

City of Ships

City of Bath Newsletter

Winter 2007

Issue 3

Features

- 1• Fields For Our Future
- 1• Municipal Meetings
- 2• Commonly Called Numbers
- 2• New Uses for Huse School
- 3• Bath Business Nominated for Award
- 3• PAYT Success
- 4• Winter Plowing: What You Need to Know
- 5• Safe Sidewalks
- 6• ArtVan Art Works!
- 6• Citizen Involvement Day Award Winners
- 7• Main Street Bath: What's Up Downtown
- 7• Property Tax Relief
- 8• City Updates

Municipal Meetings:

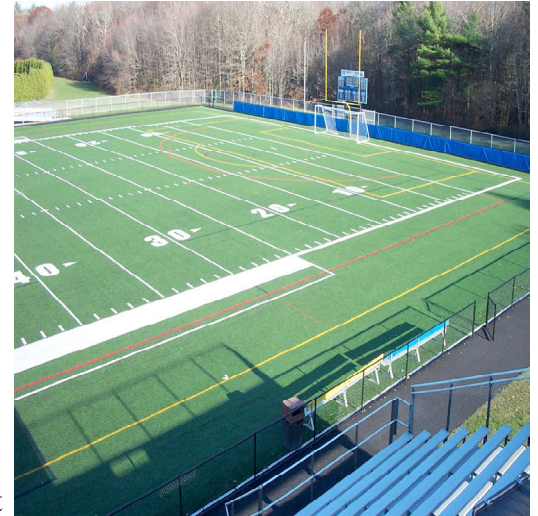
For holiday changes and additional meetings, please see the calendar on www.cityofbath.com

- 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, 6:00 pm, City Hall, Basement Conference Room
- 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

Fields For Our Future

In the near future, changes will be taking place at McMann Field. A group of Bath area citizens formed a committee called Fields for Our Future, whose mission is to place artificial turf on McMann Field.

The turf will not be the Astro-turf or artificial turf of the past, but a synthetic creation that is soft, yet tougher and safer than normal grass. The product is created from rubber granules and silica sand that make a sort of padded synthetic earth, and polyethylene fibers made to be smooth and soft like new grass. According to the group's website, "the result is a stable, resilient, uniform, shock-absorbing surface that looks and feels like natural grass."



"The McMann Turf Committee is asking every household to be a part of this effort, which we believe will benefit the entire community."

*—Brad Walfield,
Fields for Our Future
Committee*

(Continued on page 3)



City of Bath Commonly Called Numbers:

Assessor's Office..	443-8336
Bath Community TV	
.....	443-8387
Bath Skatepark	443-8900
Bath Water District	443-2391
Southern Midcoast Chamber of Commerce.....	725-8797
Parks and Recreation Dept.	
.....	443-8360
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
Pay-As-You-Throw Hotline	
.....	386-5409
Police Dept.	443-5563
Public Works Dept.	443-8357
Sagadahoc County	
Courthouse	443-8200
Treasurer's Office.	443-8340
U.S. Post Office, Bath	
.....	443-9778
West Bath District	
Courthouse	442-0200

New Community Uses for Huse School

Thanks to the Bath Board of Education, the Lt. John E. L. Huse Memorial Building will be a new haven for area families to enjoy free sports and arts-related activities on Saturdays as well as other community programs. The board approved additional use of the former elementary school by the Sagadahoc Community Justice Project, which is funded through U.S. Department of Justice "Weed & Seed" grant monies.

The Huse School programs are free of charge, open to all ages and any Sagadahoc County residents, and will be held the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 9 a.m. to noon through February. The Huse building will also house other community programs, which may include safe driving courses for elders, a computer lab, and a tutoring center.

The Sagadahoc Community Justice Project (CJP) was formed in the mid-1990s to prevent crime and revitalize the community through citizen-led programs that address the changing needs of a community. With the help of Department of Justice Weed & Seed funding, the Community Justice Projects have grown from one town to three countywide programs covering 49 towns and cities throughout Maine.

The Weed & Seed strategy is to reduce crime while enhancing the quality of life through development and implementation of local programs. Currently there are over 300 Weed & Seed sites throughout the country, including Sagadahoc County.

Sagadahoc CJP has been a part of a number of local projects: Bath Community Policing Partnership, Bath YMCA, Bath Skatepark, Battle of the Bands, Medication Collection, Volunteer Tax Assistance Partnership, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, the ArtVan, and others.

For more information about projects and programs, contact Scott Montgomery, Weed & Seed Project Coordinator, at 207-373-1140.



Representatives from the Bath Bocce Buddies, Police Chief Mike Field, and local children practicing their toss at an indoor bocce court at Huse School.

Bath Business Nominated for Excellence Award:

Custom Composite Technologies, Inc., located at the Wing Farm Business Park in Bath, has been nominated for the 2008 Governor's Award for Business Excellence.

Established in 1999 by Steve and Maureen Hassett, Custom Composite Technologies, Inc. (CCTI) creates custom built components out of high-tech composite materials. Composites are reinforced plastics combining a strengthening fiber with a plastic polymer to create an extremely strong, durable product. CCTI makes parts primarily for the marine industry, but has expanded to include projects in the automotive, architectural, industrial and transportation fields and has worked with companies across the United States.

State of Maine officials working in business development hope to grow Maine into a hub for technology, research and development by attracting and growing high-tech businesses such as composites technology. This has been strengthened by a \$15 million federal grant from the US Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED). Bath is fortunate to have several composite-related businesses and there are others nearby; the beginnings of a regional cluster of businesses specializing in this technology.

The Governor's Award for Business Excellence is presented to a company that demonstrates a consistently high level of caring and commitment to the community, their employees, and to manufacturing and service excellence. The Governor's Office will announce the winners in March of 2008.



CCTI employee Joe Alexander infusing a composite railroad connector.

Successful Start for Pay-As-You-Throw!

Just three months in, and the City of Bath PAYT program has already seen a substantial reduction of trash waste and significant increases in recycling.

Ideas on how to reduce your waste: Buy items in bulk, try to avoid purchasing items that have unnecessary packaging, look for other ways to re-package foods rather than buying individually wrapped items. Don't buy what you don't need. Use items more than once. Find other places to recycle used goods. Find charities where you can donate items such as books, toys, clothing and home products.

(Fields for Our Future, Continued from page 1)

There are many benefits to the new turf. Currently, McMann Field is only available for about 300-400 hours per year. The new field will be available for between 2000-3500 hours per year and there is a possibility that the city could rent out the field, generating additional income. The usage will not depend on the condition of the turf as it does with a natural grass surface; the turf can be plowed and it does not change in quality through weather and seasons. Our athletes will be safer too; this kind of turf eliminates problems and potential injuries associated with uneven ground and poor natural surface conditions.

Most Bath citizens are aware that the city and the school system are under tremendous budget pressure. As such, rather than asking for funding, the committee decided that the project should be privately financed through donations, as many other community projects have been.

Says project co-chair Brad Walfield, "The Fields for Our Future Committee is asking every household to be a part of this effort, which we believe will benefit the entire community. Your donations are tax deductible and you would receive a receipt for tax purposes. We have received gifts for as much as \$100,000, but every dollar helps our campaign achieve its goal and makes a difference in the community. We also plan to have a permanent display at the field to recognize our donors."

Fields for Our Future is working with contractors and hopes that the field will be completed in 2008. For more information, please see their website at www.fields4ourfuture.org or contact Brad Walfield at brad.walfield@verizon.net.

Winter Plowing: What You Need to Know



The Bath Public Works Department maintains 52 miles of roads. As part of winter maintenance, it plows all 52 miles, the parking lots for City Hall, the Police Department, the Fire Dept, the Bath Landfill Facility, the Patten Free Library, two downtown public parking lots, the Mid-Coast Center for Higher Education and the five public school lots.

All of this is divided into 10 plow routes. With 9 employees, 10 trucks with plows and 3 loaders, these 10 plow routes take about 4 hours to complete.

When precipitation begins, Public Works is notified by the Bath Police Department and several drivers are called in to pre-treat the road with salt. They concentrate on the main arteries: Washington and High, and the major crossing streets: North, Center, Pine and Weeks. Street plowing with the entire crew begins after 2-3 inches of snow. Their goal is to keep the roads as safe as possible by creating safe travel lanes and keeping the snow or ice from bonding and packing to the pavement.

The streets are plowed continuously until the storm subsides. When the snow stops all routes are cleaned up. Public Works will spread sand or salt to leave a satisfactory travel surface. All parking

lots are then touched up to be clear for parking.

Once the storm is under control, drivers in our two sidewalk plows begin clearing sidewalks; first within the schools zones and the downtown area, followed by the major arteries. Once these are completed, the sidewalk plows work their way out to the remaining side streets. Depending on the amount of snow, it usually takes several days to complete clearing of the sidewalks.

If the City receives over 6 inches, Public Works will begin snow removal operations after the street plowing is complete. This includes removing snow from the sidewalks, streets, and city parking lots and is done overnight in order to avoid having to work around parked vehicles. Again, clearing begins in the downtown and moves on to major arterial streets, followed by the remaining streets. This process can take ten to fourteen days to complete, assuming no additional snow.

Whether it is your own drive-

way or the 52 miles of city roads, snow removal is an arduous and time consuming job. The Public Works Department is a small organization with limited reserves and the workers continue around the clock until the job is done.

Public Works Director Peter Owen states, "We strive to have the safest streets and roads possible, at a reasonable cost and in the shortest period of time. We know snow removal can be cumbersome, but we thank you for your patience and understanding."

Here are some tips and information to help you—and the snowplows—through the season:

- Please do not park in the roadway or shoulder area during a storm. Parking on a city street for more than 30 minutes from 12 midnight to 6 am is prohibited from November 15 to March 15 and anytime during a storm.
- It is prohibited by law to have snow from your driveway shoveled, snow blown or plowed into or across the road. It can cause a

(Continued on page 5)

The City of Bath's yearly Winter parking ban begins on Nov. 15th and lasts until March 15th, from midnight to 6:00am. Please be aware of additional parking bans during Spring storms.

serious traffic hazard.

- There is no practical way to plow the street without depositing snow into your driveway, but its best to shovel snow on the side of your driveway opposite the direction from which the plow is coming, so the plow will carry snow away from your driveway rather than back into it. Please understand the city cannot go back and shovel or plow out the end of any private driveway.
- Owners are encouraged to put mailboxes at the maximum usable distance back from the roadway pavement and we recommend a 42" mounting height with reflectors on the post for better storm visibility.
- Don't be misled by plow trucks riding with their plows up. They may be going in for fuel or repairs or headed for another area.
- Public Works does not have a dispatcher on duty except during normal work days from 7 am to 4 pm (call 443-8357). For emergencies you may contact the Police Department at 443-5563 or the Sagadahoc County Communications Center at 443-8201 or 911.
- Public Works maintains all roads in Bath except Route 1 and the exit and entrance ramps on Route 1, which are maintained by the Maine Department of Transportation. Please call MDOT at 885-7000 (Scarborough office) or 287-3427 (Augusta dispatch) to report a problem with these roads.



Safe Sidewalks: Snow Removal

Winter is upon us. The City would like to remind property owners that they are responsible for clearing sidewalks in front of their own homes and businesses. Please be aware of the city laws as you clear your sidewalk; snow and ice must not be piled in any public way (street or sidewalk).

Businesses, tenants and property owners in the downtown area and up Centre Street to High Street are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks along their properties. The ordinance requires that snow be removed within four hours of the end of the storm during daytime, or by 10:00 am the following morning if the storm ends at night Monday through Saturday, with no snow removal required on Sundays. If you're not sure whether the ordinance applies to your property, call the Codes Enforcement Office at 443-8334 to find out.

The snow and ice removal ordinance can be seen in Section 15-20 of the Streets Ordinance, in the City Ordinance section of the City Clerk's page at www.cityofbath.com.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to keep the sidewalks safe and accessible.



The ArtVan's Art Works!

The ArtVan began four years ago with an eight-week summer program funded by a City-supported Community Development Block Grant. The ArtVan brought art and creativity into several low-income neighborhoods in Bath. The program was so successful it partnered with Volunteers of America for a time and spread into a greater service area. They have now worked with over 14,000 youth and adults in southern and central Maine. Through their expansion, they continued to provide consistent programming to the original neighborhoods in Bath.

Many of the children to whom the ArtVan brings art don't have access to or finances for extra-curricular activities and the arts. A majority of the kids come from homes where there is a deficit of supervision, support, and attention. Many have unpredictable, frequently changing lives. The ArtVan has provided a consistent resource in the lives of these children. They have provided emotional support, a sense of stability and trust, and a place for kids to express themselves without judgment.

"Over the years," says ArtVan director Jaime Silvestri, "we have witnessed increased self-esteem, problem solving, and communication skills amongst the children the ArtVan serves, as well as a sense of community and ownership of their surroundings. As a result of the successful and sustainable work the ArtVan provides, we have watched children grow... for some this way of healthy expression is all there is."

The ArtVan has become an independent organization again and is bringing its focus back to our Bath youth. Through grant writing and fundraising, they hope to be able to raise enough money to continue the Bath programming, both summer programs and art programming through out the school year.

For more information on the ArtVan program or how you can help, please contact Jaime Silvestri at 650-1608 or artvanrolling@yahoo.com.



Judy Barrington on behalf of SPI, Mary Macul, Susan Perrine, Devyn Pushard, and Alec Murray accepting their awards at CI Day.

Congratulations to our 2007 Citizen Involvement Day Award winners:

Community Project Award: Sagadahoc Preservation, Inc., for renovation of the Winter Street Church into a community center.

Citizen of the Year: Mary Macul, for her involvement with the Hyde Park neighborhood, the Community Policing Committee, Sagadahoc Community Justice Project, and the ArtVan.

Community Spirit Award: Susan Perrine, for her *Banners Over Bath* project, beautifying downtown and involving the community.

Youth Award: Devyn Pushard and Alec Murray, for raising over \$5,000 for the Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skatepark.



Main Street Bath's What's Up Downtown

Should old acquaintance be forgot? Never in downtown Bath! Ring in the New Year at the corner of Front and Centre and make a resolution to spend more time meeting the neighbor's downtown!

Looking for other New Year's resolutions that will be fun to keep?

- 1) Walk downtown more, burn calories, save on fuel and meet your neighbors!
- 2) Invest in "Gift of Bath gift certificates" a gift that keeps on giving!
- 3) Get to know your local shopkeepers (they're the ones that give generously and often to so many community events).
- 4) Sign up for the Main Street Bath weekly e-mail to keep informed of what is up downtown (www.visitbath.com)!
- 5) Fight cabin fever: come downtown at night! Many of our fabulous stores offer evening wine tasting, classes and demonstrations and book groups. Live music is offered weekly at many of our cafés and restaurants.



Faye Hart, wife of the late Jack Hart; and their son, Peter Hart, ring in the 2007 New Year at the Annual Paul Revere Bell ringing at City Hall.

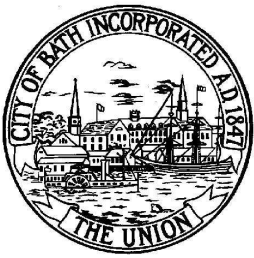
2008 is looking to be a great year, and Main Street Bath has a lot on its plate to make that a reality. We are partnering with SPI for an architecture coloring book that will be distributed throughout the schools. This February we will hold our second Resource Night, which is a great way for business owners to network and take part in all of the wonderful business solutions right here in Bath! So keep warm and keep on coming downtown; together we will make the New Year bright! Find out more about local events and Main Street Bath at www.visitbath.com or call 442-7291.

Seeking Property Tax Relief? Find help here!

Tax Relief and Exemption Information from the Bath Assessor's Office:

Program	Benefit	Who is eligible	How and where to apply
Homestead Exemption	Reduces taxable property value by up to \$13,000.	Maine home owners who have "permanently resided" in their home for at least 12 months.	One time. Before April 1, 2008. Assessor's Office.
Veteran's Exemption	Reduces taxable property value by up to \$6,000 (or up to \$50,000 for paraplegic veteran).	Veterans who served during a federally recognized war period, are age 62 OR are 100% disabled. Also eligible: widow or widower, a dependent child or a widowed parent of a deceased veteran.	One time. Before April 1, 2008 Assessor's Office.
Blind Exemption	Reduces taxable property value by up to \$4,000.	A Maine resident who is legally blind (doctor's certification required).	One time. Before April 1, 2008 Assessor's Office.
Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund program ("Circuit Breaker")	Refund of up to \$2,000 of property tax or rent paid in 2005.	Maine resident with income of less than \$102,000 who has paid more than 4% of income in property taxes, or more than 20% of income in rent in 2006.	Annual. Application for reimbursement for 2006 is due by May 31, 2008. Maine Revenue Services.
Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement and Exemption Programs (BETR/BETE)	Refund of up to 90% of property taxes paid on qualified business property; exemption for qualified business property.	Property must be placed in service in Maine after April 1, 1995. Some types of property are not eligible (such as office furniture).	Annual. Application for BETR for 2007 will be available in August 2008 and will be due by Jan. 1, 2009. Application for BETE due April 1, 2008. Maine Revenue Services.

Above information adapted from the State of Maine Revenue Service website. More information about tax programs, exemptions and qualifications, as well as forms and applications, can be found at www.state.me.us/revenue/homepage.html or www.cityofbath.com/assessing. For information about local municipal property taxes, please contact the City of Bath Assessor's Office at 443-8336.



Bath City Hall
55 Front St.
Bath, ME 04530

U.S. Postage Paid
City of Bath
Bath, ME 04530
Permit No. 5

Postal Patron
Bath, ME 04530

8

~ *The City Of Ships* ~



City Welcomes New Parks and Rec Director

This year the city underwent several changes in department organization. The Recreation and Cemeteries and Parks departments were combined into one: the Bath Parks and Recreation Department. A Parks and Recreation Director position was created and subsequently filled by Steve Balboni. Steve worked as Assistant at Bath Rec under Director Jack Hart, and then moved to the Brunswick Parks and Recreation Department. We are glad to have him back!

New Drop Boxes at City Hall for Easy Bill Paying

The City Treasurer's Office now has two drop boxes for customers who do not want to wait in line, or can not make office hours. These are located inside the City Hall on the first floor, and outside on the north side entrance of the building. We hope this will help customers pay their property taxes or other City bills with ease.

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.

