlcsw@gmail.com](mailto:jowertherlcsw@gmail.com).



*"When despair for the world grows in me,  
and I wake in the night at the least sound,  
In fear of what my life  
and my children's lives may be;  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water,  
And the great Heron feeds...  
I come in to the peace of wild things,  
Who do not tax their lives  
with forethought of grief.  
I come into the presence of still water,  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars,  
waiting with their light...  
For a time, I rest in the grace of the world,  
and am free."*

## Cathance Fitness Center

We are excited to continue offering memberships & self payment information through our website: [CathanceFitness.com](http://CathanceFitness.com)

~ Access to the gym fitness center requires having an active membership.

Please note we are no longer allowing members to bring guests-everyone must sign up for a membership to use the facility. One-month memberships are available!

~ FHC, Inc., Cathance Children's Center & the Cathance Fitness Center is located at 1201 Main St. Bowdoin, Maine. This route 125 address is the old Bowdoin elementary school. ~Thank you for noticing the speed limit through the drive-way is 10mph while passing the daycare & entering the parking lot.

Thank you!

**Community Health Message:**

~ Did you set up a January resolution but have strayed away? It's ok, maybe that resolution didn't quite align with what is most important to you. What IS important to you right now? Fine tune that thought by breaking it down into daily or weekly small steps.

~ Snack Smarter to boost your energy & curb cravings: Balance your blood sugar, prevent mood swings & overeating at dinner by including fiber, healthy fats & proteins with each meal or snack.

~ These choices will help displace some of those refined carbs which are absorbed quickly & trigger large amounts of insulin. In turn, this insulin response will drop your blood sugar leaving you sluggish, unfocused and foggy.

~ Skipping meals means not enough blood sugar to the brain also causing us to feel foggy!

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SENIOR DISCOUNTS    VOLUME DISCOUNTS

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Bowdoinham  
**666-5713**  
or  
**721-9911**  
[www.lamothelaw.com](http://www.lamothelaw.com)

## Household Projects? Bowdoinham Businesses Can Help!

By Wendy Rose

Spring is in the air. Are you looking around your house and yard and thinking of all the projects you want to get done in the next several months? Fortunately, Bowdoinham has a great resource that can guide you to the help you need. The town website, [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com), has listings of local businesses in a variety of categories. Go to the tab at the top of the page, "local businesses" and look at the drop-down menu for "search local businesses." There you will find a lot of categories for your search.

My favorite category for this spring is, "Construction, repair, and improvements." Local contractors have done a great job of describing their services and providing their contact information. Need to excavate a new building site? Tourtelotte Excavation can help. Need a builder? Emerald Builders, Jonathan Ouellette Carpentry, Ahlers Building and Design, and Brent Zachau Builder are just four of many excellent options. Are your wood floors suffering from a winter of hard use? Colonial Hardwoods is one possible solution. Ready to add a greenhouse? Peak Greenhouse Builders is based right here in town.

Over the last 12 years, I have been privileged to profile many of these businesses in our Town Newsletter. I

love hearing about the experience our entrepreneurs bring and learning about the services they provide. I, personally, have benefitted from Andrew Fiori's wonderful landscape designs and native plants, Allen Gaddy's Tidewater Tree Service, and Peggy Christian's plumbing service. (Please forgive me for not mentioning everyone!) Our local businesses are top quality and close at hand.

Unfortunately, many of our businesses have not listed themselves on the town website. It is so easy to do! Just go to the same tab, "local businesses," look at the drop-down menu and then "add your business listing." How many times have we seen someone ask about a recommendation for a service on the Facebook page, "Bowdoinham Friends and Family"? For many requests, I can just refer them to the town website, but not for all of them. If all our local businesses were there, I could be confident that seekers could go to the website and buy local first. Of course, I also know that the personal recommendations that come through Facebook are helpful, and I love that my neighbors often suggest a business that has been profiled in the Town Newsletter.

So, bring on Spring....and Summer.... and a new roof or a new garden or.... whatever! Let's keep our neighborhood businesses busy.

## Center Point All Person Trail Project



Thanks to a multi-year collaboration of many partners, KELT acquired the 22-acre Center Point Preserve property in February 2023, later adding an additional 11 acres to the Preserve in December of that year. They have received over \$600,000 of grant awarded funding to improve wetland habitats and build a trail system that can meet the USDA Forest Service accessibility standards, thus improving access for people with a wider range of mobility capacities.

**The improvement work will be conducted in three phases:**

*Phase I: Wetland Habitat Restoration*

*Phase II: All Persons Trail Project*

*Phase III: Improving Roadway*

This work will be done over several years. Construction will likely begin in 2026.

For more information about this project visit their website at: [www.kennebecestuary.org/center-point-all-persons-trail-project](http://www.kennebecestuary.org/center-point-all-persons-trail-project)

## Culverts

As we get into spring cleaning please keep your culverts in mind! Clogged culverts can result in flooding or even a road collapse! Please do not shovel snow or deposit yard trimmings and other debris that would disrupt the flow of water or otherwise obstruct the way.

When culverts are clogged water gets redirected, eroding the surrounding structures, like roads or driveways, eventually causing a collapse.

Ensuring culverts are clear of snow and debris will prevent flooding and enable Public Works to direct resources to the clearing of roadways and other priority maintenance activities during weather related operations.

If a drain is still clogged after clearing surface debris or If you have questions or concerns about a culvert near your property, please contact Public Works at (207) 666-3503 or [pworks@bowdoinham.com](mailto:pworks@bowdoinham.com).



*A road washout in Ellsworth, ME caused by a clogged culvert left residents stranded for several hours. (Photo by Steve Fuller, 2015, The Ellsworth American)*

## Merrymeeting Dance Alinement

The Merrymeeting Dance Alinement's winter line dancing schedule will continue on the first and third Tuesdays of March and April. They meet at Merrymeeting Hall, 21 Main Street from 5:30-7:30PM. Everyone is welcome at all levels of dance, or just sit and watch, and enjoy the music and motion. A small donation to the Hall is welcome. Free snacks and hot drinks.

If you're interested in learning to line dance, George will be teaching a beginner class starting the first week in March for Merrymeeting Adult Education in Brunswick. See their catalogue online for more information.

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Second Baptist Church News

The Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham, celebrating 205 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 would like to thank Pastor David Clark and his wife Wandah for their interim service from September 2023 to December 2024. We feel fortunate for the strong fellowship they both fostered in the church in addition to the solid biblical teaching.

The Church is pleased to welcome our new pastor, Ken Smith and his wife Elizabeth, who joined us starting on February 2, 2025. Pastor Ken has expressed enthusiasm for serving our church as well as getting to know the Bowdoinham community. We encourage you to visit a Sunday service to hear him preach.

### Biography of Reverend Kenneth Smith

Ken was born in Massachusetts and grew up in a suburb North of Boston. His family has roots on the coast of Maine and in the Canadian Maritime provinces. Ken accepted Christ as his Savior when he was a young child and sensed a call to the ministry around the age of sixteen. He played football and Lacrosse in high school and later attended Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry Degrees. He was ordained at Stoneham First Baptist Church in 1990 and has served American Baptist churches in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine. Early in his ministry, Ken served a two-church yoked parish in the Boston area. Ken met his wife Elisabeth in 1989, and they were married in 1992. Ken trained as a hospital chaplain first at Beverly Hospital in 1987 and completed a chaplain residency in 2014 at Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut. While serving as a pastor he also has served as a chaplain for several hospitals. In his free time, he enjoys activities including Bible study, reading, good conversation, bicycling, archery, and spending time with his wife and family.

The church continues to be blessed with the musical talents of Ryan Sweet who plays the piano on Sundays.



Our sermons are live-streamed on Facebook on Sundays between 10:00 and 10:30: [www.facebook.com/bowdoinhamsecondbaptist](http://www.facebook.com/bowdoinhamsecondbaptist) and are also posted to Youtube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCs5iwnUANMu4HthRYzkJVCw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs5iwnUANMu4HthRYzkJVCw)

### Scheduled Events:

Worship Service on Sunday at 9:30am  
(NEW START TIME)

Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month

A church brunch is held after the service on the third Sunday of the month

Men's Breakfast on Saturdays at 7:00am

Women's Bible study on Sundays 8:30

Wednesday Night Bible Study at 6:30pm

NEW Tuesday morning Bible Study at 9:30am

Also, AA Meetings are held each Monday and Thursday evening at 7:00pm

Please refer to our Facebook page for our Easter services.

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

## Art & Nature Camp in Bowdoinham

This summer day camp gives kids the opportunity to create art and explore nature! Each day will include engaging art projects and outdoor play and discovery, combining creativity, games, and hands-on exploration for a memorable week of summer fun. We create a welcoming atmosphere where campers connect with each other, their own creativity, and the natural world.



### Dates & Details for 2025

July 14-18

July 21-25

August 4-8

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at

Bowdoinham Community School,  
Bowdoinham, Maine

For children entering grades K-5

\$225/week

For more information:

<https://artandnaturecamp.my.canva.site/>

Led by experienced educators Katie Hudak and Julia McLeod in partnership with the Bowdoinham Recreation Department. Supported by Merrymeeting Arts Center.

SAVE THE  
DATE!



## 2nd Half of Property Taxes Due by May 1st



You can pay your Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes three ways: In person, by mail, or ONLINE. We take cash, checks, and credit cards.

❖ WWW.BOWDOINHAM.COM

- Online Services
- Online Tax Payment
- Scroll down to Bowdoinham Payment Portal and follow directions.

For current year tax bills we accept three online payment methods:

❖ **E-Check/Checking Account** - You will need to provide your account number and the bank's routing number to pay by this method. There will be a \$1.00 processing fee assessed.

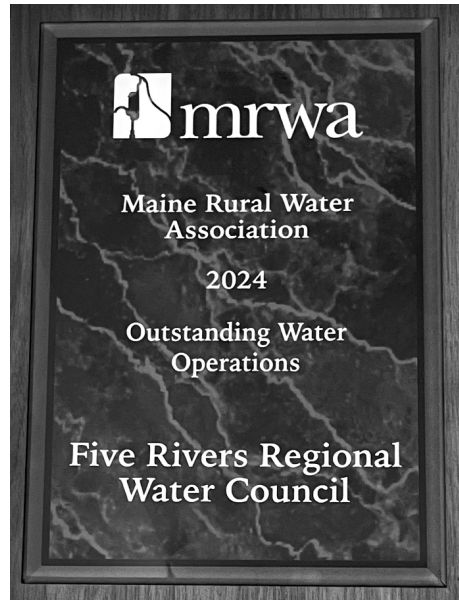
❖ **Credit Cards** - We currently accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit cards. There will be a 2.75% processing fee for each credit card transaction with a minimum charge of \$1.95.

❖ **Debit Cards** - Tax payments qualify for a discounted flat rate of \$3.95 when using a VISA consumer debit card. All other debit card transactions will be processed as credit.

For prior-year tax bills and lien properties, payments must be made by cash or bank check and cannot be paid online. Checks are accepted via mail, please do not mail cash.

*\*Please note that an accurate processing fee will not be reflected until all payment information is entered.*

## Five Rivers Regional Water Council



in their respective water systems. They soon realized that, despite their different sizes, utilities share many of the same issues. What began as a series of peer discussions evolved into something much more powerful—an official, unified effort that would bring together communities across the region to break down barriers and collaborate for the greater good.

Officially incorporated in 2013, the 5 Rivers Regional Water Council includes a broad network of communities, including Boothbay, Great Salt Bay, Wiscasset, Brunswick-Topsham, Bath, Richmond, Bowdoinham, and recently Hallowell and Gardiner. Together, they are focused on improving the quality and capacity of their water systems and have even commissioned studies to examine regional water supply, capacity, and future needs.

The Council has also worked diligently to create unified standards for construction, materials, and terms of service, ensuring consistency and efficiency across the region. These efforts have laid the foundation for stronger collaboration and better decision-making moving forward by sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise. Their commitment to collaboration and the future of water operations is truly inspiring. Congratulations!

**B**owdoinham Water District, as part of the 5 Rivers Regional Water Council, was honored last month, receiving the inaugural Ronald R. Boivin Memorial Award for Outstanding Water Operations during the Maine Rural Water Association's Annual Technical Conference and Tradeshow.

The journey of the 5 Rivers Regional Water Council began in the early 2000s when operators from several midcoast water utilities started gathering informally to discuss the common challenges they faced

# CELEBRATE PLANNING MEETING

Please come help us plan for 2025's party!

Tuesday, March 11th  
10 - 11am, Kendall Room or Zoom

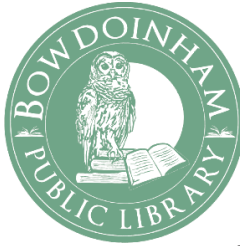
- Theme
- Entertainment
- Vendors
- Parade
- Music
- Silent Auction

The background of the planning meeting announcement features several large, stylized question marks and stars in various shades of grey and white.

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Spring Events at the Bowdoinham Public Library

We see how people have been enjoying our large collection of jigsaw puzzles. The collection of puzzles is growing (all donated)



and so is the interest. Inspired by all of this puzzling, we thought we would try a new event- **Puzzle Races!** Please join us for the first ever BPL Speed Puzzling Event. **Saturday, March 15 from 3-5pm.** Teams of three or four people will race to assemble a 300 piece puzzle. All teams will be constructing copies of the same puzzle, racing against each other. All ages

### Nazarene News

We are pleased to announce that Maine Steeples Fund has approved our grant to repair, paint, and reroof our steeple! We hope that work will begin this fall. We are still fundraising for our half of the expense, and we are so thankful to everyone in the community who has supported our efforts so far. We are sure to reach our goal.

The Clothes Closet at the Nazarene Church 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. We will be switching over to spring/summer clothes in April.

Interested in learning more about the Bible but don't know where to start? That is not uncommon. We offer Bible studies for beginners. Studies on prayer and Galatians, both for beginners, will be starting in April. Call or text the church at 207-751-6888 for more information or to sign up.

Easter is April 20. If you are looking for a place to celebrate, you are welcome to join us. Our services begin at 11am.

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.

welcomed. We will create age categories if we have enough participation. Call or email the library to sign up your team. We ask a \$20 registration fee per team to offset our costs.

Once again, the library will host the **"Luke McFadyen Memorial Edible Books Festival"**. In memory of our dear friend and local baker Luke McFadyen, the festival is a celebration of books, creative fun and community. We will hold the festival at Merrymeeting Hall on **Saturday, April 5 at 6:00.** We invite you to cook, bake or arrange some kind of food that makes you think of a book, either because it looks like the book cover, represents the title, or it makes a literary joke or pun. It is free to enter the contest, and those attending the festival are invited to judge and eat and will be asked to make a small donation. Entries will be judged in two classes: ages 12 and younger, and 13 and older. Call the library if you would like to enter.

We are offering two free classes at the library through the National Digital Equity Center. On February 18th, we held our first class on learning about Cloud Library. Cloud Library is an online platform used by libraries to borrow eBooks and audiobooks. This free service allows you to choose from over 10,000 titles to view or listen to on your device. Learn how to download, navigate, and customize your Cloud Library.

#### Requirements for this class:

A device connected to the internet.

**On March 4th, come learn about Keeping Your Online Accounts Safe at 11:00am until noon.**

This class walks you through the process of creating an online account. We also discuss how to recover your password should you forget it, what the potential issues are for privacy and safety, and how to best navigate those issues.

#### Requirements for this class:

No devices are required; just bring yourself.

All NDEC classes require a one-time enrollment and pre-registration. We can help at the library or you can access the enrollment form and class registration at

<https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/onsite-class-catalog/>.

The library will be hosting its next Garden Tour in 2026. While you wait for the next set of inspiring gardens, please attend our **Dahlia Tuber Sale! Saturday May 17th at Merrymeeting Hall.** Details will follow. Watch the library website for details.

### Bowdoinham Bulky Waste Day

*April 19th, 2025*

We will be holding our Spring Bulky waste day on April 19th from 8am to 2pm at the Public Works facility located at 121 Pond Rd.

The following items will be accepted on this day for a fee.

Items containing freon \$14.00

Box spring/Mattress each piece:	
Twin	\$5.00
Full	\$8.00
Queen	\$10.00
King	\$15.00

Carpet:  
\$2.00/foot, priced at the lesser of the size i.e., 5'x8' = \$10.00

Furniture:	
Chair	\$5.00
Chair - recliner	\$10.00
Couch - small	\$10.00
Couch - large	\$14.00
Couch - recliner	\$15.00
Couch - pull out	\$15.00

Construction debris including sheetrock, insulation.	
¼ yard of debris	\$40.00
½ yard of debris	\$80.00

Large and/or heavy quantities of construction debris should be taken to one of the following locations:

Grimmel Industries in Topsham  
Pine Tree Waste in W. Bath  
Maine Waste to Energy in Auburn

## Assessor's Alley:

### Bowdoinham Switches to New Emergency Alert Text System

If you have signed up for the Town's emergency alert system, please note that we have discontinued this service and have adopted the Sagadahoc County RAVE Alert system. This is a free service provided by Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency and our partners. You can sign up for the RAVE/Smart911 System by visiting: [www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SCEMA](http://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SCEMA).

In the event of an emergency or severe weather, an alert will be sent to the phone number and/or email address provided by voice call, text and/or email. You choose which notifications are important for you to receive.



### Businesses

If you own a business in Bowdoinham, you must declare your personal property to the assessor by May 1st, 2025. The business may qualify for the BETR (Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement) or BETE (Business Equipment Tax Exemption) programs. If you have not received a declaration form, visit the Assessor's page on the Town website.

ASSESSOR'S NOTICE - April 1, 2025

Effective Tax Year 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

36 MRSA Sec. 706: TAXPAYERS TO LIST PROPERTY, NOTICE, PENALTY, VERIFICATION. Before making an assessment, the Assessor shall give reasonable notice in writing to all persons liable to taxation, of which they were in possession of the first day of April of the same year. If any person after such notice does not furnish such list, that person is barred of the right to make application to the assessor of any appeal from any abatement of taxes, unless the taxpayer furnishes the required list with the application and satisfies the assessor that the list could not be provided at the appointed date and time. Deadline to furnish list is May 1, 2025.

### Property Tax Exemptions

All applications for property tax exemptions must be in to the Town's Assessing Agent no later than April 1, 2025. Please check to make sure that you are receiving the property tax exemption benefits that you qualify for:

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

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

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

**Property Tax Fairness Credit** - This program, for those who qualify, can help offset some of your property taxes or rent payments. This credit is taken when you file your Maine State Income Tax return. For more information, please go to [www.ptla.org](http://www.ptla.org). There are income guidelines as well as other criteria for using this tax credit.

### "Current Use" Programs

The State of Maine has four "current use" programs which allow a property owner a reduction in their property taxes: Tree Growth, Farmland, Open Space and Working Waterfront. All applications for these programs must be submitted to the Town's Assessing Agent no later than April 1, 2025.

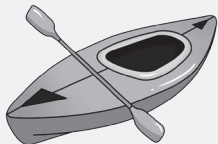
**Tree Growth:** To qualify you must own 10+ forested acres and have a Forest Management and Harvest Plan.

**Farmland:** To qualify you must have 5+ contiguous acres that is used for farming and generates \$2,000+ in gross income.

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

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

### Watercraft Storage Rack Rentals



You can reserve a space for you kayak, canoe or paddle board for the 2025 Season now.

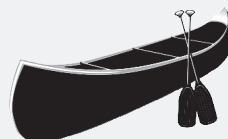
Cost is \$30 for residents and \$100 for non-residents.

Spaces are assigned on a first come first serve basis.

These rental spaces go fast so reserve your spot today.

#### Terms of Agreement for Watercraft Storage Rental

- Registration decal must be attached by the renter to the port side of the watercraft prior to placement in the assigned space.
- Watercraft must be stored in the assigned space. Failure to do so may result in removal.
- Watercraft must be reasonably secured in its assigned rack space so as not to pose any danger to others. Renter must provide locking mechanism.
- Storage racks are for the registered watercraft only. No other personal property (e.g., paddles, floatation devices or other watercraft) may be stored.
- There will be no alteration of storage rack or fixture without permission of the Town.
- Watercraft left on the rack after November 1 will be removed and reclaimed at the renter's expense.
- Watercraft storage rack rental is at renter's own risk. The Town of Bowdoinham accepts no responsibility for loss of or damage to the watercraft.
- Failure to comply with these terms will result in termination of this agreement with no refund of rental fee.
- Watercraft found not in compliance with these rules will be removed at the owner's expense without prior notice.



## Loose Ladies Book Club

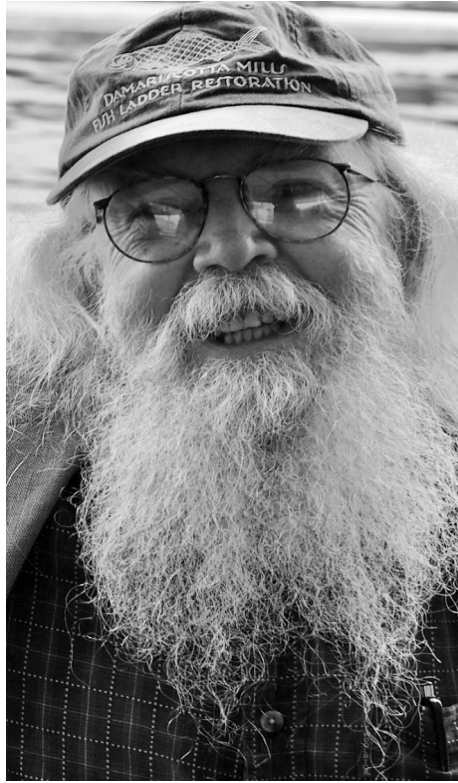
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 17, 2025 at 1 p.m. at Merrymeeting Hall, 27 Main St., Bowdoinham

The Loose Ladies Book Club and Bowdoinham Public Library invite you to a program on Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950). Gary Lawless, poet and co-owner of Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick, will give a talk on the poet and playwright on April 17 at 1 p.m. at Merrymeeting Hall. Lawless has become an expert on the life and works of Millay.

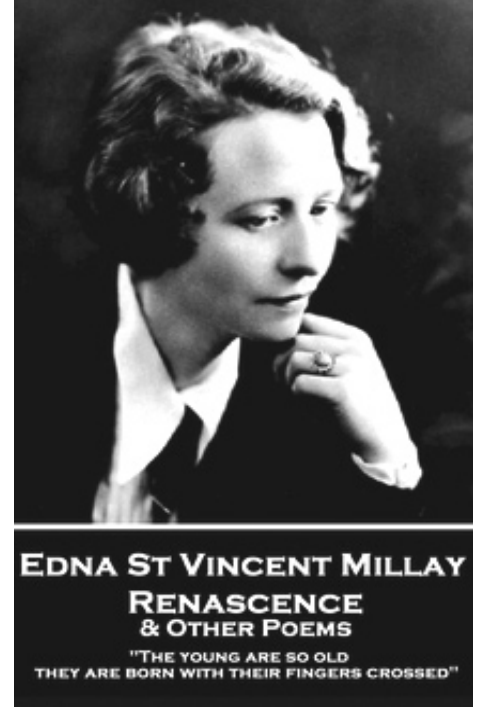
Millay was born in Rockland, Maine and brought up in Camden. She later lived in New York City and State. In 1923, she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. In 1933 Millay and her husband purchased Ragged Island off the coast of Harpswell as a summer retreat. They were known as free spirits and their lifestyle was of as much interest as her poetry. Lawless will focus on the periods of time she spent on the island and the poems that those days inspired.

The program will be free and open to the public. Doors will open at 12:30. Seating will be limited to 85, on a first come basis.



Gary Lawless

Parking at the Hall is limited. Please use Maily Park or the Second Baptist Church parking area.



## Burning Permit Required

Spring is slowly approaching and with it comes time for cleanup. Limbs, leaves and debris from what was a relatively mild winter are being gathered and stacked for disposal. Many people choose to compost or chip the winter remnants while others opt for burning. If you are among the latter, then here is a bit of background information and few reminders on the process.

The Maine Forest Service generates a daily wildfire danger report beginning in early spring and continuing until the first widespread snow in the fall. This report is usually issued at or before 9:00 AM daily and is based on current/future weather and wind conditions combined with readings from their network of sensors throughout Maine. This allows them to categorize the day based on the National Fire Danger Rating System. This is a color-coded system and what you commonly see on fire stations throughout Maine. Any day coded as a yellow or higher means no burning is allowed and permits will not be issued.

- Green = low fire danger
- Blue = moderate fire danger
- Yellow = high fire danger
- Orange = very high fire danger
- Red = extreme fire danger

A burning permit is REQUIRED for any outdoor burning, the only exceptions are for outdoor grills and fireplaces used for recreational purposes such as cooking. A permit can be obtained online for free at [www.wardensreport.com](http://www.wardensreport.com) or for a \$7.00 fee through the Maine Forest Service at [www.maineburnpermit.com](http://www.maineburnpermit.com). Since the fire danger changes from day-to-day permits are typically only issued for the actual day, you are burning and you will find that neither website will allow a permit to be issued until the State has declared the fire class day. If you do not have access to the internet, you can obtain one in person at the fire station on Saturday or Sunday morning between 7:30 AM and 8:30 AM.

Please make sure to read and understand the permit. If you indicate the presence of a certain tool or piece of equipment, then

it needs to be on hand and readily available while burning. Also note there are several materials that cannot be burned including household trash and pressure treated lumber.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the fire station at 666-3505 or Sagadahoc dispatch at 443-9711.

## Solution to Sudoku

6	4	2	8	9	7	3	1	5
5	3	1	2	6	4	7	8	9
9	7	8	1	5	3	4	2	6
7	8	9	3	1	2	5	6	4
1	2	3	6	4	5	8	9	7
4	5	6	9	7	8	2	3	1
3	6	5	7	8	9	1	4	2
8	9	7	4	2	1	6	5	3
2	1	4	5	3	6	9	7	8

# SUNDAY SUMMER CONCERT BENEFIT DINNERS



FMI:



## CALLING ALL BOWDOINHAM NON-PROFITS!

Are you looking to do some fundraising this summer? How about hosting a benefit dinner at one of our Sunday Summer Concerts?

If you are a local non-profit with a physical or personnel representative in Bowdoinham which provides services to our community, please consider applying to our lottery. To be eligible, complete this application by March 8th. This enters your organization into the lottery for a chance to be paired up with a band during our concert series. All participants will be notified of the lottery results by March 28.

You can find the application, helpful tips on hosting a meal, and more about the concert series on our website:  
<https://www.bowdoinham.com/page/2025-sunday-summer-concert-series>



## Cemetery News

We the Bowdoinham Cemetery Advisory Committee (BCAC) would like to repeat our tribute to Daniel Smaha, due to errors in the Jan-Feb Cemetery News. Dan Smaha was the caretaker and Keeper of the Coombs-Buker Cemetery (Gr46) adjacent to his home on the River Road. We wish to apologize for the misspelling of his name. He died on Oct. 3, 2024. He tended the little cemetery as if it were a part of his lawn for about 50 years, and it is one of the loveliest cemeteries in town. Linda Temple and I spent an afternoon in early September, 2023, with Dan, visiting this cemetery. He requested help from the Town in removing a fallen tree. William Oh, another BCAC member who is handy with a chainsaw provided this. There is a green sign with the name and origin date of the cemetery, very visible from the road. Some of the stones need restoration work, and we put them on the To Do list for as soon as we have that

resource available. All of the BCAC and Bowdoinham Sexton Frank Connors join in expressing our admiration and gratitude for Dan and all of his work. He will be missed! His son Adam Smaha plans to live in that home and will continue as the Keeper of the Coombs- Buker Cemetery.

We also want to give a tribute to Calvin Temple, who died on Jan. 9, 2025. Calvin and his wife Jewel maintained the Stuart-Work Cemetery near their home on Temple Way (private end of Spring Street) from 2001 to 2022, when they moved to the Wildes Road. Calvin then helped Sam Tome with his upkeep of the Pratt Cemetery (Gr1) until Sam's death in October 2022. Soon after, Calvin himself became ill. The Stuart -Work Cemetery needs a sign, which Calvin had long requested, and which will be installed in 2025. Thanks to Calvin's son Aaron Temple for providing information.

Another brief correction to the Jan-Feb

Cemetery News: Amy Babb has been a member of BCAC since August 2023. She is very knowledgeable about Bowdoinham cemeteries due to her research in addition to being a Keeper of the Whitmore Cemetery (Gr21).

We will continue with cleanups and stone cleaning training in the Village Burying Ground and some smaller cemeteries, including the Raymond-Allen Cemetery on Center's Point Road this spring and summer. If interested or wanting help with a cemetery you care for, please contact:

Elaine Diaz Volunteer Coordinator @ (207)666-8255 or [elainediazhome@gmail.com](mailto:elainediazhome@gmail.com)

Nina Mendall BCAC Chair @ (207)666-8838 or [njmendall@comcost.net](mailto:njmendall@comcost.net)

We will resume our monthly meetings on the first Thursday at 4PM, starting Feb. 6, 2025.

## Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship Fund

### History and Purpose

A resident of Bowdoinham for many years, Richard Ferrier left a remarkable gift to his community through the Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship Fund...the gift of an education. Richard knew that there are many different ways to learn and that the journey itself is an important part of the process. His legacy supports Bowdoinham students in their journey and encourages them to consider the road less traveled. This scholarship is for the "road less traveled," meaning opportunities beyond the traditional school environment. Have you always wanted to take riding lessons? Do you picture yourself backpacking with Outward Bound? Want to perfect your soccer skills at a summer camp? Do you want to take dance lessons? How about taking up guitar? This fund will help you pursue your passion. What do you want to do?

### Eligibility

Residents of Bowdoinham between the ages of 13 and 18 as of June 1 this year are encouraged to apply. There is a preference for applicants for whom a scholarship will make a demonstrated difference in his/her ability to participate in a program.

### Awards

The number and size of awards each year depends on the number of applications and funds available. However, the committee considers this a partnership between recipients and the fund and expects the applicant and his/her/their family to contribute something to the opportunity. Awards are not retroactive; the student's program must start after June 1 of the application year.

The committee will consider membership fees to join an organization (such as a golf club) as long as such fees are an integral part of a larger program of study. Membership fees that are not part of a larger project will not be considered. The fund will not pay for equipment, nor Drivers' Ed.

Students seeking support for the YMCA Freedom Tour: please be aware that the committee does not make its determinations until after the June deadline. This award is not retroactive, if you are participating in the current year's trip, we cannot consider your application. If you are seeking funding for the following year tour and are between the ages of 13 and 18 by June 1 of NEXT year, please submit your application this year. The maximum award for this trip is \$450.

Recipients will be notified in June. Award checks will be issued by the Maine Community Foundation and made payable directly to the sponsoring organization as scholarship support for the recipient.

Assistance will be provided to students between the ages of 13 and 18 (as of the application deadline), who are residents of Bowdoinham pursuing their artistic, academic, athletic, and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment (e.g., experiential education, tuition for summer programs or studies, or special athletic instruction). There is a preference for applicants for whom a scholarship will make a demonstrated difference in his/her ability to participate in a program. Awards are not retroactive.

The application deadline for the Ferrier Scholarship is June 1, 2025. Applications can be downloaded on the Bowdoinham Website or at the Maine Community Foundation website, [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org). Please contact committee members Becca Norklun ([norklun@gmail.com](mailto:norklun@gmail.com)) or Jason Lamoreau ([recreation@bowdoinham.com](mailto:recreation@bowdoinham.com)) if you have any questions.

## Peary's Garden

By Lily Montgomery

It's hard to believe that we are heading into our EIGHTH season of community gardening at Peary's! We're looking forward to working alongside many returning members and hopefully a handful of new gardeners as well. We'll have a total of 24 10x25' plots available this season. If there is interest, Brian will work toward building some raised granite beds, with trellis type arches for vertical growing assuming there are volunteers ready to help with the job.

Garden membership includes use of all the tools in our shed, seeds, water access, fertilizer, compost and manure. We also have a beautiful brick pizza oven and host dinners throughout the season. Renting a plot at Peary's not only gives members an opportunity to grow their own food, but also

to learn from their neighbors and connect with our community.

We're excited to share that Peary's Garden is now available on Hipcamp, a website that allows traveling campers to find and book private camp sites. Last season Brian set up a single camp site, and listed it on Hipcamp as "GARDEN SIDE". The Hipcamp proceeds help fund the community garden. Last season we had 28 bookings.

Last summer, Bowdoinham community member Ailish Kress built a sweet little greenhouse looking out over the garden. Ailish is the owner of Ground Well Counseling Services and specializes in outdoor and experiential therapy. In addition to offering counseling services at the garden, Ailish also hosts events, workshops, and groups for the

general public; you can find out more and contact Ailish at [groundwellmaine.com](http://groundwellmaine.com).

We are so grateful to our community for everything they've done to keep this garden dream a reality. A huge thank you to Jim Finucan for all of the horse manure, to Brian Smith for continuing to share his land and time for this project and to all of our members who keep the garden running smoothly!

If you are interested in joining for the 2025 season, please reach out and reserve your spot! Peary's is a family-friendly place and we welcome gardeners of any age and ability.

**\$25 for a 10'x25' plot**

**Tools, seeds, water, organic fertilizer and compost included**

Lily Montgomery - [pearysgarden@gmail.com](mailto:pearysgarden@gmail.com)

## Age Friendly Bowdoinham

It may still be cold, but spring is coming! It's time to think about creating something new!

Age Friendly Bowdoinham is offering a couple of workshops to spur your creativity.

### **Basket Making Workshop**

A basket making workshop will be held at the Fire Station on April 11th from 2 to 4 pm. It will be led by Marè LeMay. For more information, email Jason Lamoreau at [age-friendly@bowdoinham.com](mailto:age-friendly@bowdoinham.com).

Beautiful baskets of flowers from last year's workshop

### **Flower Arranging Workshop**

Age Friendly is happy to sponsor a second annual flower arranging workshop. This year's workshop will be held on May 2nd from 2 to 4 pm at the Fire Station. If you made a basket at the basket making workshop, you can bring it to the flower arranging workshop. If you don't have a basket, don't worry; we will

supply baskets, flowers and all materials. For more information, email Jason Lamoreau at [age-friendly@bowdoinham.com](mailto:age-friendly@bowdoinham.com).

Age Friendly Bowdoinham wants to inform you of an exciting new opportunity in our community. You can find ways to "Live Well for Better Health."

### **Living Well for Better Health**

This class is designed to help people with chronic illness (diabetes, heart disease, arthritis) as well as for caregivers and older adults. The goal of the class is learning strategies to enable you to improve quality of life while managing health conditions. Topics include nutrition, physical activity and mindfulness. The class will be held on Tuesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Fire Station starting on April 29th and ending on June 3rd. For more information, contact Monica Hawk at [mhawk@spectrumgenerations.org](mailto:mhawk@spectrumgenerations.org) or call Monica at 207-620-1642.



**HATCH POINT**  
WEDDING & EVENTS VENUE

## COLONIAL HARDWOODS

**PATRICK MCDONOUGH  
WOOD FLOORING CONTRACTOR**

666-3069 OFFICE

831-5718 CELL

EXPERT INSTALLATIONS, SANDING, FINISHING,  
AND CUSTOM WORK

HEADQUARTERED IN BOWDOINHAM FOR OVER 25 YEARS

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
MAINE FOREST SERVICE  
168 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS, GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL, COMMISSIONER

To whom it may concern:

To facilitate response by towns and their residents, I am in touch to provide notice of **high or moderate detected populations of Browntail Moth (BTM)**. The Maine Forest Service (MFS) conducts annual BTM surveys, and in the last several years, populations have been severe in many areas. In 2024, MFS documented a decline in BTM populations. BTM caterpillars have hairs that can cause a rash similar to poison ivy and respiratory distress in sensitive individuals. The hairs persist for years and can cause problems when mowing or other activities stir them up.

Aerial surveys took place in Summer 2024 and indicated damage from BTM in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Somerset, and Penobscot counties. The population decline has made BTM very localized and patchy, it is likely that many areas with significant populations will not be picked up in MFS surveys. Local survey efforts are very important in these conditions if towns want to engage in reducing populations. An interactive map of MFS survey data can be found on our browntail moth dashboard.

Our annual overwintering web survey is currently underway, and results will be available in early spring. The survey is conducted along roads around where detectable BTM populations have previously been found and expands outward to encompass the generally affected area. These surveys are not exhaustive, and people should check the trees around them to understand BTM populations and the risk of encountering hairs at a finer scale. **Mid-December through March is the best time to do that.**

The MFS BTM website has more information, including:

- Description of the BTM and how to control it,
- Survey resources, including what the overwintering webs look like,
- Browntail moth dashboard, an interactive map that can be used to view data from our various BTM surveys

- A list of Licensed Professional Arborists and Licensed Pesticide Applicators who conduct BTM control work — those interested in hiring contractors for management should make contacts in the winter due to the high demand for services,
- Topics ranging from biology to management to State Law specific to BTM control near marine waters are found in the recently updated frequently asked questions page.

We encourage towns to help educate residents and visitors about BTM and encourage and conduct management where practical. The MFS can provide technical advice and assistance for identification and management, and all the information on our website is available for electronic distribution or printing. A limited number of printed informational brochures are also available. Consider signing up for our newsletters and sharing the information found within them.

In 2025, we encourage **our partners to schedule awareness-raising events and promote the management of BTM in February**. This effort could include organizing groups to map infestations on the town and school properties, hosting a public service web-clipping event, hosting a contest for the most webs clipped, or other community and knowledge-building activities.

In closing, we may be starting to see BTM populations collapsing and will be keeping a close eye on current populations in 2025. The MFS and our partners are here to provide technical advice and assistance in response to BTM. We encourage you to join us in providing education, encouraging management, and conducting management where feasible.

Sincerely,

Thomas Schmeelk, Forest Entomologist  
Maine Forest Service, DACF  
[Thomas.schmeelk@maine.gov](mailto:Thomas.schmeelk@maine.gov)

[www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/invasive\\_threats/browntail\\_moth\\_info.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm)

**Interest rates are at a recent record high...**

**Where can I get a business loan for 3% APR?**



**BCDI's Neighbors Investing in Neighbors loan program has been helping fund local businesses since 2011. With interest rates approaching double digits our 3% rate is unbeatable.**

**Our application process is simple and straightforward, plus we can offer professional guidance regarding business plans, budgets and tools to help manage and grow your business.**

**Loan amounts range from \$500 up to \$25,000. To find out more about applying for a loan, or becoming an investor, contact BCDI online or by email.**

**[www.bcdimaine.org](http://www.bcdimaine.org)**

**[bcdi.maine@gmail.com](mailto:bcdi.maine@gmail.com)**

## Mailbox Installation on Maine's State and State-Aid Highways

Mailbox installations are allowed within the right-of-way of Maine's state and state-aid highways. However, there are two very important conditions.

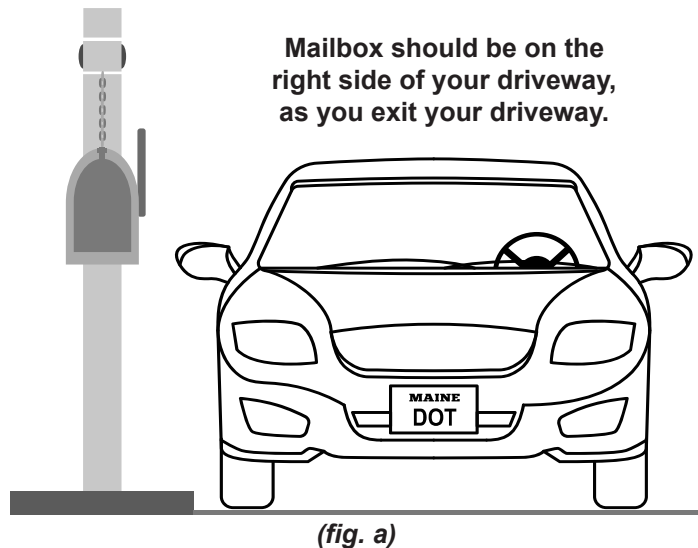
1. The mailbox must be installed in a way that:
  - ensures the mail can be delivered; and
  - doesn't create an obstacle or a safety hazard for those using or maintaining the highway.
2. The mailbox is installed entirely at the owner's risk. If the mailbox is damaged during any MaineDOT operation, including snowplowing, the property owner is not entitled to replacement or compensation. In fact, if the mailbox was not installed according to the standards outlined in the policy, the owner may be held liable for injuries or damages that may be incurred.

## Mailbox Installation Standards

Here are some details regarding mailbox height, location, offset, and post type to reduce the chances for damage.

### General Location:

Whenever possible, place your mailbox after your driveway opening. This location improves its visibility, minimizes the amount of snow that comes off the plow, and improves the approach for your mail carrier.



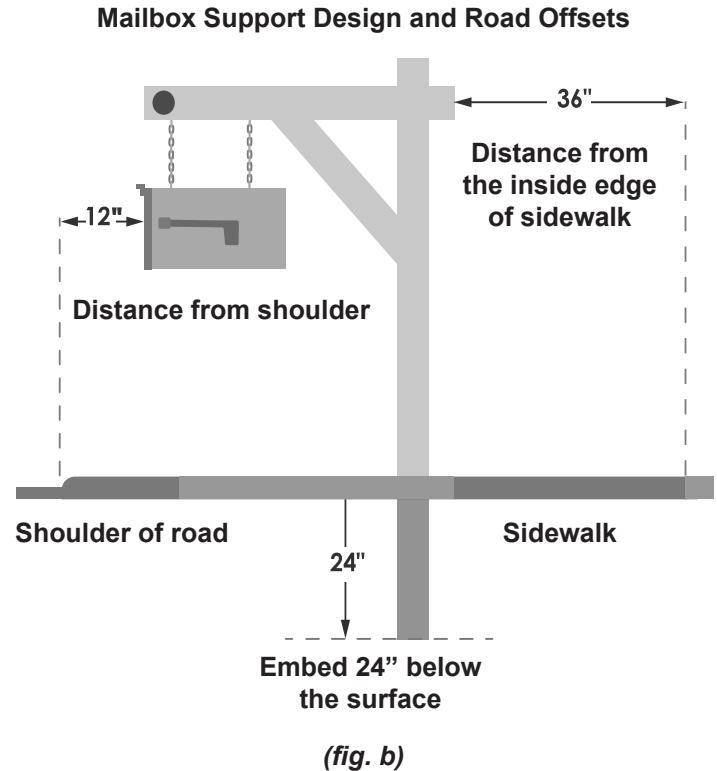
### Mailbox Support Design:

In many cases, it is best to use an extended arm post with a free-swinging suspended mailbox (fig. b). This allows snowplows to sweep near or under the box without damage, and provides easy access for your mail carrier. Place a red reflector on the arm at the point closest to the road. This will help your local snowfighter see and avoid your mailbox during winter storms.

### Offsets from Roads:

Mailboxes should be set back from the edge of the shoulder, regardless of whether the shoulder is gravel or paved. In other words, the face of the mailbox should be at least one

foot back from the edge of the normally plowed surface of the highway or the face of curb (fig. b). Greater offset distances are encouraged so the mail carrier can move out of traffic and to minimize potential damage to your mailbox. A mailbox in a sidewalk should leave at least 36 inches behind the back of the box or the post, whichever is located the furthest from the road (fig. b).



### Post Size, Type, and Embedment:

Mailbox posts must be sturdy enough to hold up the mailbox in all types of weather. However, they can't be so rugged that they present a hazard to vehicles that leave the road. **If a mailbox support is struck by a vehicle, it must easily break away.** Therefore, the following types of posts are recommended:

- 4"x4" wooden posts embedded two feet into the ground (fig. c). Larger wooden posts (4"x6" or 6"x6") may be used only if the post is drilled through with an appropriate spade bit to create a shear plane (fig. d).
- One-inch to two-inch round diameter steel or aluminum pipe, or standard U-channel post embedded two feet into the ground (fig. e).

### Unacceptable Mailbox Supports Include:

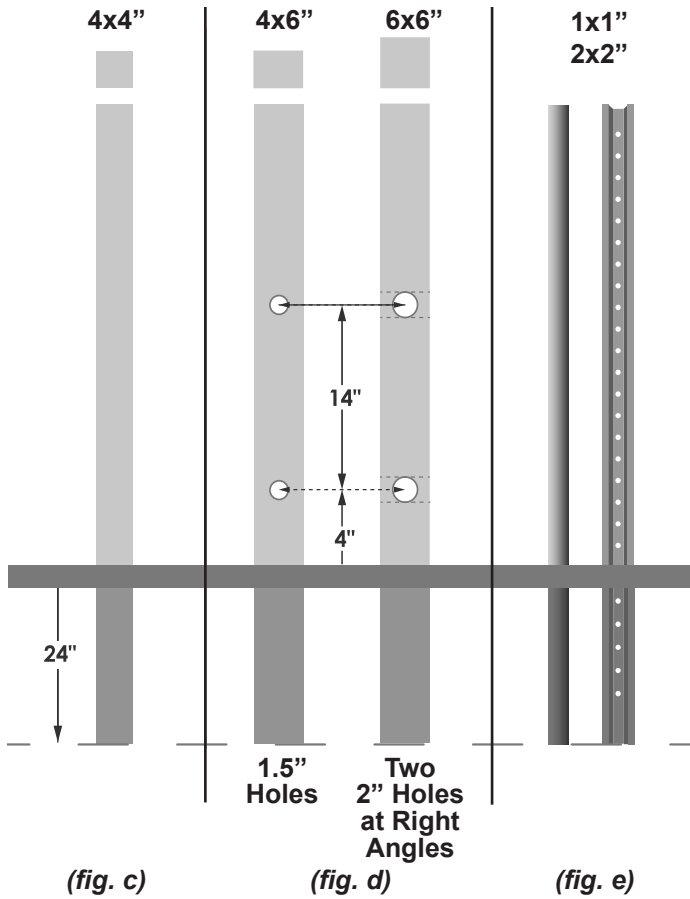
- anything filled with concrete,
- masonry and stone structures,
- heavy steel structures, and
- most objects that were intended for other uses (e.g., antique plows, I-beams, etc).

Mailboxes, attachments or support systems not consistent with this policy are considered **deadly fixed objects** and are in violation of Maine Law (23 MRSA § 1401-A). When MaineDOT sees this type of installation, the owner will be informed and immediate removal will be requested. If the property owner doesn't comply with this request, MaineDOT

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

may remove the installation and seek reimbursement from the property owner for all costs.

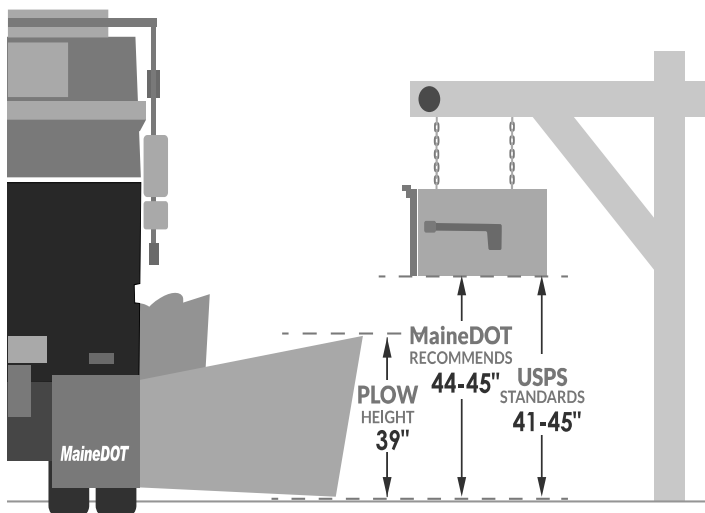
## Acceptable Mailbox Supports



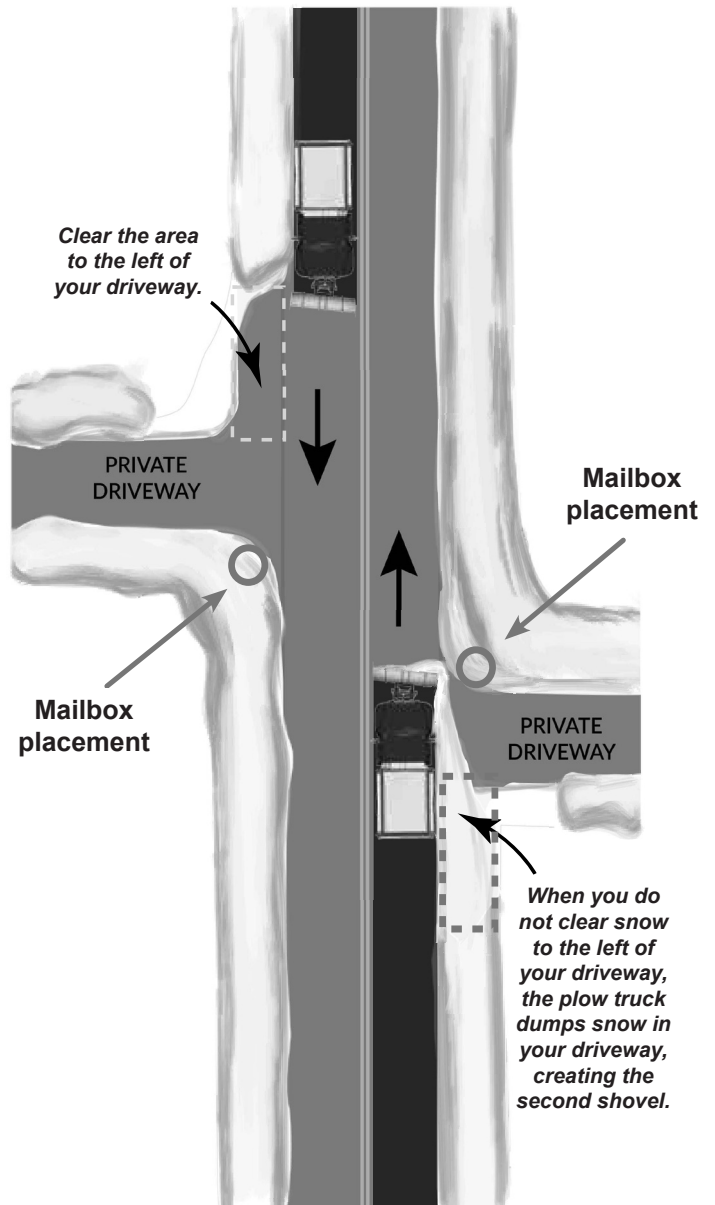
### Mailbox Height:

According to USPS standards, a mailbox must be installed so the bottom of the mailbox is between 41 inches and 45 inches above the highway shoulder. MaineDOT recommends the height be closer to the 45-inch measurement to minimize the chances of being struck by the plow truck wing (fig. f).

**MaineDOT recommends a height of 45 inches above the highway shoulder.**



## If you live on a state highway or a city street, here's how you can prevent a "second shovel!"



## Heavy Loads are Limited on Town Roads

The Town of Bowdoinham seasonally posts Town roads in order to prevent damage from heavy truck traffic when the roads are "soft". This occurs when the roads are partially thawed and the solid material under the road is wet.

For more information on the Maine Department of Transportation posted road regulations visit [www.maine.gov/mdot/postedroads/](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/postedroads/)

Enforcement is done by the Maine State Police 207-624-7076.

## Solid Waste Committee Recycling - Did You Know?

Did you know that our recyclables are graded by the vendor who receives them? And if the rating of Bowdoinham recyclables is downgraded, we will be charged more? So, what can we do to help keep our favorable rating? Here are the top items people think are recyclable but actually are not:

- Pizza boxes with grease stains, even just a little. Who doesn't love a good pizza? Unfortunately, they can be a bit greasy and that grease sometimes gets on the box and that makes the box a recycling contaminant. If the box is stained throw it away.
- Peanut butter jars - all recyclable food containers need to be rinsed to remove food residue. And some are easier to rinse than others - it is pretty easy to rinse out a tomato sauce can, but not so much for a peanut butter jar. Some tips from those who are good at rinsing peanut butter jars: Fill the jar with warm water and leave to soak overnight, or scrap as much as you can then put in the dishwasher.
- Detergent containers - like food containers these need to be rinsed before being recycled. We've had detergent jugs turned in with enough detergent in them to run a load or two! Fortunately, these are pretty easy to rinse (unlike peanut butter jars).
- Containers with shrink wrap labels - some manufacturers think their products look better in shrink wrap, like some coffee creamers or cleaners. Unfortunately, the shrink wrap is not recyclable so it must be removed before recycling. Easy enough to do by scoring the shrink wrap and removing it - then rinse and recycle.
- Spray bottles - while the bottle may be recyclable the sprayer isn't. So, if you have a spray bottle, remove the sprayer, the shrink wrap (if any), rinse and recycle.
- Styrofoam - not all Styrofoam is recyclable. If it has numbers on it is recyclable, if not it is not recyclable.

So, there you go, our top recycling contaminants, there are others of course (like glass). Check with Cassie or Jacinta if you have questions on whether your item is recyclable or not - they're great and can help. Keep our recyclable rating high!

And as an FYI don't forget you can get your trash tickets at the Town's Recycling Center which is open Tuesday 12:00 noon - 6:00 PM and Thursday and Saturday from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Or at the Town Office during regular business hours.

## Town Hall Preservation

*By Rachelle Tome*

Have you been by the Town Hall lately? There has been a tremendous amount of work completed on the foundation. Repairs and restoration will continue through the year, but we need your help. Contractors will be needed for various projects, including siding and window replacement, structural repairs on the roof and tower access, and roofing and sheathing. There are currently three scopes of work that will soon be posted on the Town's website. Here is a chance to add your distinctive touch to the restoration of this beloved building. If you are a contractor, you can find out more by contacting the Town Office staff. If you know a contractor who might be interested in supporting this important renovation, please help us spread the word.

You can also support the Town Hall project by attending our meetings to learn more about coming efforts. We hope you will consider joining our efforts. As the improvement work moves forward, there will be many ways to help in the future, with fundraising or volunteering opportunities or providing input. Meeting dates/times can be found on the Town's calendar.

You can donate to the Town Hall Preservation efforts online by visiting [www.bowdoinham.com/page/save-our-town-hall](http://www.bowdoinham.com/page/save-our-town-hall). Donations can also be mailed to or brought into the Town Office.

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## A La Carte:

### Thoughts on Food and Cooking

By George Oliver



THOUGHTS ABOUT FOOD

#### “Maine’s Maple Staple”

I finally did something in March of 2024 that I always wanted to do: we tapped the big 200-year-old maple tree in our yard next to the house. It was my first time trying to make syrup and probably the first time (maybe ever?) that our maple tree had a spring “blood” letting. Since I had recently begun a regular routine of phlebotomies for a medical condition, it was a bonding experience for me and the maple.

Jeremy Cluchey had rescued me from my maple ignorance and poor planning by bringing me a traditional metal bucket and cover. He drilled an appropriately sized hole and hammered in a spile (spigot): the dripping commenced immediately. I was impressed both with Jeremy and the maple tree.

On his suggestion, I saved some of the maple sap to drink later. In fact, I froze a gallon of it for drinking during the hot days of summer. Fresh maple sap is like the clearest, cleanest spring water you will ever drink, with a hint of sweetness. You could make a lot of money bottling this stuff.

We emptied the bucket the next day, and I started the process of boiling it down in a large stainless steel pot on a hot plate in the garage. After it had reduced, I left it covered in the pot overnight, added another bucket the next day, and repeated it all for a third day.

The resultant two cups of syrup were odd. It tasted a bit funky to me, like mushrooms. My spouse thought it was more like butterscotch. Clearly, I didn’t read the instructions on the tree.

We tried again with just two gallons of sap. The result was still butterscotchy but not funky. Some quick research showed that other flavors in maple syrup are not uncommon depending on the tree, temperature, and time of year.

I figured I could always get local syrup for the regular maple flavor and enjoy our weird

stuff ourselves. I no longer feared that our syrup had been tainted, so I could relax and enjoy the unique flavor.

Years ago, I once tried birch syrup, but I found it a bit harsh. Last summer, a friend visiting from Virginia brought us some of his black walnut syrup. Wow, what a flavor, with a clear nutty back finish. Are there other tree saps that can make decent syrup? I’d love to know.

Anyway, in my research on maple syrup, I also learned that American Indian tribes in sugar maple areas used the maple sap, or “water,” to braise meat. Here was a cooking challenge I could take on.

I browned some chicken thighs, then braised them with the maple water for 25 minutes with cut sweet potatoes, onions, and cabbage. As the sap reduced, it added a delicious hint of sweetness to the dish. I’m convinced that the purity of the “water” improved the flavor as well.

We’ll try our syrup-making experiments this second year and see what “flavor” of maple syrup we get. I may not go back to plain maple syrup anymore.

If you’re not from Maine, and this is all new to you, I encourage you to tap your maple tree(s) and try to make syrup, or just drink the delicious water. It’s not very difficult to do, the equipment is minimal, and there’s a lot of info on line about the process.

And if you’re a born-and-bred Mainer and you haven’t made syrup from your maple trees — what are you waiting for?

For comments or questions, email me at [golivergo5@gmail.com](mailto:golivergo5@gmail.com).

## Earth Day 2025

This year Bowdoinham will conduct its annual Earth Day roadside clean up on Saturday April 19th. All roadside trash collected can be brought to the Recycling facility located at 121 Pond Rd. between the hours of 8am and 2pm for disposal. Bags and gloves will be available the morning of Earth Day. For more information contact the Solid Waste Dept. at 666-3228 or stop by Recycling on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

## Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

### Town Office

13 School St.  
Phone: 666-5531  
Fax: 666-5532  
Website: [bowdoinham.com](http://bowdoinham.com)

#### Hours:

Monday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Wednesday: 11:00am-6:00pm  
Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm

### Recycling

121 Pond Rd.  
666-3228

Website: [bowdoinham.com/SWR](http://bowdoinham.com/SWR)

#### Recycling Hours:

Tuesday: Noon-6:00pm  
Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm  
Saturday: 8:00am-4:00pm  
Trash Pick Up: Thursday Mornings  
(or the following Saturday morning when Thursday is a Holiday)  
Town Office sells Trash Bags

### Bowdoinham Public Library

13a School St.  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
Phone: 666-8405  
Website: [bowdoinhamlibrary.org](http://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 & 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

### March

- 8 Midcoast CASH Tax Prep:  
By appointment  
9 am-2 pm
- 9 Daylight Saving Time
- 10 Keeping Your Online Accounts  
Safe: Preregistration Required  
11 am - 12 pm

### April

- 17 Loose Ladies Book Club and  
Bowdoinham Public Library  
Program on Edna St. Vincent  
Millay (1892-1950)  
1:00 pm
- 19 Earth Day Cleanup
- 19 Bulky Waste Day  
8 am - 2 pm
- 21 Patriot's Day: Town Office Closed

### May

- 1 Second Half Property/Personal  
Property Tax Payments are Due

## Town Board and Committee Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public.  
For more information please visit:  
[www.bowdoinham.com/calendar](http://www.bowdoinham.com/calendar)*

### Select Board

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month

### Planning Board

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month at 6:00pm

### Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month at 1:30pm

### Cemetery Advisory Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month at 4:00pm

### Comprehensive Planning Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month at 6:00pm

### Community Development Advisory Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month at 6:30pm

### Solid Waste Advisory Committee

TBA

### Town Hall Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month at 2:30pm

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

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