

CITY of SHIPS

ISSUE 7

CITY OF BATH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

FEATURES

- 1• Community Development
- 1• Municipal Meetings
- 2• Commonly Called Numbers
- 3• Morse Students Visit Landfill
- 3• Newly Acquired Police Boat
- 3. New No. 7 for Bath FD
- 4• Bike & Pedestrian Planning
- 4. Bath Remembers...
- 5. Pool Safety
- 5• Bath's Hotels
- 6. New Face at Main Street
- 6. Visitors Center Opens
- 6. Congratulations to Main Street
- 7• Community Focus:
Kennebec Estuary Land Trust
- 7• Traffic Enforcement Grants

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, 7:00 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 Conference Room

Did you know? The City Treasurer's Office has two drop boxes for customers who do not want to wait in line, or cannot make office hours. One is located inside City Hall on the first floor, and the other is 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.

Department Spotlight:

Office of Community Development

The Office of Community Development's purpose is to engage Bath residents in the oversight of community based programs which strengthen and enhance neighborhoods and small businesses while contributing toward the maintenance of a thriving area to work and live. Al Smith has directed the program for 15 years. In that time, millions of dollars have been secured to improve Bath's housing stock and downtown business facades, allocate small business loans, conduct environmental assessments & clean-ups, and improve and repair areas of infrastructure, including water and sewer systems. An additional responsibility of this office is to help facilitate home ownership.

The City has been operating a Housing Improvement Program (HIP) since 1997 with funds furnished through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) supplied from Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. The HIP program addresses the repair of sub-standard housing conditions through various types of loans to help upgrade, rehabilitate and preserve Bath's older housing stock, particularly for low to moderate income families.



Pol Wheelock, Community Development consultant, and Al Smith, Director of Community Development, hold a check for \$750,000 which they received from the Environmental Protection Agency for "Brownfields" projects. Brownfields projects address environmental issues that developers may run into when taking over a site that had been used for manufacturing or other industrial uses. For example, the Hampton Inn utilized some of these funds to assess and clean up the site of the former Prawer Block.

Since the inception of the Housing Improvement Program in 1997 the City of Bath has received five rounds of grants for this loan valued at \$1,365,000. The funds enabled the city to establish a Housing Revolving Loan Fund for housing improvements. An additional \$200,000 was received from the Maine Housing Authority. These combined funds were used to offer budget counseling services, homeownership classes and housing im-

continued on page 2

City of Bath Commonly Called Numbers:

Animal Control.	443-5563
Assessor's Office.	443-8336
Bath Area Family YMCA.	443-4112
Bath Community TV.	443-8387
Bath Skatepark.	443-8900
Bath Train Station.	442-7371
Bath Water District.	443-2391
Cemeteries	443-8345
Southern Midcoast Chamber of Commerce.	725-8797
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
Parks and Recreation Dept.	443-8360
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

Information about municipal happenings such as meetings, new construction projects, changes at the landfill, or clean up days, are published in the local newspapers and advertised on Bath Community Television. You can also find up-to-date information on the City of Bath's website at www.cityofbath.com or by calling the appropriate department.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (continued from page 1)

provements. Over 150 units of housing have participated in various levels of these programs. Most of these units are single family homes, but many are multi-units and one structure is Bath's first housing cooperative, a five unit residence.

These housing improvements have created thousands of dollars of work opportunities for area carpenters, plumbers, electricians and weatherization contractors while enhancing the quality of life for Bath residents. The Housing Revolving Loan Fund is replenished as homeowners pay back their loans and funds are further distributed to other qualified home owners in need of home repair. Home improvement programs create local job opportunities while improving the City's housing stock and strengthening our neighborhoods. We all gain from these federally funded programs.

The Office of Community Development also oversees various Economic Development projects which assist new and existing businesses. The Business Façade Program supplies low interest loans of up to \$25,000 to small business to improve their curb appeal. Two Business Façade grants totaling \$250,000 enabled 10 area businesses to make store front improvements, enhancing their appearance and promoting increased commerce. Business grants of more than \$1,000,000 enabled business start-ups and improvements, including new machinery and equipment that created or preserved some 43 jobs within the city. The City of Bath also received two Maine Investment Trust Fund grants that resulted in Water Street improvements and the demolition of the old Praver Block building, eventually resulting in the new Hampton Inn locating there. Additional Public Facilities grants furnished \$400,000 that aided the construction of the new Elmhurst building on Centre Street as well as the Hyde Park playground and basketball court.

The Office of Community Development also oversees grants for Bath's Infrastructure projects which improve water and sewer systems, and repair or replace streets, lighting and sidewalks. Areas repaired or improved include Hyde Park, Lambert Park, a number of south end neighborhood streets, the Richardson-Western Avenue neighborhood, Middle Street and Centre Street. A major infrastructure improvement for water and sewer lines is about to begin this summer. In the last 15 years, we have received nine grants exceeding \$3,300,000 for infrastructure repair. As an older city, Bath's infrastructure continues to have major repair needs, as do many cities in the northeast.

The City receives many other smaller but important grants in public service and planning as well as support for our Citizen Involvement Day event. This year's event will take place on October 9, in conjunction with Main Street Bath's Autumnfest. Please contact Carolyn Lockwood at 443-8330 if your non-profit would like to join the more than 40 organizations that are already participating, or Al Smith at 443-8372 for more information about Community Development projects.



**Ride the BATH
TROLLEY!**
Only a buck!
FMI cityofbath.com





Morse Students Visit Bath Landfill



Lee Leiner, Deputy Director of Bath Public Works, leads a tour of the landfill's gas collection system for Morse AP students.

On April 14, 2010, 13 students from Morse High School's AP Environmental Science class came to the landfill for a tour. Their teacher, Eric Varney, wanted to give them an appreciation of the environmental impact of solid waste. Deputy Director of Public Works Lee Leiner narrated the tour as he has done for many other classes in local schools. The tour included a review of the recycling activities available to local residents and businesses, a discussion of how a modern landfill is designed, built and operated, and the history of the site. The students seemed most interested in the newest aspect of the landfill operation, its gas collection system. They observed the flare at the north end of the site which destroys greenhouse gases generated by the decomposing wastes. A lively discussion ensued on what the value of the gas could be and what possible uses could be found for it rather than just flaring. Many ideas were offered for what could be done at the site when it no longer is accepting waste. The students went back to class no doubt full of thoughts of recycling and environmental improvements they themselves could undertake.

If any Bath resident is interested in exploring the activities at the Bath Landfill, contact Lee Leiner at the Bath Public Works Department, 443-8357. Or check our website for some basic information, www.cityofbath.com then "Solid Waste & Recycling" then "Landfill."



Saturdays 8:30am-noon thru Oct. 30
Waterfront Park, Downtown Bath

Newly Acquired Police Boat



Specifications: Length: 21'; Engine: 200 HP Volvo Diesel; Hull: Aluminum; Full Capacity: 100 gal. diesel

By Harbor Master Keith Jensen (pictured above)

The Bath Police Department has recently acquired a 21' Sea Arc TANB from Federal Surplus. The boat was formerly used by the Coast Guards Aids to Navigation Team in South Portland.

The Bath Police Department was made aware this past fall that the TANB was being removed from the operational service by the Coast Guard. After months of meetings and negotiations with both the U.S. Coast Guard and the State's Surplus Property Office, the boat was transferred to the Bath PD in March of this year.

The new Bath Police boat is replacing our aging Rigid Hull Inflatable (RIB) platform that has served the communities in both Bath and Sagadahoc County for more than 4 years.

This is the second boat that the Bath Police Department has been able to receive at no cost to the taxpayers.

Bath Fire Department's New No. 7



Firefighter Shawn Riley stands next to Engine No. 7, a 1500 GPM 2010 E-1 pumper that was delivered in February and has been placed into service. The pumper is providing fire protection to all of Bath. This engine represents a much needed upgrade in Bath's fire protection capabilities.



Planning Director, Jim Upham welcomes Leah Wang who will be interning this summer with the Planning Department and with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust.

Bike & Pedestrian Planning Begins

The City, with advice from the City's Bike and Pedestrian Committee (a subcommittee of Bath Trails) and with assistance from planning consultant Katrina Van Dusen and Leah Wang, a Bowdoin College intern, (pictured above), has started work on a Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The plan will include an inventory of the good and the not so good places in Bath to walk, run, and bike.. The plan will also make suggestions for minor improvements and major capital improvements.

GET INVOLVED!

If you would like to access the walker, runner, biker survey. Your input is important to us! Please go to the City's website www.cityofbath.com, then click Bath Government, then Planning and Development, then the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. You'll find a link to the "Survey Monkey" survey.



Firefighter Shawn Chandler prepares the Soldiers' Memorial for the Memorial Day weekend remembrance.



Photography by Heather Perry ©2010

Karla Densmore, a 35-year Smith-Tobey Post 21 Auxiliary member and Color Guard Secretary, attends the Memorial Day Auxiliary service for Karen Bourgoins, who passed in April of 2009. Each Memorial Day the Auxiliary honors one of their members.

Citizen Involvement Day: Nominations Wanted

Do you know someone who volunteers in the community and should be recognized? The Bath Community Development Office and Citizen Involvement Day committee are accepting nominations for several award categories. This year celebrates the 12th Annual Bath Citizen Involvement Day, a community-building event that brings awareness about service organizations to the public and honors individuals and groups who work to benefit the City of Bath and its residents.

This year's Citizen Involvement Day will be held on **Saturday, October 9th** from 10am to 1pm. Please take the time to show your appreciation for your neighbors, volunteers, and co-workers by nominating them for one of the following awards:

Citizen of the Year Award: *A Bath citizen who participates in numerous community organizations, reflecting outstanding service to the Bath community.*

Youth Award: *A youth, up to 21 years old, who has made an*

outstanding civic service to the Bath schools or community. Youth must reside or attend schools in Bath.

Community Project Award: *A notable project or organization that addresses Bath community needs in a positive, nurturing and significant way.*

Community Spirit Award: *A person or group that demonstrates vision, leadership, and steadfast commitment to projects that enhance our Bath community.*

To make a nomination for any of the above categories, please download a form from our website:

www.cityofbath.com/bath_communitydev.html

Forms are also available at City Hall in the Community Development Coordinator's Office on the second floor.

Deadline for nominations is September 17th, 2010. Send to nominations to: Citizen Involvement Day Awards, c/o Bath Community Development Office, 55 Front St., Bath, Maine, 04530. For questions, call Al Smith at 443-8372 or email clockwood@cityofbath.com.



Tragically, people die from swimming pool accidents every year, and most of these deaths can be prevented. With swimming pool season upon us, the Codes Office staff reminds owners of swimming pools to equip and use them safely. Local and State laws require all in ground pools, and aboveground pools with walls less than 48" high to be provided with a fence or other barrier to control access to the pool. Doors or gates in the fence must have latches, and those doors or gates must be closed and latched other than when people are passing through them. If you have an aboveground pool that's not required to be fenced, the access to the pool, such as a ladder, has to be removed or made not usable when the pool is unattended. If the access to your pool is via a deck that's built beside the pool, the fencing/security requirements apply to the deck and the access to it.

Decks built adjacent to pools must meet the same code requirements as other decks (structural adequacy, guardrails on open sides, stair geometry, etc.). Wiring associated with pools must meet National Electrical Code standards, and electrical equipment that comes with a pool, such as the pump, lights, etc., must be installed and used per the manufacturer's instructions. Use caution when using electricity near any pool. Along with the risk of an electrical device ending up in the pool, the ground or deck around a pool in use is often wet, and the use of power from an outlet that's not ground fault protected can result in injury or death.

The construction or installation of most new pools requires building and electrical permits, and the pool and associated construction, if any, must meet setback requirements from property lines, power lines, and other site features. Permit applications and a handout with many of the code requirements associated with pools are available on the Codes Enforcement page of the City's website. If you have to drain your pool, for service or repair work, do it responsibly so as not to negatively impact nearby properties. If you have any questions about pools, Scott Davis, the City's Codes Enforcement Officer (443-8334) will be glad to help you. We hope for a long, hot summer, and everyone enjoying their pools safely.

Bath's Hotels: Brand New & Newly Branded

Bath now has two hotels recognized around the world by travelers, tourists and business people—the Hampton Inn and the Holiday Inn.



The **Holiday Inn Bath** has a new General Manager, Robby Soares. Since October, Robby has been managing the Holiday Inn's re-launch of its new brand standards. The new logo and signage on Route 1 is representative of the upgrades

that have been made including new beds, a new bedding collection, room amenities from Bath & Bodyworks, improved lighting, and extensive employee training in guest satisfaction, as well as many other significant improvements throughout the property. The Holiday Inn, which is pet-friendly, has 141 rooms—85 have king beds, and 56 have double beds. 84 of these rooms have balconies, and 7 are ADA compliant.

Some amenities of the property include a heated outdoor pool, free wireless internet connection throughout the hotel, exercise room, cable TV with free HBO, microwaves and refrigerators in all rooms, business center, same day dry cleaning service, a laundry facility on site, a full service restaurant named The Bounty, and a local favorite, the Bounty Taverne.

Currently, the Holiday Inn has 39 full-time employees and is active in the local community with corporate sponsorships of vital organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Maine Maritime Museum. The Hotel telephone number is (207) 443-9741.



The **Hampton Inn Bath** proudly opened their doors on May 20! The staff is excited to be a part of the Bath Community and love their location on Commercial Street with views of the Kennebec River and City Park. Owned and operated by Maine Course Hospitality Group of Freeport, the Hampton Inn Bath features 94 rooms with king or two queen beds. Guests start their day off with free breakfast or a breakfast bag to go. Amenities include, a heated indoor pool and spa hot, a spacious exercise room, business center, and a Suite Shop to purchase snacks, drinks, and items guests forgot to pack. All rooms include both wireless and wired high-speed internet access, refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, 37" TV with satellite channels, lap desk, coffee maker.

The Hampton Inn also has a meeting room for up to 30. Their promise is to provide friendly service, clean rooms, comfortable surroundings, every time. The Hampton Inn Bath team is excited to provide a positive experience for all their guests and are happy to offer Hilton HHonors where guests can receive both points and mileage without black out dates. They have 27 employees and appreciate the warm welcome the City of Bath has given them. The Hotel number is (207) 386-1310.

New Face at Main Street Bath

Main Street Bath welcomes new office staffer Justina Bilodeau as administrative assistant.

Justina comes to MSB from the Sheepscot Harbour Resort in Edgcomb, where she has been a front line worker in guest services. A native of Newcastle and alum of Lincoln Academy, Justina lives with her new husband in West Bath.

Justina will replace Kurt Frost, who left Main Street Bath this spring to join the ranks of downtown Bath business owners by opening River Bottom Video, an independent video

rental shop located on Water Street at the foot of the archway. Be sure to stop in and congratulate Kurt on his new venture!



Bath Area Visitor Center Opens for the Season



Main Street Bath held an open house at the Bath Visitors Information Center on May 26th to show off the new displays recently installed in the historic train station building. The enhanced displays are designed to showcase Bath and Midcoast Regional attractions. Main Street Bath is managing the facility this year in partnership with the City of Bath and the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber. The visitors center, which is also a ticketing venue for the Maine Eastern Railroad, is now open daily from 9am-7pm.

Congratulations! To Main Street Bath Award Winners

Congratulations are in order for J.R. Maxwell's Restaurant for winning the Maine Downtown Center Community Spirit Award at the 10th Annual Maine Downtown Conference "Downtown Achievement Awards" ceremony on June 4th in Augusta. The award recognizes an "out of the box" creative downtown revitalization project that exemplifies a creative approach or solution to a challenge in the downtown.



Ed Rogers (left), receives the Community Spirit Award for J.R. Maxwell's new open air storefront design on Front Street; Michael Fear (center), receives the Board Member of the Year Award for Main Street Bath, from Roxanne Eflin, Executive Director of the Maine Downtown Center; and Dot McKenna (right) with her award for Volunteer of the Year for Main Street Bath.

Also singled out for recognition were Dot McKenna, Volunteer of the Year for Main Street Bath, and Mike Fear of Now You're Cooking, Board Member of the Year for Main Street Bath.

Bath was well represented at the two-day conference, with twelve attendees drawn from the downtown business community, the City of Bath, Sagadahoc Preservation Inc., and Main Street Bath.



Community Focus: *Kennebec Estuary Land Trust*

Conservation for a Healthy Community

An estuary is a body of water, rich with nutrients, where freshwater from rivers and streams meet and mix with salt water from the ocean. Estuaries and the lands surrounding them are places of transition from land to sea.

The Kennebec Estuary, stretching from Swan Island in Merrymeeting Bay to the beaches of Popham and Reid State Park, is one of the nation's most significant coastal resources. It is on a scale comparable to the Hudson and Chesapeake Bay estuaries for its historic abundance of wildlife and natural resources such as ice and lumber.

The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT) has worked since 1989 to protect these resources for the benefit of people and animals.

Prudent land use and active conservation enable the region's forests and extensive wetlands to continue providing clean water and critical habitat for a great diversity of life. In fact, three federally endangered species inhabit the estuary: the Roseate Tern, Atlantic Salmon, and Short-nosed Sturgeon.

The Kennebec Estuary contains over 500 miles of coastline, salt marsh, and river frontage, and 20% of Maine's tidal marshes are found here—the largest concentration in the state!



The Kennebec Estuary is a truly magnificent place, deserving respect and protection, and providing great appeal to both visitors and residents.

Marshes are essential nurseries for fish and birds, as well as great sponges to minimize coastal flooding.

This is a truly magnificent place, deserving respect and protection, and providing great appeal to both visitors and residents.

KELT is dedicated to conservation of the natural, historic, scenic and agricultural resources of the region. The membership supported organization works with land-owners to permanently protect special places. They maintain trails on seven public preserves, including popular Thorne Head, as well as offering classes on responsible stewardship and environmental topics.

KELT welcomes the support of members and the assistance of volunteers such as Bob Gravino who says, "Maine still retains

an opportunity to conserve and preserve that which makes it unique on the Eastern Seaboard—its open space and natural beauty. We have an obligation to care for the land, ensuring that land use change is beneficial to both the natural environment and to the people who are connected to the land."

To get involved with Kennebec Estuary Land Trust please visit their website at www.kennebecestuary.org or call Alicia Heyburn at 442-8400.

Bath Receives Traffic Enforcement Grants

The Bath Police Department has been awarded a Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Grant totaling \$10,000 dollars for this year's traffic enforcement initiatives. The grant is broken down into three major enforcement efforts, Seatbelt, Speed, and OUI.

The first initiative, Seatbelt Enforcement, occurred from May 24th through June 6th, 2010. In Maine, the seatbelt law is now a primary violation. This means that a police officer can stop you and issue a ticket for not wearing your seatbelt. In Maine, our usage has increased to 83% from 53% just a few years ago.

The second initiative, Speed and Combined Enforcement will be July to August 2010. The Bath Police Department receives approximately 320 traffic complaints a year, most of which concern speeding vehicles. It's our goal for people to voluntarily comply with the speed lim-

its through such efforts as our Community Speed Watch, Speed Sign, and finally enforcement efforts. This grant allows officers to enforce the speed limits in problem areas throughout the City.

Lastly, the OUI Enforcement initiative will run from August through September 2010, and include a sobriety checkpoint. OUI related fatalities account for 38% of all fatal accidents in Maine. The Bath Police Department has a no tolerance policy for this type of traffic offense. Remember, Maine State law is .08 BAC for anyone over 21 years of age. It is .00 BAC – No Tolerance for operators under the age of 21 years old.

In closing, the Bath Police Department is committed to keeping our City streets safe. This grant will allow us to focus on this high visibility enforcement project.

FMI visit www.cityofbath.com/bath_police.html.



Bath City Hall
55 Front St.
Bath, ME 04530

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Schedule of Events

Produced by Main Street Bath
(207) 442-7291 www.visitbath.com

FMI: BathHeritageDays.com

Thursday, July 1

- 5-8pm Friends of the Patten Free Library Preview Sale (Minnie Brown Center)
7pm *Legacy of the Declaration* lecture, Sagadahoc Preservation (Winter Street Center)

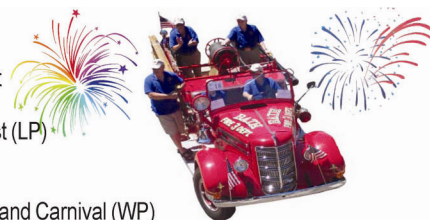
Friday, July 2

- 5-11pm Smokey's Greatest Shows and Carnival (WP)
5pm-11pm Food & Vendors (WP and LP), Live Entertainment (WP)
5-7pm Live Music - Bath Municipal Band (LP)
5-6:30pm Bath Sunrise Rotary Barbecue (LP)
9am-6pm Friends of the Patten Free Library Booksale (Minnie Brown Center)



Saturday, July 3

- 9-12am Farmers Market at Bathport
10am-2pm Kid's Day (LP)
12-4pm Whoopie Pie Eating Contest (LP)
10am-5pm Art in the Park (LP)
10am-5pm Craft Show (LP)
10am-11pm Smokey's Greatest Shows and Carnival (WP)
10am-11pm Food and Other Vendors (WP and LP), Live Entertainment (WP and LP)
9am-5pm Friends of the Patten Free Library Booksale (Minnie Brown Center)
3pm-6:30pm Chili Chowder Fest at Skate Park
11am-1pm Universe Gym Strongman Competition (Bathport on waterfront)
1pm-4pm Now You're Cooking Fireman's Muster (North End of Front Street)



Sunday, July 4

- 7:45am 1 Mile Fun Run
8:30am 5 Mile Road Race - City Hall
1:00pm **4TH OF JULY PARADE STARTS!**
12noon-1pm Pre-Parade Music at downtown locations; comedian John Ater at City Hall
12noon-4pm Strawberry Shortcake Festival at Cosmopolitan Club, 894 Washington St.
3pm Independence Jam (skateboard competition) at Skatepark
10am-5pm Art in the Park (LP)
10am-5pm Craft Show (LP)
10am-11pm Smokey's Greatest Shows and Carnival (WP)
10am-11pm Food and Other Vendors (WP and LP), Live Entertainment (WP and LP)
11am-5pm Friends of the Patten Free Library Booksale (Minnie Brown Center)



The City of Ships newsletter

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

Monday, July 5

- 10am-11pm Smokey's Greatest Shows and Carnival (WP)
10am-11pm Food and Other Vendors (WP), Live Entertainment (WP)
9am-3:30pm Front Street Shuffle Antique Car Show
2pm Boat parade on the Kennebec River
9:30pm **FIREWORKS!**

WP=Waterfront Park LP=Library Park

