



The City of Ships

Spring 2007

City of Bath Newsletter

Issue 2

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Municipal Meetings:

For summer changes and additional meetings, please see the calendar on www.cityofbath.com

- City Council—1st Wednesdays, 6:00 pm, City Hall, Council Chambers
- Planning Board—1st Tuesdays, 6:00 pm, City Hall, Council Chambers
- Community Forestry—1st Wednesdays (except July-August), 6:00 pm, City Hall
- Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee—2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:00 pm, City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
- Community Development Committee—2nd Thursdays, 4:00 pm, City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
- Zoning Board of Appeals—1st Mondays as needed, 7:00 pm, City Hall Basement

Department Feature: Finance Department

The Finance Department is located on the first floor of the City Hall and encompasses the Tax Collector/Treasurer's Office and the Finance Office.

The City of Bath welcomed a new Finance Director this winter - Abbe Yacoben, who grew up in the Wiscasset/Alna area, left Maine in 1994 and graduated from the University of Chicago with a Master's degree in Public Policy and a concentration in Finance. Before coming home to Maine, she served as the finance director for Richton Park, a suburb of Chicago. She is here with her husband and two young daughters.

The Finance Director oversees the staff and functions of both the Treasurer and Finance Offices. Her duties involve maintaining the City's investments, cash management and working with auditors to meet government accounting standards. The Director meets with department heads to discuss expenditures and revenues and recommend a budget for each department. She will analyze the City's revenue and expenses and work with the City Manager and Assessor to determine recommendations in cuts or increases and present those budgets to the City Council for approval. The Director also carries out other tasks as assigned by the City Manager; an example of this is the current creation of the City's new 5-year Capital Improvements Plan.

The Finance Department is responsible for the smooth cycling of money, into the city's system through citizen's municipal taxes and fees, and back out to the public in the form of services and assistance.

Finance Office

The Finance Office is responsible for the outflow of city funds. They make sure that the money spent by the municipal government is equal to the money coming in to the City. Staff does this through cash reconciliation and cash management for all city accounts and departments. They are in charge of fulfilling Federal and State requirements such as quarterly reports, IRS reports and 1099s. Daily responsibilities also include printing checks and transmitting deposits for accounts payable (approximately 170 accounts and 300 invoices per week) and the city's weekly payroll (about 130 paychecks per week), adding and eliminating employees, and handling personnel benefit deductions.

Treasurer's Office

Residents of Bath have more direct contact with the Treasurer's Office than they do with almost any other department. This office processes incoming taxes and fees for both City and State. They handle tax collection, including excise taxes, property taxes, and personal property taxes. They process the fees, fines and dues for City departments including Police, Recreation, Landfill, School Departments and the Skatepark, as well as the Bath Water Districts' liens and foreclosure payments.

They act as an agent for the Maine State Department of Motor Vehicles and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. These duties include processing fees for licens-

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City of Bath Commonly Called Numbers:

Assessor's Office 443-8336
 Bath Community TV
 443-8387
 Bath Skate Park 443-8900
 Bath Water District 443-2391
 Bath-Brunswick Chamber of
 Commerce 725-8797
 Cemeteries and Parks Dept.
 443-8345
 City Clerk's Office 443-8332
 City Manager's Office
 443-8330
 City Planner's Office
 443-8363
 Codes Office 443-8334
 Community Development
 Office 443-8372
 Finance Dept. 443-8338
 Fire Dept. 443-5034
 General Assistance 443-8335
 Main Street Bath 442-7291
 Maintenance Dept. 443-8365
 Police Dept. 443-5563
 Public Works Dept. 443-8357
 Recreation Dept. 443-8360
 Sagadahoc County
 Courthouse 443-8200
 Treasurer's Office 443-8340
 U.S. Post Office, Bath
 443-9778
 Wastewater Treatment Plant
 443-8348
 West Bath District
 Courthouse 442-0200



City Clerk Mary White swears in new Finance Director Abbe Yacoben (right) at December's Council meeting

(Finance Department, Continued from page 1)

ing motor vehicle registrations (including cars, trucks, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles) and offering the State of Maine's Rapid Renewal online registration through the city website.

The office works according to Maine Municipal laws to process liens, lien releases and foreclosures on municipal properties. They respond to routine calls from mortgage companies, law offices, banks and title researchers to provide status checks on property tax accounts.

Notes from the Finance Department:

- Much like the Police Department, which does not make the laws, only enforces them; the Treasurer's Office doesn't set the rates, they only collect the fees. The mil rate for property taxes is set by the Assessor, City Manager, and City Council. State and local fees are set by other entities.

- Often, citizens call to ask for quotes to register their motor vehicles. Unfortunately, the office can't provide quotes over the phone because it is difficult to calculate costs correctly without all of the paperwork in front of them. There are too many variables, and quotes might not be accurate if the staff can't see all the details.

- If you know you're coming up on the due date for a renewal payment, it behooves you to pay it early. The State is not always up to date in their processing and filing, and the rush of end-of-the-month payments adds to the delay. Some payments processed by the Treasurer's Office are sent to State offices, and notification to the State doesn't occur immediately. For example, if you're registering your car on a Friday afternoon the last day of the month and you get pulled over during the weekend, your registration has not had ample time to update at the State level.

- Original liens and lien releases for the City of Bath are filled with the Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds at the Superior Courthouse on High St. Occasionally a lien that has been paid will appear on a person's credit report. A copy of the lien release may be obtained by contacting the Registry of Deeds.



Emergency Preparedness: Are You Ready?

If we experienced a natural disaster or other emergency, how long could your family sustain itself? Emergencies in Maine occur all times of the year and include floods, ice storms, blizzards, or severe summer storms, and all have the potential to limit access to utilities, services and transportation.

Sagadahoc County is ahead of the curve when it comes to regional preparedness planning, for both natural and human-related disasters, and pandemic flu. The county's Emergency Management Agency is working on various communications plans for transferring information without using travel, electricity, and/or towers. They are advising basic needs providers like utility companies, supermarkets and hospitals, and help them create emergency plans to maintain public services.

The Bath Police Department has trained their officers and given them the information and authority to continue civic services in a declared emergency. City and county public health officials are also increasing public awareness and education to help residents prepare for themselves.

Being prepared for an emergency means that you and your family can continue to meet your basic needs if you cannot travel and experience loss of public services such as electricity (including loss of refrigeration), water, fuel service or heat, information access, and other necessities. The more supplies you store, the longer you can remain comfortable without help.

A basic disaster kit should supply your family for a minimum of three days, while pandemic flu planning suggests supplies for a minimum of two or three weeks, in case of quarantine. This kit should be kept in a single, easy-to-reach place so you can access it quickly if you need to leave your home. Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy to carry containers, such as a duffel bag,

backpack, or storage container. Re-check your kit every 6 months to replace expired foods and water, and account for growing children and other family changes. Also consider having small, portable kits in your car, workplace, or other places you spend time.

Local government is doing their part to plan for the region. We hope you will continue to be aware of upcoming information and urge you to prepare for your own family's needs.

**Could your
family survive
the storm?

Food?
Water?
Warmth?
First Aid?
Communication?**

A home emergency supplies kit would include the following:

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food kept in a cool, dry place. Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect it and extend its life. Choose foods that do not require refrigeration, cooking, or special preparation; avoid foods that will make you thirsty and opt for canned foods with a high liquid content. Consider ready-to-eat canned meats, fish, fruits, vegetables, beans and soups; protein or fruit bars; crackers, dry cereal or granola; peanut butter or nuts; dried fruit; canned juices.

- 3-day supply of water. The most reliable drinking water for storage is

unopened bottled water. If bottling your own water, be sure to sanitize bottles completely, date them, and replace them every six months. Have one gallon of water per person, per day.

- Extra clothing for each person, including a jacket, long pants, long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes, hat, mittens and scarf, and a sleeping bag or warm blanket. We live in a cold climate, so it is important to think about warmth.

- A can opener, eating utensils, and a safe way to heat food or water with no electricity.

- Portable radio with extra batteries. NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert for weather-related emergencies.

- Flashlight with extra batteries and bulb.

- Matches in a waterproof container.

- First aid kit and manual. For a pandemic flu kit, include additional cleaning agents, a thermometer, pain relievers, anti-diarrheals, cough and cold remedies, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.

- Sanitation and hygiene items: soap, hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, toilet paper and feminine supplies.

- Telephone that works when electricity is off, a whistle to signal for help.

- Garbage bags for trash to keep area sanitary.

- Cash and coins, photocopies of personal information, important documents and credit cards in a waterproof container.

- Special items: prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solution, hearing aid batteries. Items for infants such as formula, diapers, bottles and pacifiers. Supplies for pets, including food and additional water.

- Other tools and supplies: extra fuel and/or supplemental heating devices, wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, local maps, games, cards or other activities for children.

For more information, contact the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency at 443-8210, the Dept. of Homeland Security: www.ready.gov, or Maine Emergency Management Agency: www.maine.gov/mema



Upcoming City Improvements

- Repairs taking place on the **Route 1 Viaduct** between High Street and the bridge are scheduled to occur between April 1 and June 30. This construction will address necessary structural improvements to ensure that the viaduct will serve the public safely for an additional 10-15 years. The viaduct will be fully closed from April 15 until May 23 and partially closed (one lane) through the end of June. Please be aware of traffic changes as they occur. For more information, see Maine Department of Transportation's website at www.maine.gov/mdot/bathviaduct.
- Rehabilitation has begun on the **Bath Train Station** and is expected to be completed by Memorial Day, in time to welcome Maine Eastern Railroad's summer excursion train! The Train Station will hold a

new visitor's center to replace the closure of Witch Spring Hill on Route 1, and possibly another business or shop. The station will be also be a stop for the City Bus and the City Trolley, with other inter-modal connections in the works. It will be run by the Bath Transportation Commission.

- The **Waterfront Park** is undergoing changes as well, and will have new benches and lighting installed this spring.
- Public Works will begin construction this summer on **new sidewalks** along the south end of Washington St. between BIW and the Maine Maritime Museum.
- Creation of the **South End Park** on Washington St. will occur this spring and summer.

What's Happening with the Landfill?

You may remember voting on a referendum in November 2006 for a \$4.5 million bond to do things at the landfill. Here's an update on where we are with the project and what's happening with that *smell*.

Our engineers have been working on designing a new disposal cell and a gas management system to address the odor. The design has been submitted to the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (MDEP) for their review and approval. We have also issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) to find experienced contractors to build the project. When the MDEP approval is received, the qualified contractors will be asked to bid on the project. Following award of the project, construction should begin in June and be completed in the fall. It may take several months of adjustments to the gas collection system to get it working satisfactorily.

In the meantime we have been gathering data on gas levels in the landfill, in the ground, and in the air at the landfill and in the surrounding neighborhood. We have been working with the MDEP, the Maine Bureau of Labor, and a certified toxicologist to interpret the results of the monitoring, train the staff, and evaluate the exposure of the customers and public. A public meeting to discuss the collected data and the upcoming projects is being planned for May.

In addition, we have installed a cutoff trench to intercept the gas in the ground before it has a chance to leave the landfill. That gas is being flared (burned). Also, after discovering a previously unknown source of gas, we have installed another flare to attempt to burn off the gas before it can leave the site. These measures should help reduce the odors experienced by our neighbors.

Visioning the Future of Bath

What do you love about living in Bath? What should be different? What should Bath be like in ten or twenty years? What must change about the City to become that vision? Comprehensive planning is a strategy for working through this process. By answering these questions and others, we create a concept for the future and a plan to get there.

Bath's Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee consists of individuals from all backgrounds and areas of Bath, and they have been meeting for almost two years to generate a plan for Bath's future. In the coming months, the committee will be holding public forums to receive additional community input on a number of issues. Upcoming topics include Bath's natural resources, cultural resources, and others.

We welcome your thoughts! For more information on the Comprehensive Plan or the public forums, please contact the City Planner's office at 443-8363.



Pay As You Throw

As of the April 9th City Council workshop, a pay-as-you-throw waste removal system is still on the discussion table for May's Council meeting.

The goals of a "pay as you throw" system would be to generate revenue in the best way possible, through an equitable funding of solid waste functions, extend the life of the landfill, increase recycling and enhance resident's control over the costs of their own solid waste disposal.

In a "pay as you throw" system, residents would purchase trash bags from local retailers at a fee (currently \$1.25 for a 15 gallon bag and \$2.00 for a 30 gallon bag). The bags would continue to be collected and disposed of by the City and the City would continue the curbside recycling program, which has been significantly expanded with single-stream recycling (see below).

According to the current proposal, revenue from the bag purchases would go into the landfill maintenance fund for further gas mitigation needs, building a final waste disposal cell, and the unavoidable future landfill closure.

The hope is that because of increased bag cost, residents will reduce their waste by recycling more items and putting fewer items in the landfill. Instead of paying a set increase in property taxes, residents will be able to control how much more they pay by adjusting their recycling habits.



Single Stream Recycling is Here!

The list of recyclable materials has greatly expanded—and no more sorting! Just put it all in your blue bin or even a trash can clearly marked "recycling" and it will be recycled. Please don't hesitate to call the Bath Landfill at 443-8357 with questions or pick up information at City Hall. Thank you for supporting Bath!

It ALL goes in together:

All items must be empty and non-hazardous
 Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs
 Telephone/Soft Cover Books
 Direct Mail/Envelopes (all types)
 Paper (all colors, staples/paperclips are okay)
 Paperboard (cereal/shoe boxes)
 Milk/Juice Cartons
 Cardboard/Brown Paper Bags
 Plastic Bottles and Containers Numbered #1-7
 Soda/Juice/Water Bottles (glass or plastic)
 Milk Jugs, Bleach/Detergent, Shampoo Bottles
 Food containers (cottage cheese/margarine/yogurt)
 Glass Bottles/Jars (any color)
 Aluminum (pie plates/trays/foil)
 Metal Cans (tin/steel/aluminum)

What NOT to include:

No recyclables containing food waste or grease
 No Plastic Bags (recycling bins for plastic bags are located at your local grocery store)
 No Unmarked Plastics (laundry baskets/chairs/toys)
 No Windows/Light Bulbs
 No Dishes, No Pyrex, No Ceramics
 No Foam Packaging, No Styrofoam
 No Hazardous Material or Universal Waste
 No Food Liners

The City of Bath Solid Waste & Recycling Division is selling **compost bins** and kitchen scrap pails. Call 443-8356 to have an order form mailed to you, or pick one up at City Hall.



The PAYT public information session held in February at City Hall displayed items now recyclable with single stream recycling



Developing the Bath Economy

“The only constant in life is change,” as they say, and our area is looking toward lots of change in the coming years! Due to the closure of the Brunswick Navel Air Station, Bath is now a part of the area’s Military Redevelopment Zone, a program that provides state tax incentives to qualified businesses to help spur economic growth and create quality jobs. Two of Bath’s new businesses hoping to take advantage of this program are US Windblades, LLC and Gagné Foods.

The City has signed a 3-year lease with US Windblades and they will be moving into the renovated building at 2 Town Landing Road over the next month. The company designs and manufactures 7-9 meter wind blades for electricity-

generating windmills and is part of a growing cluster of advanced composite material manufacturers in the Mid-coast region. Their business plan anticipates 15 employees by the end of their second year and as many as 32 jobs in five years.

At the Wing Farm Business Park off Congress St., Gagné Foods creates Chef Michael Gagné’s renowned “72-Layer Classic Cream Cheese Biscuits” in three flavors, which are manufactured and distributed nation-wide from the Bath facility. They opened and began producing in January and were one of the very first Military Redevelopment Zone businesses. Already grown from their anticipated 11 jobs up to 22; they hope to add more and look forward to receiving their expected insurance reimbursements and tax benefits next year with their 2008 returns.



Arbor Week Celebrations May 20 – 26 with the Bath Community Forestry Committee

Every year during the third week of May, the State of Maine celebrates Arbor Week. The Bath Forestry Committee has organized a number of events and activities in Bath to celebrate. For more information call the Office of Cemeteries and Parks, 443-8345.

May 19- Tree seedling sale in the Library park, in conjunction with the Bath Garden Club.

May 20- Honorary and Memorial Trees in Bath: Since 1993, there have been thirty-two memorial and honorary trees donated by organizations, families, friends or individuals planted in the City of Bath. The City Arborist or Forestry Committee selects the tree species most appropriate for the designated site, and the tree is planted by the Arborist. Each year, at the beginning of Arbor Week, the Committee hangs red, white and blue bows on selected trees.



May 21st - Maine Arbor Week Celebration at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta, 12-3pm. The Bath Forestry Committee welcomes all who are interested to join them at the Arboretum.

May 21- “Reading the Forest Landscape,” An evening with Tom Wessels, 6:00-9:00 pm, Winter Street Church

You don’t want to miss this talk by renowned author and academician Professor Tom Wessels of Antioch New England Graduate School. This presentation is based on Mr. Wessel’s book, and will introduce you to approaches used to interpret a forest’s history while wandering through it. A kind of “forest forensics,” he teaches how to use evidence such as shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the patterns of stump decay, stone wall construction, and the lay of the land to unravel complex stories etched into our forested landscapes.

May 23- City Council delivers annual Arbor Week Proclamation, 6:00 pm, Bath City Hall Council Chambers.

May 24 -Fisher-Mitchell 5th Graders are potting seedlings donated by CMP, to be planted in the Bath Municipal Tree Nursery.



Main Street Bath's What's Up Downtown:

Main St. Bath said a fond farewell to their former Coordinator this winter and welcomed a "new" Coordinator last month. Sarah Fraser served as the Main St. Bath's Office Manager for the past year and accepted the position of full-time Coordinator in early April.

Downtown Bath is welcoming several new stores this spring, some of which have already opened! *I Must Have It*, selling antiques, fresh-cut flowers and unique Maine goods; *Carousel* has economically-priced children's clothing; *The Wyler Gallery* is expanding from their shop here from Brunswick. On the next sunny day, come take a walk down Front and Centre Streets and check them out!

With spring and summer just around the corner (really, we promise!) there are a multitude of things for which you should be on the lookout. The "Banners Over Bath" will be on display through May 15 and the spring flowers will adorn the sidewalks and lampposts soon after.

MayFair, the annual city-wide yard sale will be on May 5, so clean out those attics and basements or join your neighbors and shop 'til you drop at the downtown sales. Come down for great prices, music, kids activities, the first farmer's market of the season, and lots more.

During the viaduct closure, Bath merchants are providing many opportunities for discounts and great prices. Don't let the traffic changes stop you; coming downtown for your needs may be easier than heading out of town!

Main St. Bath is again organizing this year's Heritage Days festivities! Go online at the website below for a full schedule, updates, and more information.

Main St. Bath invites you to revisit downtown Bath and
see what you've been missing!

To see a calendar of Bath events, find out about Heritage Days events,
or learn more about Main Street Bath, call 442-7291 or go to www.visitbath.com.

Events and Reminders

There are tons of spring and summer activities in Bath! For a complete listing, see www.visitbath.com. Here's a few you don't want to miss!

- **Spring Clean Up week** - Monday, April 30 thru May 5. Bath residents may bring in some materials at no cost. Watch the Times - Record and Coastal Journal for ads listing the items and amounts that may be disposed of free.
- **Main Street Bath's Annual Mayfair** will be Saturday, May 5th! City-wide yard sales, downtown discounts, tons of all around activities. For information watch for ads and signs or call 442-7291.
- **Bath Farmer's Market** opening day is May 5!
- **Bath Rec's baseball, softball and t-ball** games begin May 5.
- Sign up begins in May for the Rec's 7-week **Summer Camp** for first through sixth grades. The program will be held from June 25-August 10. Also, look for their full **2007 summer activities catalogue** coming out in May.

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Bath Heritage Days!

This year's celebration will kickoff on Friday, June 29th with the Rotary Chicken Barbeque and conclude Sunday July 1st with our first night of fireworks.

Kid's Day, the Triathlon and the Chili-Chowder Fest will be Saturday, June 30. On Sunday, July 1 Bath will hold the Heritage Days Parade, the Kid's Road Race, the Kennebec River Boat Parade and Preview Fireworks.

Wednesday, Independence Day, will have an antique car show and the Grande Finale Fireworks Display.

For a complete schedule of events, please contact the organizers at Main St. Bath or see their Heritage Days website at www.visitbath.com/heritagedays.





Bath City Hall
55 Front St.
Bath, ME 04530

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(Bath Events and Reminders, Continued from page 7)

- **Household Hazardous Waste Day** will be held on Saturday May 12th from 9-1 at Bath Public Works Dept. for Bath residents and some neighboring communities. You must call 443-8356 to pre-register for an appt. Have your list of items you are bringing prepared.
- **First Third Friday Artwalk** is May 19. Come downtown to check out local shops hear live music, visit studios and talk to the artists about their work.
- **Community Safety Day** is on Saturday, June 2nd 10 am to 1pm, next to the Bath Police Department. Includes free helmets for kids, bike inspections and a number of informational displays.
- **Last Scheduled Day of School for Bath Schools** is Monday, June 18
- **Morse High School Graduation** ceremony will be Sunday, June 10
- **MHS Alumni Weekend** will be held June 8-10, with the Alumni Banquet on Saturday. Come celebrate Bath's Alma Mater with the largest and most active alumni association in the entire country!
- **Heritage Days** will be June 29-July 1 and July 4.
- The Rec Department will hold it's **Annual Auto Show** on Sunday, August 26.
- **400th Anniversary of Popham Colony** celebrations August 23-26.

The City of Ships newsletter

For questions, comments and other inquiries about the newsletter, please contact Erika Helgerson at 443-8330 x223 or by email at ehelgerson@cityofbath.com.

