



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 6

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November - December 2025

## Bowdoinham Town Hall Reopening Celebration – November 14th

By *Rachelle Tome and Lisa-Marie Curtis*

**W**e're thrilled to announce that Bowdoinham's beloved Town Hall is ready to reopen its doors! After a long and determined journey, the building will be unveiled during a special **Open House on Friday, November 14th, from 4–7 PM.** We invite the entire community to join us in celebrating this exciting milestone.

### A Journey of Restoration

The Town Hall was forced to close due to serious structural damage, and the initial repair estimates were daunting. But the Bowdoinham community, deeply committed to preserving this historic landmark, urged the Town to find another way.

Thanks to dedicated Town staff, committee members, and the Select Board, restoration work began in August 2024. The building was carefully lifted, a new foundation was poured, and the Hall was gently placed on its new base. From there, floors were removed and replaced with new sills, beams, and floorboards. Over the past year, crews have worked tirelessly to bring the Hall back to life.

Today, the Town Hall features:

- A beautiful new wooden floor
- Freshly painted walls and ceilings
- Energy-efficient windows
- Modern heat pumps & insulation
- Updated electrical wiring and lighting
- A new accessible ramp

Final touches are underway, and the building is nearly ready to welcome the public once again.

### Community Support and Fundraising

During Celebrate Bowdoinham, we shared our goal to raise \$5,000 to help furnish the Hall with a kitchenette, tables, chairs, and essential supplies. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$3,100 through the 50/50 raffle and Silent Auction.

We're still working toward our goal and hope some of you will help us close the gap. We're creating a donations wall to recognize



donations of \$500 or more. Every contribution brings us closer to making the Hall fully functional and welcoming for all. Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at the Town Office at 13 School Street, Bowdoinham. Mark donations for Town Hall.

### What's Still Ahead

While the main restoration is nearly complete, a few additional projects remain:

- Painting the tower steeple
- Acoustic enhancements for the Hall
- Landscaping around the building

To complete these final improvements, we aim to raise approximately \$25,000. Your continued support, whether through donations, volunteer work, or spreading the word will help us bring this project to full completion.

### Thank You to Our Project Partners

This restoration would not have been possible without the incredible talent and dedication of our contractors and contributors:

- **R.H Construction LLC** – General Contractor
- **Rodrigue Carpentry LLC** – Siding and Windows
- **C.L Painting LLC** – Painting
- **North Shore** – Plumbing
- **Curtis N' Sons Construction LLC** – Roofing
- **Fat Andy's Hardwood** – Custom Historic Wood
- **Mark Newcombe** – Welding (Chair Racks and Handrails)
- **Builders Insulation** – Basement Insulation
- **Hancock Lumber** – Materials
- **Mortimer LaPointe Woodworking** – Door Restoration
- **Calderwood Engineering** – Engineering
- **MJF Enterprises** – Project Management
- **Cobb and Sons** – Building Lift
- **Tourtelotte Excavating** – Excavation
- **Holloway Concrete** – Foundation
- **Williams Construction** – Sills, Undercarriage, Floor System
- **Colonial Hardwoods** – New Flooring
- **Frederick Electric** – Electrical and Lighting
- **CZ Plumbing and FW Webb Company** – Heat Pumps
- **InfoTech Maine** – WiFi Installation
- **Albert Stehle** – Chimney Removal

### Join Us for the Open House

The Town Hall Committee and Town Staff warmly invite you to celebrate with us at the:

### Historical Town Hall Open House

**Friday, November 14th**

**4:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

Come see the beautifully restored Hall, reconnect with neighbors, and honor the hard work that made this transformation possible.

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# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Sammon Company Holdings Conifer Ridge Town Houses

By Wendy Rose

Jesse and Joshua Sammon met me at their building site at the corner of Pond Road and Main Street on the one day of pouring rain we had in two months. After a quick viewing of the site, we met in my car to talk about the project they are working on across from the Park and Ride lot.

Here are some of the details of their plan. They will be putting up 2 buildings with 14 townhouse apartments - one with 8 units and the other with 6 units. All the apartments will have the same layout containing 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and a kitchen, dining area, and living room. A laundry room will be on the second floor. 95% of the construction is being done offsite by KBS of Paris, Maine and will arrive in November. Joshua will oversee the finishing work during the winter months and units should be available sometime in March or April, 2026. The brothers have not determined the rental price as yet.

I was curious to know if there would be any subsidies for the rent. "Because this project is completely privately funded, it does not qualify for subsidized housing units," explained Jesse. There is, however, another program through the Maine State Housing Authority ([www.mainehousing.org](http://www.mainehousing.org)) called Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. For those who are eligible, MSHA will pay a portion of the rent directly to the landlord and the tenant will pay the rest. Please check the MSHA website for an application and information on this and other housing assistance programs.

Jesse and Joshua, bring a lot of experience to this project. Both brothers built their skills as young men in the construction field. Later, Jesse pursued a career as an oncology surgeon while Joshua acquired experience in many aspects of the housing and construction industry. In 2016, they decided to go into the real estate business together and started acquiring properties. They currently have about 20 apartments in Bath, Brunswick, and Waterville down from a high of 48. They have also bought distressed properties, renovated them, brought them up to code, and sold them. The brothers divide up business responsibilities with Joshua doing much of the construction management and Jesse handling the finances, taxes, and research.



In 2020, they learned about the property in Bowdoinham and bought it from a family trust. "Our sisters live in Bowdoinham and Richmond so we knew the area and saw the opportunity," Joshua said. It has taken awhile to get the building permits. The Town Planning Board in Bowdoinham provided a lot of input. "The process was well explained and was professional and respectful," Jesse adds. "It took about six months to clear their requirements." Other requirements from the State had to be met as well.

Given the housing crisis that Maine and many parts of the nation are facing, new construction is welcome and helps relieve the backlog of demand. The brothers outlined many of the roadblocks that builders face when trying to do new projects: zoning that limits density in a village area, push back from neighbors if a builder tries to offer subsidized housing, limits to multi-family dwellings in many neighborhoods, and legal costs if there are objections or delays. "The solution to the housing crisis is to just build more," Joshua mentioned. Navigating the requirements for new projects takes commitment, experience, and time.

"We are looking forward to being part of the community," Jesse adds. The brothers hope this project will provide attractive and needed housing for our town.

Jesse and Joshua can be contacted through [sammcoholdings@gmail.com](mailto:sammcoholdings@gmail.com).

## Bowdoinham Named AARP Maine's 2025 Beacon Community

By Maureen Booth

The Age Friendly Committee is proud to announce that Bowdoinham has been selected by AARP Maine as its 2025 Beacon Community. This annual recognition, established in 2021, honors one Age Friendly Community in Maine that demonstrates "innovative and sustainable efforts in responding to the needs and challenges of older adults."

We are deeply honored to receive this award, especially as it reflects the recommendations of our peers across Maine's Age Friendly network. Our progress would not be possible without the support of many key partners:

- The Town of Bowdoinham: We're grateful for the Town's early recognition that an aging population requires thoughtful investment. Chief among these is the creation of a shared position with Recreation to manage support services and respond to residents in need.
- UMaine Center on Aging: Their expertise, resources, guidance, and funding have been instrumental in launching and sustaining our programs. The Center continues to be a vital catalyst, helping us learn from other communities and stay ahead of emerging issues.
- AARP Maine: Through generous grant opportunities, AARP Maine has helped fund many of our initiatives - from advancing Universal Design to enhancing age-friendly amenities at the waterfront.
- Our Community: We are especially proud to do this work in a town where volunteerism thrives, and collaboration comes naturally.

The award will be formally presented at AARP Maine's Annual Meeting on October 24. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this honor possible.

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## Nicholas Downing, Blacksmith

By Wendy Rose

“The first time I tried blacksmithing in middle school, I was hooked,” says Nicholas Downing.

Nicholas has followed a steady path since then to have his own blacksmithing business here in Bowdoinham. After working for Brant and Cochran, an ax manufacturer, for 6 years, Nicholas was ready to launch on his own. He opened his workshop next to Pete Feeney’s Longbranch facility on Main Street in 2020 and has been expanding his client base ever since.



Nicholas makes a wide variety of tools and hardware as well as jewelry and household goods. The list of his products is long and fascinating: axes, hammers, kitchen implements, slicks, knives, froes, scorp, garden gates, locks, hinges, and all styles of timber framing tools. The names of the tools alone indicate how specialized he is with tools for specific projects. “If people are interested

in a project, they can ask me what they might need, and I am happy to work with them,” he says.

A narrow but significant niche opened up for Nicholas when a cymbal smith asked if he would make a dog head hammer for crafting cymbals. This successful commission set off word of mouth recommendations throughout the cymbal smithing world. Nicholas is now known throughout Asia, Europe, and South America as the person to go to for this very specialized hammer.

While word of mouth has been a keyway for Nicholas to expand his sales, he has other outlets as well. His website, [www.downingarts.com](http://www.downingarts.com) features all his products and is an easy place to purchase items. He also has a store on [etsy.com](http://etsy.com) and has attended shows and fairs. Nicholas prefers to focus on production at his shop and is not available to sell items or chat with customers there. He is happy however, to be in touch through his website, by phone at 207-358-0077 or by email at [downingarts@gmail.com](mailto:downingarts@gmail.com).

All of Nicholas’ efforts to diversify his products and find markets have brought solid economic returns. He has now reached his initial goal of providing half of his household budget needs. He gets a lot of help from Jen, his partner, with marketing, orders, and website maintenance. While he is thinking of future expansion and the possibility of teaching and taking on an apprentice, he is satisfied to be at this level of business activity for now.

“I am very happy to be here in Bowdoinham,” he says. “I love being able to canoe on the river and to be a part of the community.” Nicholas is yet another valued artisan contributing to Bowdoinham’s economy and reputation.

## Bowdoinham Holiday Festival Returns December 5 - 7

**A weekend of art, community, and the long-awaited reopening of the Old Town Hall.**

Bowdoinham’s annual Holiday Festival returns December 5 - 7, 2025, bringing together neighbors and visitors for a weekend filled with art, music, food, and hometown cheer. This year’s celebration marks a historic milestone - the reopening of the 200-year-old Old Town Hall, newly restored!

Once listed as one of Maine Preservation’s Most Endangered Historic Places, the Old Town Hall again welcomes the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans Holiday Sale, a juried showcase of fine arts and crafts from local makers. “This is more than a building reopening - it’s a revival of our creative community,” says Lynn Sternfels, Executive Director of the Guild.

Festivities begin Friday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m. with Santa’s arrival and tree lighting at the Fire Station, followed by the Guild of Artisans’ opening celebration at 6 p.m. with live music and food. Weekend highlights include local art at the Merrymeeting Arts Center Holiday Art Fair, Artistic Endeavors Studio Sale, and a live blacksmith demonstration at Downing Arts. Plus a wreath-making workshop, cookie-decorating party, Victorian Christmas Open House and Pony Parade!

Enjoy more merriment at the Makers Market at Dandelion Spring Farm starting at 11:00 a.m. on November 29 and the Community School Craft Fair on December 13 at 10:00 a.m.

For full details, see the insert or visit [www.bowdoinham.com/event/2025-holiday-festival](http://www.bowdoinham.com/event/2025-holiday-festival).

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# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Bowdoinham, Maine's 2025 Citizen of the Year Award Winner is: Maureen Booth

Each year, the Citizen of the Year Award honors an outstanding individual whose dedication, spirit, and generosity have made a lasting impact on the lives of Bowdoinham residents. This award celebrates someone who not only participates in town activities, but who also embodies a caring, charitable nature and a genuine commitment to making our community a better place to live.

This year, we are proud to present the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award to someone who truly exemplifies all these qualities and so much more.

Maureen Booth has spent her life improving the lives of others. After retiring from her role as Senior Research Associate at the University of Southern Maine, Maureen did not slow down she shifted gears and dove headfirst into serving her community in every way she could.

Whether it is through her work on the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, her support of the Bowdoinham Library, or her creation of programs like Rides in Neighbors' Cars, where she not only coordinates but also drives, Maureen's commitment is tireless and inspiring.

It is often said that if Maureen hears about a need, she is on it. And she does not stop at ideas she takes action. She has written and secured numerous grants to fund projects that directly benefit our town, including:

- A more accessible entrance for the library,



- Winter safety kits for older residents,
- The shade canopy right here in the park,

And countless other initiatives that quietly but powerfully improve our daily lives.

Maureen is busier now than ever, constantly seeking ways to uplift others and use her unique skills to make Bowdoinham a more accessible, supportive, and welcoming place.

So today, we honor Maureen Booth not just for what she has done, but for whom she is a compassionate leader, a tireless advocate, and a genuinely caring individual.

Please join us in congratulating Maureen Booth, the 2025 Bowdoinham Citizen of the Year!

## RAVE - Mobile Safety

Sagadahoc County transitioned from their old CodeRed system to a new platform in July of 2024.

RAVE is the new citizen alerting system that allows critical communications to be sent directly to the end-user's mobile device. These communications would include any local emergencies such as shelter-in-place warnings or emergency road closures as well as larger scale emergencies such as flood, hurricane, tropical storm, ice storm watches and warnings.

These alerts are configured by the user, which allows you to get only the alerts that are important to you. If you only want to know of something that affects Bowdoinham, then you would indicate that in your profile. If you regularly travel through the many Towns in Sagadahoc County and want to be aware

of emergencies that could affect any of those communities then you can indicate that as well.

You do need to register for RAVE alerts which you can do by visiting the following website – [www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SCEMA](http://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SCEMA) or by scanning the attached QR code below. If you are unable to register up or have any questions at all you can contact Sagadahoc County EMA office directly at 443-8210 or email [scema@sagadahoccountymaine.gov](mailto:scema@sagadahoccountymaine.gov).

These alerts could be very important for your safety and may be one of the few ways information can be quickly communicated to the community in an emergency. Please take the time to sign up.



## Bowdoinham's Best Pie Contest Update

By Susan Brown

2025 marks the 14th year that our town has sponsored a pie contest as part of Celebrate Bowdoinham. Once part of the Bowdoinham's Best Exhibition Hall staged in the former Merrymeeting Grange, then Merrymeeting Hall, the contest is now a stand-alone event. Judging takes place on Friday evening of Celebrate Bowdoinham, and pies are sold by the slice on Saturday to benefit a local town non-profit. This year over \$700 was raised for the Bowdoinham Community School's music programs. A large part of that went toward the refurbishing of donated band instruments that will be used by students whose families would not otherwise be able to provide them. Other funds will go towards the K-5 music program.

A significant portion of the \$700 comes from the sale of Carmen Serrier Zachau's gorgeous cornstalk arrangements that adorned the pie tent. The four arrangements were sold for \$25 each and are gracing several porches in town! A huge thank you to Carmen and Adelaida Gavia for decorating the pie tent with gorgeous florals from their own gardens. For those of you who remember, the beauty of the former Bowdoinham's Best Exhibition Hall was due to their tremendous efforts and many hours spent transforming the hall into a true celebration of Bowdoinham's gardeners, farmers, cooks, bakers, artists and crafters of all ages.

Thank you to all who submitted pies for the contest or just to sell.

- Cathy Curtis,  
1st place Lemon Chess Pie \$150
- Doris Kopf,  
2nd place Apple Pie \$100
- Jennifer Carroll,  
3rd place Pumpkin Pie \$50

Georgianna Cote, Crystal Lamoreau, Dan and Emilia Feldman, Hope Hutchinson, and Jane Connors all made fabulous pies for which we are extremely grateful! The carefully discerning judges had some hard decisions.

Next year's contest and sale/exhibit promises to be bigger and better! Your involvement is welcomed, whether it is helping to set up, break down, bake a pie to enter the contest or one just to sell by the slice.

Look for more information in the March Bowdoinham Newsletter!

## Fallinstar Farm

By Wendy Rose



Tucked away on Cote Lane off of the White Road is Fallinstar Farm. Georgianna Cote, our former Bowdoinham Postmistress, has created a magical haven there with her Christmas tree farm, a gift shop, picnic table, and retreat cabin. It is the perfect spot for folks to come and purchase their Christmas tree, shop for their door wreath, and find unique gifts.

Georgianna planned ahead for this retirement venture. Starting with 500 trees in 2006, she has been adding 150 trees a year to her Christmas tree farm ever since. Her research and experience have helped her to find the best areas on the farm to plant the trees and to keep the failures to around 30%. Planting begins sometime in April with trimming happening in July. The trees grow about 1" every year and need to be shaped as well as trimmed. Looking out over trees of all heights, I was impressed by how beautifully full and shaped they were.

By 2020, Georgianna had enough Balsam trees so she could be open to the public. She has also added other products in a small gift shop she built such as wreaths, swags, gifts, and table-top arrangements for the Christmas season. All of this adds up to a lovely Christmas experience for families. They can come to the farm and cut their own trees, buy from her selection of pre-cut trees, stay for some hot chocolate, and shop for items at her gift shop. The well-marked road leads to the field where there is plenty of parking and easy-access to the trees. "I love to see the happy faces of families who bring their lunch, shop for their tree, and enjoy eating at the picnic table or cabin," she says.

In the future, Georgianna would like to add maple syrup, honey, and baked items to her products. She has laid a good foundation for this expansion by getting her kitchen licensed, learning about bee keeping, and

tapping 6 trees for syrup.

Here are the details for the upcoming season: Fallinstar will be open on Sun, Nov. 30 from 10-2; Dec. 6 and 7 from 10-2, and Dec. 13 and 14 from 10-2 while supplies last. The farm is located off the southern end of White Road on Cote Lane. Follow the signs past the barn to the tree field where there will be parking. Watch for Georgianna's poster with details. She will also post on the Bowdoinham Friends and Family Facebook page. You can contact Georgianna at [fallinstarwreath06@gmail.com](mailto:fallinstarwreath06@gmail.com).

With her 3 dogs, her horse, Cruiser, and her farm venture, Georgianna has created the retirement life she was hoping for.

### State of Maine NOTICE OF ELECTION

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

**Referendum Election  
&  
Municipal Election**

**Municipality: Bowdoinham  
Voting District: 1-1**

**Voting Place Name:  
Bowdoinham Community School  
Voting Place Location:  
23 Cemetery Road, Bowdoinham**

**Polls Open at 8:00 A.M.  
Polls Close at 8:00 P.M.**

**Question on Ballot:**

**Article II:**

- **Two open positions for the Town's Select Board Members**
- **One open position for School Board Member**
- **Municipal Officers' Order**  
**\*Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to conduct winter maintenance for the 2025-2026 winter season on a 0.19-mile section of Pratt Road that was previously discontinued.**

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Bowdoinham Community Development Initiatives (BCDI)

Congratulations to Matthew Graham, owner of Total Decking Services LLC, the latest recipient in BCDI's Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan/Investment Program! This loan, funded by BCDI member investors, supports the purchase of a specialized digital scanner.

Matt, who lives in Bowdoinham with his wife and young daughter, is an attorney with a masters of finance and was formerly the COO of Lyman-Morse Boatbuilding. In 2024 Matt left Lyman-Morse and purchased the Bowdoinham-based business Total Decking, the leading installer and builder of marine decks in New England. When Matt purchased the business, the outgoing owner had reduced his capital spending and had avoided purchasing a digital scanner. Instead, alternative decking jobs were either turned down, or the templating was outsourced to a third party, which made the cost prohibitive for all but the biggest clients. While this strategy made sense for the outgoing owner, it is not a sustainable long-term solution for the business.



With the help of a loan from BCDI's Loan Program, Matt has been able to purchase a digital scanner used to produce scans of boat decks made from alternative decking products, which is critical to the continued success and expansion of his business. It is also a great tool to attract young employees who combine traditional woodworking techniques with modern technology like digital scanning and CNC machining.

This low-interest loan will be paid off by Total Decking Services over the next three years. Learn more about this business at their website: [www.totaldeckingservices.com](http://www.totaldeckingservices.com).

Congratulations again to Matt and his team at Total Decking Services!

Through its member-only loan program, "Neighbors Investing In Neighbors", BCDI aims to meet local needs with local capital. The fund's investment opportunities have provided over \$192,000 to support expanding businesses in Bowdoinham. While the Loan Program is coordinated by BCDI, the funds come directly from individual BCDI members who are the "investors." BCDI members who are interested in helping to invest in the growth and development of local businesses can provide financial support toward the loan provided to the business. In other words, residents who choose to support the local businesses seeking loan financing will lend their personal money to the business. BCDI's role is to coordinate and administer the process between the business seeking the loan and the numerous individual investors who help to fund a loan in full.

Interested in applying for a loan or learning more about the process? Interested in investing in BCDI's next offering? Please check out our website at [www.bcdimaine.org](http://www.bcdimaine.org) for more information or reach out by email to [bcdi.maine@gmail.com](mailto:bcdi.maine@gmail.com).

BCDI's Annual Meeting, held at 6PM on Monday, December 8th at Merrymeeting Hall, is another great opportunity to learn about BCDI's Loan Program! All are welcome - members and non-member, alike, so please join us for a drink and some snacks as we fill you in on the activities of the past year, as well as conversations about the directions BCDI will take in the year ahead. The year's program will also include a special presentation about our Loan Program.

This fall, BCDI received support through the McKean Center for Common Good to employ Sharifa, a Bowdoin College student, to produce a reference manual and supplemental online materials that describe BCDI's Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan Program from its inception to its current operation. Despite being in operation for thirteen years, such a document has never existed! The goal of this document and of our student intern is to improve our internal efficiency and ultimately have a tangible way to share our unique program with other communities. As BCDI's Loan Program has grown in popularity over the years and received unyielding community support (thank you!), we hope to share this success throughout Maine.

Sharifa is also willing to produce short videos and infographics that can be used on our

website and social media pages, which we hope will broaden the awareness of our Loan Program locally and state-wide. By December, we expect to have a first draft completed of our Guide To Starting Your Own Neighbors Investing In Neighbors Loan Program. This is conveniently in line with our Annual Meeting, where we will be delighted to share our progress. And Sharifa will attend the meeting herself! Please come learn more and show your support! We look forward to seeing you on December 8th!

### HELP STARTS HERE: 2-1-1 MAINE



Get connected to resources in your area. It's free, easy & confidential.

- Dial 2-1-1 or go online at [www.211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org).

**General Assistance** provides immediate help to eligible people who do not have enough money for basic needs, such as rent/mortgage, food, heating fuel, and other items that are essential to maintain themselves or their families.

Bowdoinham also has a **Town Heat Fund** that is made available through generous donations from our community.

An application is required to apply for either of these programs. For an application, you may call for an appointment for General Assistance – 207-666-3504.

For additional resources, you may call:

- KVCAP (LiHeap) – 800-542-8227
- Warm They Neighbor – 207-729-1161
- DHHS Emergency Assistance – 855-797-4357
- Bowdoinham Food Pantry – 207-751-7779
- SEARCH – Maine Senior Services – 207-837-8810 ([www.ccmaine.org/SEARCH](http://www.ccmaine.org/SEARCH))
- Maine Abuse Hotline – 1-866-834-HELP (4357)
- Mental Health Crisis Hotline – 888-568-1112

Or visit:

- [www.sagama@sagcounty.com](mailto:www.sagama@sagcounty.com)
- [www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/general-assistance](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/general-assistance)
- [www.mainehousing.org/](http://www.mainehousing.org/)
- Your utility company may also provide programs to defer utility payments.
  - o CMP 800-686-4004
  - o Citizens Energy 877-563-4645

## Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Jen Kelley

### Art, Community, and Connection

*"Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire."* – Gustav Mahler

The end of the year is a season rich with tradition. From family rituals to cultural celebrations, these practices - big or small - carry deep symbolic meaning. They might be as simple as lighting a candle or as grand as a community gathering. However you celebrate, we hope our offerings can become a meaningful part of your traditions. After all, bringing people together and fostering a sense of belonging is a tradition always worth repeating.

We close out our season with the following exhibits and workshops.

### EXHIBITS:

#### Trees of Light

**Evelyn Dean** returns to MAC. She'll be showcasing wood-burned images and paintings focusing on trees, shadows, and light.

Opening reception: Friday, Nov. 7 (6-8pm)  
Additional Viewings: Saturdays, Nov. 8, 15, 22, and 29 (10am-2pm)

#### Window Stars Workshop with Asia Roberge

November 8 (4:00-5:30pm) \$20

Welcome in the holiday season with colorful window stars. Made from folded kite paper, these magical decorations will illuminate your home and also make lovely gifts. Every skill level welcome. Suitable for adults and kids 8 and up (younger children are welcome but may need adult assistance).

#### Candle Making Workshop with Asia Roberge

November 15 (4:00 - 5:30pm) \$30

Come spend a relaxing afternoon making beeswax candles. We will be hand-dipping

taper candles of your chosen shape and color design. Suitable adults and kids 10 and up (younger children are welcome but may need adult assistance). Join us for this slow yet oh so rewarding craft! Deadline to sign up: 11/1

### MAC's Annual Holiday Craft Fair is Back!

Stop by for some unique holiday gifts at our 3rd annual Craft Fair!  
Friday, December 5th (5 - 8pm)  
Saturday, December 6th (10am - 3pm)



### Pottery Open Studio (ON-GOING)

Mondays and Wednesdays (6 - 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

### The gift that keeps on GIVING...

Looking for that special **stocking stuffers?** Consider the **Open Studio Pottery Punch card!** It's available for purchase on our website at [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org).

And if you're looking for end of year donations, consider giving to MAC! All donations go towards **THE HERON FUND**, our scholarship fund for all MAC organized studio programs and events. Donations can be made on our website and allow us to remove financial barriers for program participation and ensure Art for Everyone. MAC is a Non-Profit and donations are tax deductible. Donations accepted on our website [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org).

### Lastly,

As we wrap up an incredible year, we want to thank you for being such an essential part of this amazing community. Your support and enthusiasm make everything we do possible. We look forward to 2026 with excitement and remain committed to bringing "Art for Everyone" to Bowdoinham and beyond.



### Merrymeeting Arts Center

We are getting ready for the Bowdoinham Holiday Festival. Get into the holiday spirit with us!

Join the Merrymeeting Arts Center for a by donation snowflake-making event on November 23rd at 1:00-3:00 P.M. in our studio at 9 Main Street in Bowdoinham. This event is for all ages!

**Calling all local businesses!** We are also looking for partners to display our community-made snowflakes. If you're looking to add some holiday cheer to your window, email us at [merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com).



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**HATCH POINT**  
WEDDING & EVENTS VENUE

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Cemetery News

Hello again! The BCAC (Bowdoinham Cemetery Advisory Committee) has had a busy autumn. In September, we completed assessment of Gr48 Pratt Cemetery on the River Road with Keeper Andrew Skolfield. It is located a little distance behind his home and contains the stones of his ancestors; Pratts, and Soames (a Pratt daughter and her son). There are 11 headstones, 4 footstones, and some detached bases, all down or leaning against trees, 2 broken. With Andrew's help we were able to read all the stones and remap their locations, as there has been much displacement since Marilyn Hinkley's map. A proper fence is needed. The Keeper with help of friends and family is able to keep a mowed ROW, clean out brush and debris, remove saplings and threatening trees, and build a fence. He needs a sign from the town, some fencing materials, and most of all professional assistance and training in stone restoration and resetting. After this is completed, a group of volunteers to help clean the stones would be appreciated, hopefully next summer. This is a very special cemetery with earliest death dates in 1843.

In September, Linda and Elaine reassessed and did "short forms" in GR 44 Work Cemetery and Gr 63 Sturtevant Plot. Kathryn Wille

## Committee Members Wanted

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on our town? Join one of Bowdoinham's many committees! Your insights and contributions are invaluable to shaping our community's future.

Whether you're interested in preserving our history, enhancing our parks, help residents age in place, or increasing economic development, there's a committee that needs your expertise. By serving on a committee, you'll have the opportunity to connect with like-minded neighbors, share your ideas, and make a tangible difference in Bowdoinham.

We are looking for volunteers to join the following Committees and Boards:

- Board of Appeals
- Finance Advisory Committee
- Community Development Advisory Committee
- Comprehensive Planning Committee

Let's work together to build a stronger, more vibrant Bowdoinham for all. To learn more about our committees please visit: [www.bowdoinham.com/page/town-government](http://www.bowdoinham.com/page/town-government). Or to apply, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/5evx6j7h>.

assisted us in the Work Cemetery at the end of Spring Street. This is a lovely spot overlooking the Cathance River, with a well-built rock wall enclosing a 36' by 36' area. There are only 2 small child stones, displaced and leaning against the wall closest to Spring Street. Historically there were more stones and probing should be done, as well as research in Town records. Gr 63 Sturtevant Plot on RT 201, just North of Hornbeck Cross Road is beautifully maintained by Keeper Linda Hornbeck, who added a sign. It only needs some chain to connect the cement posts which border it. It is very small with only 3 headstones, all erect and 2 footstones. Gr24 Brown's Point Cemetery cleanup scheduled for September 27, was cancelled for this year, but we will try again next fall.

In October William and Patricia Oh became the Volunteer Coordinators for East Bowdoinham. They and the hosts David Paris and Julie Cox oversaw a cleanup at Gr 55 Beech Hill Cemetery at the end of Centers Point Road. Also, in October there was a program to honor Marilyn Hinkley, Frank Connors.

Albert Stehle and Linda Williams who have all contributed immeasurably to the awareness, documentation, and knowledge of the Bowdoinham Cemeteries. The event included a talk and slide show by Frank and cider and donuts.

The "short form" mentioned above, is an abbreviated assessment which provides information needed by our Data Manager, Peter Mendall to complete a spread sheet to present to the Select Board in December to specify the conditions and needs of all the cemeteries. November plans include a Keepers Meeting for the Carding Machine Road Keepers.

Anyone else interested, please contact Elaine Diaz. Enjoy your Holidays!

Nina Mendall, Chair: 207-666-8838, [njmendall@comcast.net](mailto:njmendall@comcast.net)

Linda Temple, Volunteer Coordinator: 207-666-3343, [wwwells9@myfairpoint.net](mailto:wwwells9@myfairpoint.net)

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

William Oh, Volunteer Coordinator: 207-798-2316, [hieyoung.oh@gmail.com](mailto:hieyoung.oh@gmail.com)



## Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2025 – 2026 Zoom Speaker Series

7:00 PM LOG IN LINK POSTED AT [WWW.FOMB.ORG](http://WWW.FOMB.ORG) PRIOR TO EACH PROGRAM

**OCTOBER 08 Voter ID; Solving No Problems**

*Maine Auditor and Shemma Bellows, Maine Sec. of State*

**NOVEMBER 12 A Steady State Economy for Environmental Protection**

*Brian Czech, Exec. Director, Center for Advancement of the Steady State Economy*

**DECEMBER 10 Return to the Sky**

*Tina Morris, Ornithologist, Wildlife Biologist, Author*

**JANUARY 14 PFAS Distribution in Casco and Merrymeeting Bays**

*Chris Appli, Sr. Scientist, Bigelow Lab for Ocean Sciences*

**FEBRUARY 11 Quiet=Healthier: Addressing Community Noise**

*Jaimie Banks, Founder and President, Quiet Communities*

**MARCH 11 SLIME ME**

*Karen Coluzzi, Entomologist, ME Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

**APRIL 08 New England Horses, Sugar, and Slavery in the 18th Century**

*Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Prof. of History, Roger Williams Univ.*

**MAY 13 Indigenous Maritime Culture in N. America**

*Lincoln Paine, Maritime Historian*

**FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE**

**Sponsored by: Friends of Merrymeeting Bay**

Contact Ed Friedman, 666-3372 or [edfomb@comcast.net](mailto:edfomb@comcast.net) for more information.

[www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org](http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org)



Isabella-Zoe Ciolfi

## Morning Jo

By Jo Werther

### Ready Or Not, Here They Come: The Holidays.

The holidays. Holy-days for many, but hellish days for some. You might be surprised to know how many people struggle at this time of year. If you're one of them, for whatever reason, rest assured that you are not alone.

### ONLINE Option for Property Tax Payment

Did you know that you can pay your Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes ONLINE?

Simply go to [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) and click on **Online Services**, then click **Online Tax Payment**. Scroll down to **Bowdoinham Payment Portal** and follow directions.

For current year (2026) tax bills we accept three online payment method:

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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 liened properties, payments must be cash or bank check and cannot be paid online. Checks are accepted via mail, please do not mail cash.

\*All payments made online and in person are applied to the oldest outstanding balance.

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

### "Just Say No to Forced Jolly-ness."

Whatever holidays you grew up with and however happy or not your experiences with them were, there's no denying that this is the season of "forced jolly-ness." Images of togetherness, joy, and peace are projected, larger than life, all around us. It can be overwhelming. Despite expectations to the contrary, it really is okay if you're not feeling it.

### Ho, Ho, Ho! Harrumph.

The holiday season feels mixed for a lot of us. And to make matters worse, most people who struggle at this time of year carry the added burden of believing they're supposed to feel some other way. They tend to suffer in

silence, which only adds to their feelings of sadness and isolation.

### Presence is the Best Present.

Whether you're struggling in this season or wanting to support someone else who is, it's all about how to "be there" for yourself, for others, or both. Your presence is the very best gift you can give. The more present you are, the more you give permission to others to do the same.

### Honor All Of Your Feelings.

You have a right to all of your feelings. The trick is to balance the hard ones with the here-and-now pleasant ones that might surprise you if you're not trying so hard to push the other ones away.

### Be There... For Yourself and for Others.

Let your family and friends know how you're doing. Reach out to anyone you think may be struggling. As always, remember to breathe.

Seasons' greetings, dear Bowdoinham!

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

## Dandelion Spring Farm

Thank you to everyone who attended a taco night or other community event at the farm this past summer. Simply being at a table together, or lingering in the yard, often with good food in our hands, simply feels like the best way to be in community. Differences in politics, lifestyles, and backgrounds fade away when we quietly live into simply all being here together.

Looking ahead, our 3rd annual **Holiday Market** is on **Saturday, November 29th from 11am-3pm**. Celebrating Maine farmers, crafts, and artisans, the curated collection of vendors includes talent from Bowdoinham. Come say hello to Turning Arts Studio and Bloodroot Metal Jewelry. The market is a benefit for Maine Needs and there will be a raffle for beautiful donations from all of the vendors.

We're open to ideas of what ways you'd like to gather this winter. We're considering a series of potlucks and talks by local authors. Please send us your feedback: [EventsDandelionSpringFarm@gmail.com](mailto:EventsDandelionSpringFarm@gmail.com).

If you're looking for a place for an off site family gathering or holiday party this winter, we'd love to host you. - Beth

## Dog Licenses

### Do I need to register my dog?

Maine State Law requires that any dog six (6) months of age or older that spends more than 10 days within the State must be licensed even if the dog is licensed in another State. Dog owners must obtain the annual license from the Town Clerk's Office in the Town where the dog is kept, with the license period running from October 15th to January 31st to avoid a late fee.

### What are the fees?

The fee to license a dog is \$11.00, if the dog is capable of producing young. Or \$6.00 if the dog has been spayed or neutered.

*PLEASE NOTE: Dogs licensed after January 31st of any year are charged the annual fee PLUS an additional \$25.00 late fee. The late fee is mandated by State Law and may not be waived for any reason.*

\*\*When licensing your dog, current rabies information must be presented if not already on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Please provide new rabies information if your dog has been immunized since the last time you registered him/her. If your dog has been spayed or neutered, please provide the Clerk with a veterinarians certificate of surgery.\*\*

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk, Tina Magno at 207-666-5531, ext. 101.

You can also register your dog online at: [www.maine.gov/dacflahw/animal\\_welfare/doglicense](http://www.maine.gov/dacflahw/animal_welfare/doglicense)

## Nazarene News

The passage of fall may mean that our steeple did not get done. At the time of writing, the contractor was behind on his projects, so stayed tuned for updates. It will get done!

We are happy to announce that we have received the blessing of the appropriate persons and will be resuming the annual Thanksgiving pie sale, 8am to 7pm (or the pies run out) on Tuesday, November 25, at the fire department. The proceeds will be shared between our Compassionate Ministries Fund and the Bowdoinham Fire Department. There are many ways to help! Please contact Natausha at 207-751-4014 if you would like to do any of the following: Volunteer, donate fully baked pies for the sale, or donate any pie ingredients (because Natausha and her crew like to bake and they do it well!) such as disposable pie tins with or without lids (please!), plastic wrap, flour, sugar, brown sugar, Crisco, vanilla, molasses, spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, all spice, etc., canned pumpkin, pudding mixes, graham cracker pre-made crusts, graham crackers, flavored Jello mixes, chocolate: chips, baking chips, baking cocoa, etc., parchment paper, navy beans or blind baking beans, cheese cloth, pie stands (can just be a loan, but I'm sure we'll need them for fridge storage the week of), butter, eggs, frozen fruit (blueberries, mixed berries, strawberries, etc.), apples, buttermilk, cream cheese, whole milk, fresh pumpkins, heavy whipping cream, and whipped cream/Cool Whip. Do you have something you want to see on the table to bring home to your family? Let Natausha know!

Fall and winter 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.

The church is pleased to host another Victorian Christmas Open House. Come enjoy wassail and cookies amid the sights and sounds of an old-fashioned Christmas. Enjoy some peace and reflection at the beginning of

what can be a hectic time. The church will be open December 5th from 6-8pm, December 6th from 10am-3pm, and December 7th from 12-3pm. Of course, anyone is welcome to join us for our services on Sunday at 11am. We have a Christmas Sunday Brunch on December 21st at 9:45am in our fellowship hall.

Interested in learning more about the Bible but do not 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 or to sign up.

Cannot get out to the service? We are livestreaming on YouTube. The link is usually also available on Facebook 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.

## The Ice and Smelt Festival Returns

We're excited to announce the return of the Ice and Smelt Festival, happening the weekend of **February 27 – March 1!** This year's festival will feature a variety of indoor and outdoor activities throughout town, designed to keep you and your family active and engaged during the winter season.

There will be a host of programs sponsored by the Bowdoinham Public Library, Recreation Department and Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT). With more to come!

Here's a preview of what's scheduled so far:

- **Ice Skating** at the Recreation Fields rink on Ridge Road
- **Sledding** on the hill near the school
- **Movie Night** at the Old Town Hall
- **Equipment Rentals:** Ice skates and cross-country skis available to borrow from the Town Office
- **Snowshoe Story Walk** hosted by Bowdoinham Public Library at Cathance Meadow Trails
- **Owl Prowl at Dusk** led by KELT at Cathance Meadow Trails

Bundle up, bring your sense of adventure, and join us for a weekend of winter wonder!

## Cathance Fitness Center

**Where:** Cathance Fitness Center is located at 1201 Main St. Bowdoin, Maine. Website: [cathancefitness.com](http://cathancefitness.com).

*-Please notice the **links across the top** to help you with membership choices and classes.*

**Sign up tip:** After each family member digitally signs a membership waiver, click on "memberships" to add your membership choice to the cart. **Note:** We are able reactivate your old cards!

**Please note, since 2022,** we no longer allow members to bring **guests**, even for basketball in the gym. Everyone must sign up for a membership to use the facility. Scanning your card to enter is important as we have a locked facility. One-month memberships are available!

**Friendly reminder:** If your keycard doesn't work but checked that your membership is up-to-date, please call 666-5651 ext. 1000, 8-5pm - Mon. - Fri.

**Community Health Message:** November is American Diabetes Month. When you increase "insulin sensitivity" your body utilizes your own production of insulin efficiently.

### How Do I Do That?

1. Interrupt prolonged periods of sitting with light activity to benefit blood glucose. Contract your muscles with desk or chair exercises or go for a very short walk. This decreases the effect of being inactive!

2. Fiber helps insulin sensitivity AND improves cholesterol levels along with many other benefits! Most people need 25-30g per day but ask your doctor what is best for you and how to slowly increase your current intake. Keeping your blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure under control will reduce your risk.

### December Holiday Stressors?

1. Letting go of "Perfect." Focus on what you can do vs what you cannot do. If you just don't have time without risking the Joy of what is most important, it is ok to reset and let it go.

2. In between gatherings: Start your day with some water as well as between meals/snacks continuing with fiber choices and anti-inflammatory food choices. Define 2 or 3 of your favorite holiday treats/drinks and give yourself permission to have them. This helps with planning for the treats you really look forward to and reduce "accidental junk food."

## News from the Guild of Artisans

By Lynn Sternfels

Twenty two years ago, a small group of local artists came together to form the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans. The intent was to be a resource to each other and to promote their art. In 2004, the Guild had their first show and sale in the Town Hall. Building on the success of that event, the Guild continued to host a Holiday Show which eventually morphed into the town sponsored Holiday Weekend that includes events all over town. When the town hall was closed for structural safety issues, Merrymeeting Hall graciously opened it's doors and we were able to reinvent ourselves in that space.

With renovations to the town hall nearing completion, we are pleased to announce that we will part of the launch of the reopening of this much loved historical building. Keeping with our tradition, our show will be the first weekend of December and hours are as follows:

**Friday December 5th 6-8**

**Saturday December 6th 10-3**

**Sunday December 7th 10-3**

We are planning an opening on Friday night with live music, food and beverage.

Twenty artists will fill the hall with offerings that include: fiber arts, pottery, metal work, jewelry, woodworking and furniture, glass, book arts and mosaics. There will also be specialty items like hand embroidered hats and fascinators. In addition, a group of artists will be showing their work at the Cathance River

Gallery. See fine art paintings and encaustics at this location as well as other work. The hours at the gallery will be opening 1 hour earlier on Friday and closing at 4pm on Sat. and Sun.

We invite you to come out to see the work of your local artists and perhaps buy the perfect holiday gift for someone else or for yourself.

To learn more, visit our website <https://www.bowdoinhamartisans.com>, and our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

## The Giving Tree

The giving season is quickly approaching, and we will be starting preparations here at the Town Office.

If you would like to help bring some holiday cheer to our fellow residents all you need to do is choose a gift tag from the giving tree starting December 1st. The gift tags will have all the pertinent information that is needed. We ask that you bring the unwrapped gift (along with the gift tag attached) back to the Town Office by Wednesday, December 17th.

The purpose of this tree is to help any Bowdoinham Family member who may be in need this time of year. Please know that the name(s) are kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions or know someone who may need help this season, please call Tina at the Town Office at 666-5531.



## Public Library

By Kate Cutko

The seasons are changing and as the temperature drops, many of us are turning to eBooks and Audio books that we can borrow and enjoy at home without coming to the library. We invite you all to become users of the CloudLibrary. All you need is a smart phone, or tablet and your library card number.

### CloudLibrary on Apple and Android Smart Phones and Tablets

Follow the instructions below to get started on your **Apple** or **Android** device.

**Step One:** Open the **Apple App Store** (on Apple devices) or the **Google Play Store** (on Android devices) and search for CloudLibrary. Tap **GET** or **INSTALL**, wait for the download to complete, and then open the app from your home screen.

**Step Two:** Once the app is open, connect by selecting United States, then Maine, then Bowdoinham Public Library. Enter your 14-digit library card number (with no spaces) as your username. Call the library if you have lost your card and we will give you the number over the phone.

**Step Three:** Select the magnifying glass to search for a specific title or author, or the menu icon in the top left corner to see featured collections or browse by genre. Titles with a blue headphones icon are Audiobooks, and titles without this icon are eBooks. You can filter results to show you just Audiobooks, eBooks, and/or books that are currently available. Tap a book cover to read more about a book and listen to or read a sample.

**Step Four:** Tap a book cover and then select **Borrow** to borrow it now, or **Hold** to be added to the wait list. Select **My Books** in the menu to access your current items. Titles are checked out to you for three weeks and will be returned automatically. No need to remember the due date. No renewals and no late fees. You may borrow three items at once. The app will remember where you left off each time you read or listen to the book.

### Cloud Library on Kindles

Follow instructions on the CloudLibrary website to get started on your **Kindle Fire**. (Due to Amazon's policies CloudLibrary does not work with any Kindle device besides the Kindle Fire.)

If you encounter any problems, call the library for guidance, or bring in your device for hands on assistance.

## NOT ALL WRAPPING IS RECYCLABLE!

If you choose single-use wrapping materials, please do not add any paper with foil, glitter, or coatings to recycling as well as foil and mylar wrapping. Bows and ribbons can either be REUSED or added to household trash.

**The Solid Waste and Recycling Department will continue to provide opportunities to positively impact waste efficiency and Bowdoinham's 38-year recycling tradition.**

FMI visit:  
[www.bowdoinham.com/SWR](http://www.bowdoinham.com/SWR)



## Celebrate Bowdoinham

The weather was great, the parade had lots of participants, and flow of participants was steady throughout the day. Festivities started with the annual Chicken Run. The winners of the 5K were Molly Seaward (also won last year) and Brian Way, in the Female and Male Divisions, respectively. This was followed by a petting zoo at the recreation fields from 6-7pm and an outdoor cinema hosted by the Recreation Department of Charlotte's Web to go along with the agricultural theme for Celebrate 2025.

Saturday events kicked off at 10am with the parade. As always there were lots of tractors in the parade, and even more on display in the park. The parade winner was Six River Farm, passing out a generous amount of fresh produce to the crowd on their fall bounty adorned tractor. Thank you to all the Bowdoinham business and organizations that joined the parade, and a shout out to the farmers who handed out enough produce for families to bring home a stir fry.

Produce kept flying at 11am with Merrymeeting Arts Center's 7th annual Zucchini Race at the skatepark. Congratulations to winners Nora West, Deliah West, Jemma Mussomelli, and Paul Tabor.

Following the parade, Maureen Booth was presented with this year's Citizen of the Year award by members of the Selectboard. Family friendly acts and bands entertained the crowds at the gazebo, meanwhile patrons visited the more than 28 vendors, local businesses, and organizations on display. While, kids scrambled across lobster crates, played carnival games and jumped around in the inflatables. Other activities included a petting zoo, story walk, balloon twisting and face painting and a wandering magician to entertain the kids.

As always, the community support poured into the numerous charity drives. The Old Town Hall raised \$3,142 between the silent auction and the 50/50 raffle up from \$575 in 2024. Kabayan Philippine Food Truck, Morning Moose, and Sylvester's returned and the Bowdoinham Recreation Department hosted another fundraiser BBQ, which raised about \$900, up \$200 from last year. Meanwhile, the Bowdoinham Food Pantry offered mocktails raising \$1,000. Volunteers sold off pie slices from their annual pie

contest raising \$700 for the Bowdoinham Community School music program. Kathy Curtis won best pie with her lemon chess pie. And thank you to the Mount Ararat 2026 Senior Class for staffing the kids' activities and hats off on raising \$300 at the dunk tank for your senior class trip.

The afternoon's feature event, the infamous KenDucky Derby which was a hoot with Wayne Dorr calling out the play-by-play. Congratulations to Megan Carr who had the fastest duck and Ken Saindon who got a prize for the slowest duck. Other prizes awarded during the day included the Recreation Department's Portland Sea Dog tickets drawing won by Eve Peabody, and Kelly Hodson won the Town Hall 50/50 raffle. Following these announcements live music continued. Leading up to dusk, performing artist Liza May gave a mesmerizing fire dancing performance with Blue Buzzards at the gazebo before the fireworks lit up the night's sky.

Celebrate Bowdoinham was filled with fun, entertainment, amusement, and gratitude for the Town we call home. We have lots of people to thank for helping to make Celebrate Bowdoinham such a wonderful community event, so please join us in thanking the following people and businesses:

- All Participants & Vendors
- Bowdoinham Fire Department - Lobster Crate Races, Setup/Take Down
- Cliff Daigle – Event Security
- Kate Cutko – Story Walk
- Dance Alignment – Performance
- Earl Bigelow – Sound Systems
- Five County Credit Union – Sponsoring Facepainting & Balloon Twisting
- Jacinta Wilkins – Parade
- Jay Read – Strolling Magician
- Liza May – Performances
- Merrymeeting Arts Center – Zucchini Races
- Mount Ararat Class of 2026 – Running Kids Activities
- Susan Brown – Pie Contest
- Town Staff – Arthur Frizzle, Bob Ridgell, Bryan Benson, Cassie Hensley, Hunter Magno, Jacinta Wilkins, Jason Lamoreau, Jason Lorrain, Kelly Hodson, Kevin Hoefle, Lisa Curtis, Nicole Briand, Oliver Terillie, Thomas Egan, Tina Magno, and Tobey Frizzle
- Wayne Dorr – KenDucky Derby Announcements

### Silent Auctions Donors -

- Dorothy Bowie
- Banana Banner
- Bill Stanton/Cathance River Gallery
- Bowdoinham Public Library
- Camp Di Fiori
- Cobb's Repair Service
- Counterpoint Bread LLC
- Country Fare Inc
- CZ Plumbing
- Echo Ridge K9, LLC
- Elaine Graviett
- Harts Way Desgins
- Holloway Concrete
- Jane Page-Conway Fine Arts
- Jim Broome/Grampa's Woodshop
- Just Playing With Glass
- K & G Hardware
- Kaleele Sarkins-Ahlers
- Make It Sew LLC
- Northeast Bank
- Rocky Ridge Orchard
- Six River Farm
- Smitty's Cinema
- Sunset View Farm
- Temple Well Service
- Tiffany Hemond/Escape Light Creations
- Tina Magno
- Turning Arts Studio
- Wayne Sanford/Inside Firewood
- Scott McIntire/Old Goat
- Six River Farm
- Smitty's Cinema
- Tidewater Tree Care
- Tina Magno
- Top Tech Auto

### Fireworks Sponsors -

- Androscoggin Bank
- Anonymous
- Annette Mott & David Engler
- AV Systems of Maine
- Bilodeau Insurance Agency, Inc
- Cobb's Repair Service
- CZ Plumbing
- Drummond Woodsum
- Eastern Star
- FHC
- Holloway Concrete Construction, LLC
- Kabayan Philippine Foods
- Kate Brinsmade & Tom Cary
- Lighthouse Community Care, LLC
- Northeast Medical Practice Consultants
- O'Farrell Energy
- Pine Tree Engineering, Inc
- Sagadahoc County Republicans

*continued next page*

## Merrymeeting Dance Alinement

By George Oliver

The Merrymeeting Dance Alinement is offering **free** line dancing lessons starting Tuesday, October 7.

Why line dancing? You don't need a partner, for one. It's fantastic for your mind and body. It's fun. And the act of dancing in sync with other people is a satisfying act of community spirit and cooperation. Best of all - no one will judge your two left feet, because we're all learning!

We'll hold the lessons from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday from the beginning of October through the end of November, at Merrymeeting Hall in Bowdoinham, 21 Main Street.

That's just 30 minutes for 8 nights, a small commitment for a large amount of physical fun and mental health. We always have munchies, too, sometimes healthy ones. Did I mention it was free?

No experience is necessary, and all ages from 10-100 are welcome. Likewise, no commitment is required for every week, but note that there is some progression in difficulty through the 8 sessions. We play songs and do line dances of all styles and eras, so wear any clothing you want to.

Come out the first week or two and see what you think about "cutting a rug" with us, as the old dancing expression went. Actually, this could be the start of your cutting a really awesome rug.

## Winter is Coming!

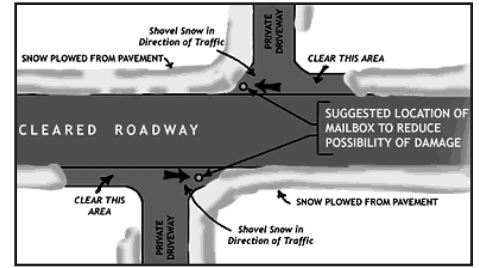
Autumn seems to go quicker than it arrives. Soon temperatures will drop, and snow will fall. Here are a few things to keep in mind as we all prepare for the winter ahead.

### Culverts:

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).

### Snow in your Driveway

The Town's crew is not done clearing the roads of snow, slush, and ice until well after storms have stopped. To get to clear pavement, the plow trucks scrape the roads after the storm. This results in snow and slush being pushed back into driveways after they have been cleared. One way to help eliminate this issue for your driveway is to clear an area on the right side of your driveway (the right side if you are entering your driveway). If this is done, the snow and slush being scraped off the road will be deposited in this area and not into your driveway entrance. See illustration to the above right:



### Courtesy sand pile

The Town maintains a courtesy sand pile for residents at the Maily Waterfront Park, next to the bathroom. Please keep to the two five-gallon bucket limit per visit. It is very important that we stay within this limit to assure there is sand for everyone. No pickup truck loads or commercial haulers.

## Celebrate Bowdoinham

*continued from page 12*

- Sitalines
- Six River Farm
- Top Tech Auto Repair
- Taurus Systems
- Temple Well Service, Inc.
- Tourtelotte Excavating
- Top Tech Auto

## CPC Open House

**Open Space Planning Open House:  
Nov. 12 @ 6PM - All are welcome!**

Bowdoinham residents value the town's rural character and natural beauty, as reflected in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. To help protect open spaces, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) will be working over the next 2-3 years on creating an Open Space Plan through writing, research, and public outreach.

We're inviting residents from all walks of life to get involved. Whether you're passionate about conservation, planning, or simply love Bowdoinham, we'd love to meet you!

Join us for an Open House on November 12 at 6PM at the Bowdoinham Town Office.

Learn how you can contribute, ask questions, and connect with others who care about our town's future. The CPC also holds regular public meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6PM. For more information, visit [www.bowdoinham.com/cpc](http://www.bowdoinham.com/cpc).

# TIDEWATER TREE CARE

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

[tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com](mailto:tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com)  
**207 737-9365**

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Thoughts on Food and Cooking

*"I can't afford to eat!"*

By George Oliver

Buying groceries these days has been eye-opening, and worse, it has been wallet opening.

There are a lot of websites that help you save money on food, and much of their advice is simple but sound: buy what is on sale, make a meal plan and grocery list, compare brands and unit costs, cook fresh food. Do a search and you will find many other good suggestions.

As for that last suggestion, I have always tried to encourage cooking fresh meals over buying prepared foods, but I know that it is not always possible or practical.

Even so, given the cost of food, it might be worth including a meal or two each week that uses only fresh or minimally processed foods. Let us see what that could save.

Imagine preparing a meal for four of ground beef patties, green beans, carrots, and potatoes. Let us see what you could save at the grocery store doing it all from scratch. As it turns out, savings depend on what you buy.

**Ground Meat.** A pound of 85% ground beef was \$5 at Market Basket. A pound of the same meat formed into four patties was \$6.50. So, you would be paying \$1.50 or 30% more for the store to do what amounted to 5 minutes of your time.

**Green beans:** a pound of fresh green beans was \$2 at Hannaford. Surprisingly, a can of store-brand green beans, liquid drained off, worked out to \$1.50/lb., and a pound of frozen green beans was \$1.60, so both were cheaper than fresh beans. Quality is a factor to consider canned beans are always mushy, but they are cheaper than fresh.

**Carrots:** a drained can of Del Monte sliced carrots at Market Basket recently worked out to \$3/lb. In contrast, a pound bag of fresh Bunny Luv carrots at Market Basket was 99¢, which when peeled, sliced, and cooked yielded 13.5 oz. In other words, the (also overcooked) name-brand canned carrots were almost 3X as expensive as fresh ones. Yikes.

**Potatoes:** a 2-pound package of frozen French fries came out to about \$2/lb. A 10-pound bag of fresh local potatoes came out to about 60¢/lb.

**Meal Comparison:** If you made this imaginary meal of four servings using pre-formed burgers, canned carrots, frozen beans, and frozen fries, it would cost about \$15. The



equivalent meal using hand-formed burgers, fresh beans, fresh carrots, and fresh potatoes would have cost about \$10, a considerable savings.

If you make this shift in your buying and cooking habits just once a week, you will save a couple hundred dollars a year.

The dilemma with fresh food prep is always time versus cost. Many of us are squeezed for time with work, young kids, errands, chores, crises that arise - buying prepared foods is obviously time saving.

Nonetheless, letting a food factory or store prepare your food in any way will usually cost you more. Of course, you have to do some shopping comparisons to see what the savings would be. And sales on any item would change the equation.

So, the decision you have to make is how much your time and mental energy is worth.

Even so, any tilt toward unprocessed food, no matter how small, is a tilt toward saving money.

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

## WINTER IS ALMOST HERE

The Town is accepting donations for the Heat Assistance Fund. This fund is used to provide a vital resource to our residents in need.

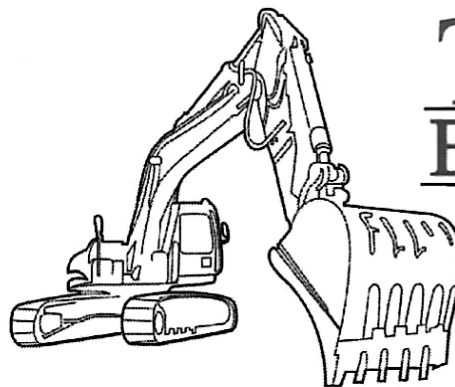
The Town has two options for residents who need emergency assistance with their heat bills.

- General Assistance (GA) – is a program administered by the Town in coordination with Maine DHHS. Applicants must qualify financially and show that they are in need of assistance.
- Heat Assistance Fund – the Town of Bowdoinham has a **donation-based program** for heat assistance. This is usually used in emergency situations for anyone who does not qualify for General Assistance.
- If you are in need and have not already

applied for LIHEAP heating assistance, you may do so by contacting KVCAP at 800-542-8227

- Please contact CMP to set up a payment plan if you are unable to make your winter payments. You should make a plan and pay each month toward your electric bill to avoid shutoff in the Spring. GA may provide limited assistance with CMP bills in the Spring.
- **You can find additional resources at [211maine.org](http://211maine.org), dial 211, or text your zip code to 898-211.**

You can use the General Assistance application to apply for GA and the Town Heat Assistance Fund. The applications can be found in the office and in the green mailbox by the front door to the Town Office. Please call the office for an appointment with GA.



# Tourtelotte EXCAVATING

(207) 666-5941

188 Millay Road  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

[www.tourtelotteexcavation.com](http://www.tourtelotteexcavation.com)

**Excavation - Road Work - Land Management**

## The Bowdoinham Food Pantry: Building Community, Through Food

By John Treat, Director

It's been an eventful year at the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. As the new director since April, it's been deeply rewarding to get to know the amazing group of Board members, volunteers, donors, and clients who make up the BFP family.

**We're blessed with incredible support from the communities we share.**

Thanks to the support we receive, we're able to provide food and other basic items to hundreds of households throughout Bowdoinham and Bowdoin through our regular Wednesday distribution and our "Weekend Food for Kids" program, as well as to hundreds of school-aged children and their families through the free Falcon Market at Bowdoinham Community School.

We benefit from outstanding cooperation from local farms: Enterprise, Six River, Blue Bell, Harvest Tide, Apple Creek, Fairwinds, and others. We also receive crucial support

from local businesses, non-profit partners, and individuals, who support our work through financial contributions, food donations and drives, and more: FHC, Hannaford, Wicked Joe, Counterpoint, Downeast Credit Union, Bowdoinham Town Office, and too many others to name them all.

**But we're facing new challenges.**

Recent federal policy changes are reshaping the food security landscape. Cuts to vital nutrition and community food programs, along with sharp reductions in SNAP and other benefits, are leaving growing numbers of families struggling to put food on the table.

In addition, one of our key suppliers announced in July that they can no longer offer frozen meat to local pantries like ours. This leaves a major gap for us, as we strive to provide our clients with the option of preparing at least one fresh, meat-based meal at home each week.

**We count on your support. Here's how you can help.**

The financial support we receive is vital, and provides us with much-needed flexibility in meeting community needs. No contribution is too small, and we are grateful for every dollar we receive.

We also rely on donations of food and other basic household items. We have an ongoing need for canned goods (soup, vegetables, beans, tuna, chicken, pasta sauce); dried goods (pasta, beans, grains); breakfast cereals (preferably low-sugar varieties); pantry staples (cooking oils, flour, sugar); other household goods (toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene products, dish soap, laundry soap, trash bags). We also welcome fresh produce, including meat, milk, eggs, butter, and vegetables.

Please bear in mind that we cannot distribute items that have been opened or are damaged, or any canned or dried food that is more than one year past its "best by" date. We also do not distribute any medications, vitamins, or similar non-food supplements.

Please visit our website for more specific guidance on how you can best support our work, or if you would like to volunteer. Please also know how grateful and honored we are to be able to direct your generosity into help for our friends and neighbors. Together, we're stronger.

Thank you.

[www.bowdoinhamfoodpantry.com](http://www.bowdoinhamfoodpantry.com)

### A Note of Thanks

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Bowdoinham community for selecting me as Citizen of the Year. It was a total surprise and truly an honor. I'm especially grateful to those who nominated me and to everyone involved in the decision.

Bowdoinham is a place where volunteerism comes naturally, and it's been my pleasure to be part of a community where so many small and large acts of kindness happen quietly every day. I'm proud to contribute in any way I can, and I'm continually inspired by those around me.

Thank you again for this meaningful recognition.

- Maureen Booth

Back by popular demand:  
**Breaking Bread in  
Bowdoinham, 2025**



FEATURING WICKED JOE COFFEE AND  
COUNTERPOINT BREAD CROISSANTS



**When?** Friday mornings this holiday season,  
from 8-10am:

- December 5th
- December 12th
- December 19th
- January 2nd

**NO BREAKING BREAD  
ON DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> —  
YOU CAN SLEEP IN!**

**Where?** 9 Main Street, Bowdoinham,  
in the community space next to  
Watersong

*Come Join Us!*



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Stones Telling Stories:

### Ames was for the children, NOT the saloons

By Frank Connors, Cemetery Sexton



James H. Ames, Prohibition Nominee for Governor, and Family

James H. Ames (1865-1944) was a Bowdoinham Businessman, Trial Justice, and twice (in the 1920's) an unsuccessful run for Maine Governor in 1910 as a Prohibitionist. The father of seven children, his product, "Eureka Fly Killer" achieved a measure of national fame.

Ames and his wife Nettie moved to Bowdoinham from Unity, (Maine) in 1900. He sold and repaired farm machinery all over Maine and manufactured and bottled his Eureka Fly Killer for more than three decades. He was a lawyer and Municipal Judge in Bowdoinham from 1914 to his death in 1944. He was an incorporator of Bay View Cemetery in 1909, and a superintendent of Bowdoinham's Methodist Episcopal Church

School for 30 years. He was a life-long opponent of "demon rum," an early advocate of Prohibition, and opposed public cigar smoking, fearing it "led men to drink."

The attached, undated postcard, circulated widely across Maine during his first Gubernatorial race, featured him with his wife Nettie and their seven children: Guy, Carroll, Bessie, Jessie, Harvey, Pearle and John, and asks the question, "are you for the saloons or the children?"

**Find the Grave.** Enter Bay View Cemetery using the main gate. (Cemetery is located at 333 Bay Road, about a mile from the village on State Route 24.) Ames family lot is on your right, nearly 50 yards from the gate. The marker for James Ames' grave is on-grade, in front of the family stone.



## "Thank you for your service"

An effort to list the men (and women) who served from Bowdoinham during the Viet Nam war continues. Frank Connors, the Town's Cemetery Sexton, started the list last spring. During the past decade, Connors has developed an alphabetized list of Bowdoinham residents who served during the Civil War, (there were 237).

He suggests a list of Viet Nam veterans "would be useful." He guesses a "completed list" might total 150 members. Connors has long been associated with local history projects in Bowdoinham, and each spring, he places flags on the graves of veterans known to be buried in the town.

He has listed here (in Alphabetical order) names of Viet Nam veterans already acquired: Connors, Alden A., (Army); Connors, Frank D, (Army); Crocker, Dennis O., (Army); Curtis, Robert E., (Army); DeHahn, B. Richard, (Army); Hunton, John, (Army); Jennings, Ryan, (Army); Lauder, Jeff, (Air Force); Leach, Roger, (Army); LeMont, Barry M., (Air Force); McKenna, Eugene (Army); Pratt, Rodney, (Army); Reinheimer, David B., (Navy); Silver, Joseph, (Army); Skelton, Frank H., (Army); Skelton (Jr.), Leonard O., (Army); Smith, Brian, (Navy); Smith, James M., (Navy), Smith, Steven, (Coast Guard); Walchli, John, (Navy); Zachau, Brenton, (Army).

If you are or know a Viet Nam veteran who served from Bowdoinham and should be on this list, please contact Connors at 725-4043, or email at [Frank@peopleplusmaine](mailto:Frank@peopleplusmaine).

## WANTED!

### To trade our Bowdoinham house for a smaller house in Brunswick

We want to swap ownership of our large historic house in Bowdoinham village for ownership of a smaller house in Brunswick.

#### Our house:

- 2850 sq ft on .9 acres in the town's center
- Kitchen-living area w/wood stove
- 5-minute walk from the parks on the Cathance River
- 3-4 bedrooms, 2 full baths
- Lovingly landscaped w/ 3 decks, garage
- office/studio w/separate entrance

We're looking to trade for a house in Brunswick in walking distance of Bowdoin and downtown. We're eager to make this unconventional, owner-to-owner, permanent swap work: our goal is summer 2026. Contact: [howardsolomon642@gmail.com](mailto:howardsolomon642@gmail.com)

## A Letter from Sally Cluchey

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you're enjoying the foliage and the crisp, cooler weather. Of course, with fall also comes property tax bills - and for many, that means stress. Bowdoinham will be starting revaluations this fall, and recent revaluations have left many neighbors facing shocking increases and worries about whether they'll be able to continue living in their homes.

These concerns are real and valid. At the state level, I believe we need major change in this area and will continue advocating for key reforms for as long as I am privileged to serve. In the meantime, please know that I am here to help find short-term solutions.

Below, I've pulled together information to help make sense of how property taxes are calculated, what relief programs are available, and what steps you can take if your bill feels too high. First, let's look at how the system works.

Property taxes fund three main areas of local government. Municipal (Town) Services: Your town calculates its expenses each year. Budget line items are proposed on the warrant and residents vote to approve or modify them at Town Meeting. The School Budget: Bowdoinham's share of the school budget is also a key part of your property tax bill. Sagadahoc County Services Budget: Sagadahoc County adopts its own budget for county-level services. Unlike school or

municipal budgets, the county budget is not decided directly by voters at the polls. Instead, it is approved by elected County Commissioners after going through a public comment and review process.

Once these three budgets are totaled, the town divides that amount by the combined assessed (market) value of all taxable property. The result is the mill rate - a number of dollars per \$1,000 of property value that each household owes. For example: If your assessed value is \$250,000 and the mill rate is \$18, your property tax bill would be \$4,500 (i.e.  $250 \times 18$ ). By State law, the total property taxes collected by a town must match - and never exceed - the amount set in its annual budget.

Also by State law, towns must reassess property values periodically. When that happens, some homeowners' share of the town's tax burden will rise while others' fall, depending on how their property values changed compared to others. If you're struggling with your assessment or property tax bills, here are some steps you can take.

1. Meet with (or appeal to) the town assessor: If your assessment seems wrong, you can request a review.
2. Apply for the Property Tax Fairness Credit when you file your State taxes next year. If your property taxes are more than 4% of your income, you

will likely qualify. This program puts money back in the pockets of Maine homeowners and renters with modest incomes.

3. Consider applying for the Property Tax Deferral Program. This program lets qualifying older Mainers defer payment until their home is sold, helping them stay in their homes. Learn more by contacting the town office.

In 2023, the Legislature repealed a property tax freeze for people 65+ that was overwhelmingly benefiting wealthy owners of the most expensive homes instead of the people that were struggling. The Legislature redirected \$31 million from that program to expand both the eligibility and benefit of the Property Tax Fairness Credit - with additional support directed to disabled veterans - and to broaden access to the Property Tax Deferral Program, ensuring assistance goes to those who need it most.

I also want to make sure you're aware of other forms of state help. The Medicare Savings Program helps adults 65+ pay for some or all their out-of-pocket Medicare premiums, deductibles, and copayments. While the amount of the benefit varies depending on the individual, it typically averages around \$7,300/year. The minimum benefit pays for your Medicare Part B premium, which is a savings of \$175 per month (\$2,100/year).

If your monthly income as an individual is less than \$3,261 or as a couple less than \$4,407, you likely qualify for some level of benefit. There is no asset test and no estate recovery to participate in this program.

If you need help applying for any of these programs - whether it's the Property Tax Fairness Credit, the Property Tax Deferral Program, or the Medicare Savings Program - I am happy to schedule a time to meet with you and walk you through the process.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 207-814-8879 or [sally.cluchey@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:sally.cluchey@legislature.maine.gov).

**Rep. Sally Cluchey**  
House District 52  
(Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, and Richmond)  
207.814.8879

[www.facebook.com/RepSallyCluchey](http://www.facebook.com/RepSallyCluchey)  
[sallycluchey.com/](http://sallycluchey.com/)

Help support our youth league sports with a little advertising. From reaching all 1,400 homes in Bowdoinham, to regional exposure with our traveling teams, your funding will grow your business and our home teams! To score one of these deals respond by November 14, 2025!

2026 Rec/Bowdoinham News Sponsorship Packages					
	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Basic
Platinum: 40% savings, \$755 value Gold: 35% savings, \$530 value Silver: 30% savings, \$405 value Bronze: 25% savings, \$305 value	\$455	\$350	\$285	\$225	\$180
1 year (6 issues) of business card size ads in Bowdoinham News. Reaches 1,400 homes. - \$180 value	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spring team sponsorship, business name on back of jersey. - \$225 value	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Fall team sponsorship, business name on back of jersey. - \$225 value	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
3' x 5' vinyl homerun fence banner displayed throughout the year, incl. State Championship - \$125 value	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗

Sponsorship packaged available until: **November 14**. Regular print advertising is available: Business card sized ads can be purchased for \$30/issue, 1/4 page ads for \$75/issue, 1/2 page ads for \$125 and other sizes are available. Inquires can be sent to [planning@bowdoinham.com](mailto:planning@bowdoinham.com)

## Bowdoinham Revaluation Process

The Town of Bowdoinham has contracted with RJD Appraisal out of Pittsfield Maine to conduct a full property tax revaluation of all properties in the Town of Bowdoinham. This project began in 2021 when representatives from RJD Appraisal performed on-site inspections of each property. Those visits were completed in 2024.

### **What is a Full Revaluation?**

According to Maine Revenue Service, "Revaluation" means the development of new property valuations by a firm through the introduction of new grading and pricing schedules, the updating of existing grading and pricing schedules, or the maintenance of an existing valuation system.

A "Full Revaluation" includes measuring and listing all properties to verify existing assessment data. The end goal is for assessments to be adjusted to reflect market value as of April 1, 2026. This creates equity and ensures a fair distribution of the tax burden across all property owners.

### **Stages of a Full Revaluation**

RJD Appraisal will be updating existing grading and pricing schedules for property valuations and maintaining the existing valuation system by performing a Full Revaluation of assessment values. To accomplish this, Dirigo Assessing Group will complete five phases: (1) Data Collection, (2) Sales Review/Validation, (3) Market Analysis/Valuation, (4) Field Review, and (5) Informal Hearings. During these phases, many tasks will be completed to ensure the Full Revaluation is successful. Below is a general outline and explanation of each phase of the project.

**Phase 1: Data Collection:** The first phase, Data Collection of all property, was performed over the past 4 years. During this phase "Data Collectors" went to each property in the Town to measure the exterior of each building and attempt to inspect the interior if the owner is available at the time of the visit. These Data Collectors note the buildings' location, size, age, quality of construction, improvements, topography, utilities, and numerous other characteristics both inside and out. They may also ask the homeowner a few questions regarding the property. The data collected is subject to verification by the town assessors.

**Phase 2: Sales Review/Record Validation:** During this phase, RJD's Assessors will field review each property that sold between April

1, 2023, and April 1, 2026, and review the information on the property record card for data accuracy. The appraiser will make notes regarding the property location, size, condition, quality of construction, and numerous other characteristics that may affect value. The goal is to gain a clear understanding of what sold and for what price. In conjunction with the Assessing Office, RJD will begin the process of qualifying sales as "arm's length". Only sales with market exposure between a willing buyer and willing seller (in other words, an "arm's length" sale) will be used in the analysis.

**Phase 3: Market Analysis/Valuations:** A variety of resources are used to analyze the real estate market. Dirigo Assessing Group will be analyzing property sales that occurred between April 1, 2023, and April 1, 2026, to determine which market factors influenced property values. They will gather and use information from the Maine Multiple Listing Service (MLS), property managers, developers, and local real estate professionals. Once all the data is collected and reviewed for accuracy, the appraiser will determine land values and delineate neighborhoods, which rate the desirability of locations throughout the town as determined by actual market activity.

Valuation is done using one of the three recognized appraisal methods: Cost Approach, Income Approach and Sales Comparable Approach. Mass appraisal uses a market adjusted cost approach to generate assessments.

During this phase, individual characteristics of the buildings are analyzed using information gathered in both phases 1 and 2. Each property is compared to other comparable properties with similar characteristics. Then the market values of the improvements are added to the land value that was previously determined. This value is the final estimate for each parcel of property, building and land.

**Phase 4: Field Review:** Field Review is the method used to implement the finding made by the Assessors throughout the Sales Analysis. During this phase, land values as well as any other adjustments from the sales analysis will be applied to the records. This phase is performed by experienced appraisers to ensure that the appraisal methodology established from the sale properties is consistently applied to the entire population of properties within the town.

**Phase 5: Informal Hearings:** Once the Field Review is completed and the values are

approved by the Assessor's Office, a notice stating the proposed value will be mailed to each property owner. This notice will have a new tax estimate and information on when the informal meetings will occur. The goal of this phase is to give the taxpayers an opportunity to meet with a member RJD Appraisal's staff and questions concerning the revaluation process or the value established for their property.

After all five phases are completed, all data, files, records, etc. used in the revaluation will be turned over to the Assessor's Office for retention.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Town Office at (207) 666-5531.

Thank you,

Town of Bowdoinham and RJD Appraisal

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## Bowdoinham Community Connections: Here for Everyone

Bowdoinham Community Connections is here to support our neighbors with whatever life brings - whether that is finding resources for health, housing, transportation, or just navigating day-to-day challenges. We are a team of volunteers with a wide range of experiences, and we are here as a resource for everyone in our community.

One of the best ways to stay connected is through the Bowdoinham newsletter, which shares local social opportunities as well as state and local resources. You can sign up here: <https://bowdoinhammer.com/>.

If you ever need help filling out applications or applying for programs, we are happy to assist. You can make an appointment by calling Jason at 207-666-3101, or stop by during our drop-in hours every Friday from noon-2pm at the Fire Station.

We are also looking for a new volunteer to join our team as a liaison to the Handy Brigade. We know there is both unmet need and untapped potential among Bowdoinham's handy people, and we believe this role will help us better connect folks and strengthen the ways we care for one another. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, we would love to hear from you! Contact [outreach@bowdoinham.com](mailto:outreach@bowdoinham.com).

- The BCC Team

## 2025-2026 Tax Bills

### What is this year's mill rate?

The mill rate for FY2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) is 22.11, which is a 5.29% increase from last year.

### What are this year's budgets?

Tax Assessment Breakdown		
Budget Assessments	FY2026 Budget	Difference from FY25 to FY26
Municipal	\$2,165,033.00	-\$483.00
School	\$4,669,775.08	\$444,194.24
County	\$810,432.00	\$52,254.00

### What are the assessments for the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts?

The Town's TIF assessment for FY2026 is \$713,807.62. This is based on the property assessment of the properties located within the TIF districts. The value of the CMP TIF District is \$26,905,479, therefore the CMP TIF budget is \$594,880.14. The value of the Pipeline TIF District is \$5,378,900, therefore the Pipeline TIF budget is \$118,927.48.

### What have my tax exemptions decreased?

This year's tax exemptions and current use program amounts have decreased to 73% of their value. This is because the Town's certified ratio, set by the State, is 73%. What is certified ratio? Certified ratio means the level of municipal assessed value, expressed as a percentage, relative to market value pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §383. State law requires the certified ratio of a town to be no more than 110% of market value and no less than 70% of market value. The Town has been planning

to conduct is revaluation this year (fiscal year 2026) to address our dropping certified ratio.

### When will I receive by tax bill?

2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills were mailed in September. Tax Club coupon books were mailed out as well. Please contact the Town Office if you have not received your bill or payment booklet.

### When are taxes due?

Your tax bill is due in two payments – **Nov. 3rd** and **May 1st**. At the bottom of your bill are two payment coupons. **You will NOT receive a bill for the second half due in May.**

For anyone whose taxes are not paid through escrow, please mark your calendar now for both due dates.

For those enrolled in Tax Club, payments are due on the 15th of each month.

If you owe back taxes, your payment will be applied to the oldest first. Should you make either payment late, you will incur interest (7.5%). If you are unsure of how much you owe, you may contact the Town Office at any time.

### How can I pay my taxes?

You have several options for making your tax payments:

- In person at the Town Office
- After hours: Place in Town Drop Box in front of the building
- Mail to: Town of Bowdoinham, 13 School Street, Bowdoinham, ME 04008
- Online by clicking on the [Bowdoinham Payment Portal](http://www.bowdoinham.com/tax-payment) at [www.bowdoinham.com/tax-payment](http://www.bowdoinham.com/tax-payment).

## 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.  
666-3228

Website: bowdoinham.com/SWR

#### Recycling Hours:

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

### Bowdoinham Public Library

13a School St.  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
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

**Saturday,  
November 15th, 3-5pm  
Merrymeeting Hall**

## Bowdoinham Puzzle Race

**Teams of four race to complete a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle and earn prizes!**

**Chili supper after the race.**

**Contact the library to register your team.  
Space is limited. \$20/person**



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Community Calendar

### November

- 3 First Half of Property & Personal Taxes Due
- 11 Town Office Closed - Veteran's Day
- 14 Town Hall Open House 4 pm - 7 pm
- 15 Puzzle Race- Merrymeeting Hall 3 pm - 5 pm
- 22 Thanksgiving Farmers Market - Town Hall 7 am - 1 pm
- 23 MAC Snowflake Making 1 pm - 3 pm
- 25 Nazareen Church Pie Sale - Fire Dept 8 am - 7 pm
- 26 Town Office Open Special Hours 8 am - Noon
- 27-28 Town Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 29 Holiday Market - Dandelion Spring Farm 11 am - 3 pm

### December

- 5-7 Bowdoinham Holiday Festival see insert
- 13 Craft Fair - Bowdoinham Community School 10 am - 3 pm
- 24-26 Town Office Closed - Christmas

### January

- 1 Town Office Closed - Martin Luther King Day

## Town Board and Committee Meetings

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

### Select Board

2<sup>nd</sup> and 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> Thursday 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

4<sup>th</sup> 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  
13 School Street  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008**

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