



Issue 4

City of Bath Newsletter

Autumn 2008

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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 & 3rd 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

New Websites Highlight Bath

Our Bath community has two new websites that provide a wealth of information for residents and visitors. Both the City of Bath and Main Street Bath have unveiled new websites this autumn, and together they provide a comprehensive collection of information for the public.

The City Government's extensive city website has a new design that allows residents to search department information, city projects, and city guidelines quickly and easily. The city website has three sections of information: Bath Government, Our Community, and Visiting Bath. The *Bath Government* portion consists of department pages, laws and ordinances, program guidelines and other information directly related to the municipal government. *Our Community* provides information about Bath organizations, services for residents, a photo gallery, calendar of events, and other facts. The *Visiting Bath* section is geared toward tourists and visitors. It includes things to do, services, and attractions.

Main Street Bath's website has detailed information about local events and happenings, and a directory of businesses in the Bath area.

Both groups worked with a local web design and hosting business, Maine Hosting Solutions, to create the websites. We invite you to spend some time searching through Main Street Bath's website at www.visitbath.com, or the city website at www.cityofbath.com and discover the volumes of information at your fingertips.



A view from Bath's Waterfront Park; photo by Heather Perry Photography

City of Bath Commonly Called Numbers:

Animal Control.....	443-5563
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
Landfill.....	443-8356
Main Street Bath....	442-7291
Maintenance Dept..	443-8365
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

Department Spotlight: Bath Fire and Rescue

Bath Fire and Rescue is a full time department; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Bath residents are fortunate to have full time fire and rescue staff despite the smaller size of the community. Bath's fire and rescue service is unmatched across the state: the average response time is 3 minutes - a speed that is second only to Portland's rescue department. They also have the highest percentage of paramedics in the State; even Brunswick doesn't have the EMS power that Bath does.

*Bath Fire gets
between 2500-2600
fire and rescue calls
each year
in city limits –
nearly twice as many
calls as other
communities our size.*

All of the employees are trained in Advanced Life Support and 17 out of 22 full-time employees are trained paramedics who can administer more medications than standard EMS staff. Every vehicle has a paramedic on board, which allows them to address the status of the endangered person while driving to the hospital, thereby increasing the chance of recovery and decreasing the need to speed in the ambulance.

Bath Fire gets between 2500-2600 fire and rescue calls each year within the city limits – nearly twice as many calls as other communities the size of Bath. They average about seven calls per day; but the number changes each day: they could have three calls one day and fifteen the next. They also get far more EMS calls than fire calls; for every one fire call, they receive about 20 EMS calls. Bath is an older community; for emergency calls, the average age of the patient is 63 years old and 85% of the calls serve those over 50 years old. For this reason, Bath Fire Department employees specialize in elder care, cardiac arrest, and heart issues and Bath is recognized as a "Heart Safe Community."

When a resident calls 911, the call is answered by the Sagadahoc

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Bath Firefighters put out the massive fire at the old Stinson's Cannery in May of 2006.



(Bath Fire and Rescue, continued from page 2)

County Communications Center, which then directs the call to the proper department. The dispatcher's call sounds throughout the building on speakers as they inform Bath Fire and Rescue on the nature of the situation so that the team can bring the correct equipment and number of people. When Bath EMS reaches the patient, they perform the needed emergency medical procedures and if necessary, bring the patient to the nearest hospital of preference.

Fire and Rescue Vehicles

The Department has one ladder truck; three ambulances with ad-

vanced life support; and two "Class A Pumpers," which serve as rolling tool boxes and are able to move copious amounts of water from a source such as a river or a pond to the scene of the fire. In accordance with state law, every piece of equipment and all vehicles are checked daily by employees to maintain excellent condition.

During the summer months, particularly during events like the Heritage Days parade and triathlon, EMS staff are on bike patrol. At large scale events, there are at least two EMS bike patrols on location and available for immediate assistance. Their ability to be at the scene of the emergency quickly has saved many lives.

Bath Fire Department Building

The Department's facility has recently been rehabilitated for energy efficiency. Since the department must be staffed and ready-for-action 24-hours a day, this has reaped great savings. The Fire Chief has received grants for a majority of the equipment and building repairs, which has also saved significant costs.

To reduce fuel and electricity costs, they have insulated the roof, changed to efficient lighting, and installed new doors in the bay (garage area) with windows to let in light and insulation to keep heat inside. A new boiler was installed, replacing an antique boiler from 1928; the new boiler has a very high efficiency rating of 97%.

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Save Your Life with the Vial of Life

If you have medication that you take for survival or dire health circumstances, please consider filling out a Vial of Life form with the Bath Fire Department.

The form lists your medications, allergies, medical history, hospital preference, physician, and contact person so that EMS workers and the hospital can treat you quickly and effectively, increasing the chances of saving your life.

Without this information, critical time could pass by. For a form or additional questions, please contact the Bath Fire Department at 443-5034.

Heart Attack Chain of Survival:

Know the signs:

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back
- Feeling weak, lightheaded, faint, or sweaty
- Pain or discomfort in arms or shoulders
- Shortness of breath

If you see any of these signs, take action immediately:

Call 911 and go to the hospital in an ambulance.

EMTs can monitor and begin treatment on the way to the hospital. Emergency room staff can prepare for your arrival and you will be seen more quickly.

There are effective treatments for heart attacks; medications and procedures can break up or remove the blood clots that cause heart attacks. Timing is everything! Act immediately for the best chance of survival and recovery.

Bath is “Going Green”

Energy use and the environment have been extremely important issues for individuals, businesses and governments around the world. Many people are concentrating more on energy use, because of both rising costs and the impact of energy use on the environment. In August, the Bath City Council signed a resolution that commits the municipal government to reduce energy use, thereby decreasing the city’s energy costs and lessening its output of emissions into the atmosphere.

The resolution was presented by the Bath Cool Communities group, who funded a summer intern to work with city staff and study Bath’s city-wide energy and emissions statistics. The resulting report was presented to council with a request to sign the resolution and make a commitment to promote energy awareness in the community. According to the study’s results, 39% of the city’s overall emissions comes from residential, 25% from industrial, 20% from transportation, 14% from commercial and government, and 2% from waste (landfill).

Tasks for the municipal government, as set forth by the resolution, include: decreasing vehicle fuel use by regulating driving and idling habits, increasing building heating and cooling efficiency through insulation and sealing leaks, installing energy efficient lighting and electrical equipment, promoting energy awareness and recycling among employees, and exploring the use of economically viable alternative energy sources. Any measure that incurs additional cost will be implemented over time as finances allow.

The resolution also requests that the municipal government help educate Bath residents and businesses about energy-related choices. To achieve the resolution’s goal of reducing emissions by 20% by 2018, each sector should consider trying to reduce their energy use as much as possible. For more information and a list of ways to begin reducing your energy use, please visit the “Our Community” section of www.cityofbath.com.



(Bath Fire and Rescue, continued from page 3)

Seven years ago, they installed a new ventilation system in the bay. The hydrocarbon from years of vehicle exhaust had turned the ceiling dark gray. Now exhaust is captured with pipes that ventilate the fumes outside, which benefits the building and employee health.

Staff Functions

Bath is the only Fire Department in Sagadahoc County with full time employees. They are often called to assist other fire departments in areas from the tip of Small Point to the edge of Richmond. They also assist fire departments in Wiscasset and Brunswick.

Fire Chief Stephen Hinds is the department administrator. He deals with finances and is responsible for the smooth running of the entire department. He works with the city and state to ensure the department is functioning at its best capacity and highest standards. If there is a large fire, he serves as incident commander and will go to the scene to direct the situation. The Chief is also the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency director for all disasters and has incident command for the entire county.

The Captains are shift supervisors; they lead trainings, make decisions on how to address a rescue call, lead their firefighters in emergencies, and have administrative responsibilities. Firefighters and EMTs are the working force and perform tasks put forth by the captains. The city also has 12 part-time firefighters on call in case of large fires or emergencies. There are five firefighters and one captain on each shift, each working 24 hours on, 72 hours off, every fourth day.

Every day, during every shift, the employees train. They spend downtime discussing calls; what was done and what could be done better in terms of safety, speed, patient support, and quality of care. The Bath community is extremely lucky to have a strong, well-trained rescue team at their service.



Partial Tax Payments Better Than None

Property tax bills for the City of Bath are due each year on October 15. For late payments, an interest rate of 11% per year began accruing on October 16.

The City will accept partial payments, as long as there are no liens or foreclosures associated with a property. This helps reduce the interest a customer will have to pay on the total bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact tax collector Abbe Yacoben or deputy tax collector Marcia Goodfellow with questions on property tax bills and partial payments. Call the Treasurer's Office at 443-8340 or email the finance director at ayacoben@cityofbath.com.

Beautification in Downtown Bath

The Bath Community Development office received a Community Development Block Grant to reconstruct the Water Street parking lot in downtown Bath. The improvements include new lighting, sidewalks, paving, landscaping, and possibly additional parking spaces. The work is scheduled to begin in early spring, 2009.



Home Energy Saving Tips

The cold is coming! A small investment now can mean lots of savings for the season. Here are some low-cost and no-cost tips to help you save money on your electricity and fuel bills this year:

Insulate your house:

- Apply sealant or caulk around windows, doorframes, sills and joints. Look for spider webs – if there is a web, there is a draft.
- Apply weather-stripping to doors, windows and all other points that lead outside or to un-insulated areas.
- Install foam or rubber insulating gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- Install storm windows or use plastic window sheeting on windows and sliding doors to prevent heat loss. The plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to reduce infiltration.

Reduce fuel and electricity usage:

- In the winter, set the thermostat between 65 and 70 degrees when home and to 58 degrees at night or when away from home for several hours. Keeping the temperature at 70 degrees is recommended for homes where there are elderly or infants.
- When doing your laundry, switch to cold water. Eighty-five to ninety percent of the energy used to wash your clothes is used to heat the water. Wash full loads.
- Take shorter showers and install low-flow showerheads and hot water faucets.
- Add an insulation blanket to the water heater. Insulate the first 3 to 6 feet of hot water pipes near the water heater. Lower the water heater temperature to 120-125 degrees. Consider turning it off when leaving for extended periods of time or vacations.
- Set refrigerator temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees. Clean the coils. Try to keep the refrigerator stocked; it takes more energy to keep an empty refrigerator cool.
- Keep your furnace clean, lubricated and adjusted with annual maintenance. Replace the filter every 1-2 months.
- Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you're not using them.
- Switch to energy efficient CFL light bulbs.
- Consider purchasing appliances labeled with an "Energy Star" the next time you need a replacement.

The Bath Community Development Office is offering energy audits to qualified low and moderate income homeowners. Some homeowners may be able to receive low interest

loans for energy-related improvements. The audits are funded by the Community Development Block Grant's Housing Improvement Program, which is geared toward helping residents who have household incomes below the median level. To find out if you qualify, please call Al Smith at 443-8372.



Chief Michael Field shakes hands with Bath resident Winifred Reed.

Project Good Morning

Independence as we age can be vital to our emotional and mental well-being, but at times health and safety is a concern that mitigates the benefits of independent living.

The Bath Police Department's Project Good Morning program serves as a daily check-in on the welfare of elderly, homebound, or disabled residents in Bath. The goal is to assist these people so that they may continue living to live independently while helping to eliminate concerns families might have about loved ones who live alone.

The program is free of charge, and the resident must agree to participate. They are responsible for initiating a daily morning call to the police station, which is answered by police employees Cindy Enman or Mary Vinson. If they do not call, the Project Good Morning receptionist will call them. If the resident is still unreachable, the department will notify the participant's local contact and ask the contact to visit the participant at home. In the event that the contact is unable to visit, an officer will go to the participant's home to make sure they are safe. At times, house calls have found people that are sick, injured, or incapacitated; circumstances that highlight the importance of the program.

"One of the other benefits of the program is that it is more personal than other systems," said police receptionist Cindy Enman, "The participants actually talk to the dispatchers, and each becomes a friendly, familiar voice. For some, the Project Good Morning receptionist is the only person they talk to all day."

Elderly residents who live alone and elderly couples are eligible for the program, as well as disabled folks or even those temporarily disabled due to illness or surgeries. Project Good Morning can work in concert with other programs such as Lifeline, an emergency medical alert system. The police department is also able to connect people with other programs, such as service agencies or health programs, for additional assistance.

If you know someone who may benefit from this program, please refer them to the Bath Police Department. For more information or to request an enrollment form, call 443-5563 or email mvinson@cityofbath.com and cenman@cityofbath.com.

Fuel For Friends

Fuel prices may be dropping but they are still high, and cost of food and other provisions are rising. Many hardworking families and individuals are struggling to make ends meet, and some will resort to eliminating necessities like food and medication in order to keep their home at a safe level of warmth.

This summer, RSU1 Superintendent William Shuttleworth and City Manager Bill Giroux teamed up to create a program to raise money for heating assistance. The goal is to raise emergency support money and distribute it to people who cannot afford fuel.

Money for the *Fuel for Friends* program has been donated by individuals, churches, non-profit organizations and businesses, and 100% of the funds are dedicated to purchasing heating fuel for residents in the towns of Bath, West Bath, Phippsburg, Woolwich, Arrowsic, and Georgetown.

The funds are channeled to residents through Midcoast Maine Community Action (formerly CED). MMCA will distribute the funds according to guidelines that enhance other programs, such as LIHEAP, and serve those who slip through the cracks or have incomes just above the LIHEAP qualifying levels.

To donate, please send a check made out to "Fuel for Friends" to: *Fuel For Friends, c/o Midcoast Maine Community Action, 34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath, Maine 04530*. You can contact Midcoast Maine Community Action at 442-7963 x216.





Main Street Bath: Free Family Events through the Holidays

The holiday season is approaching quickly! No matter what your traditions are or which holidays you celebrate, this is a special time for many people. There are all kinds of events in Bath through the month of December; for adults, families, and children. For a complete list of Bath events or more details about the events listed here, please go to www.visitbath.com.

Santa's Arrival and Jingle Bell Walk: November 29, 3-5pm. Decorate the Children's Christmas Tree at the Library Park Gazebo and go carol-

ing up Front Street to Bath City Hall where children can have their picture taken with Santa and everyone can enjoy homemade cookies and punch.

15th Annual Lighting of the Memory Tree: November 29, 5-6:30pm. This tree is dedicated to all the loved ones who have died and those left with the memories. Bring a snapshot of your loved one or design a message to make a button ornament for the tree, located outside of the Daigle Funeral Home.

Trolley Christmas Caroling: Fridays in December, 6-8pm. Passengers will be picked up at City Hall every 30 minutes. Grab a blanket and a thermos of hot chocolate and hop on the trolley with your family and friends.

The Red Boxes: throughout December, Red Boxes will be at locations all over downtown Bath. Take a moment to leave a letter for Santa or drop in a holiday card. Holiday cards will be distributed to Bath area seniors and Santa's letters will be sent to the North Pole.

Sing! It's Christmas! December 15, 7pm. Holiday sing-along for families at the Chocolate Church.

Morse High Annual Winter Concert: December 18, 7pm. Held at the newly renovated Montgomery Theatre at Morse High School.

New Year's Eve Paul Revere Bell Ringing: December 31, 12 noon-1pm. Ring in the New Year at the corner of Front and Centre streets at noon. Bring your party hats and noisemakers. Refreshments available in City Hall.

Volunteer Opportunities! Want to make the season bright? Volunteer! Volunteers are needed to make many holiday events happen. Contact local churches, food banks, the Salvation Army, senior housing, or other organizations to find out how you can help your neighbors have a wonderful season. To volunteer with Main Street Bath, contact Sarah at 442-7291.

Updates from the Parks and Recreation Department

- The Parks and Recreation Department is working with a public committee, "Bath Trails," to create a network of walking and biking trails in Bath. The department was awarded a grant from the National Parks Service which will provide an NPS employee to help the committee conduct a feasibility study, discover funding sources, and create a master plan.
- The South End Park was officially completed this summer and has two public bocce courts, a large pier, gravel pathways, and benches within its 10 acres of field. The pathway is 1/3 mile long and echoes the perimeter of the park.
- A new bridge connecting the north and south sides of Oak Grove Cemetery was placed over the train tracks in September.
- After many years of planning and planting, the Bath Forestry Committee finished restoring Druid Park, at the corner of North St. and Oak Grove Ave. Druid Park is the southern point of an historic park that once stretched throughout Oak Grove.
- If you want to learn more about any of these projects, please call Parks and Recreation at 443-8360.



Playing Bocce at the public courts at South End Park.



Bath City Hall
55 Front St.
Bath, ME 04530

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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.



Hallett's Clock

Oakie McCabe is the city clock tender. He takes care of the two city clocks: the clock in the steeple of the Elm St. Baptist Church and Hallett's Clock at Front and Centre Streets.

Mr. McCabe winds the clock once a week and makes sure the time is correct. He keeps it clean and well oiled, and adjusts the speed and inner gears when needed.

Hallett's Clock was purchased used from a Boston business in 1915 by Fred Cox, an owner of Hallett's Drug Store. It originally stood in front of Hallett's at 70 Front Street and when Hallett's moved in 1966, the clock was purchased by Harry Crooker of Brunswick, with plans to bring it to Thomas Point Beach.

Responding to public outcry about the clock leaving Bath, Crooker donated it to the City, providing they keep it in good condition. Hallett's Clock was placed at its new home on the corner of Front and Centre Streets.

