

CITY of SHIPS

ISSUE 9

CITY OF BATH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

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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, 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.

2011 Citizen Involvement Day

Kimberly Gates received this year's Citizen of the Year Award for her initiative, diligence, and passion in her continuing work organizing the Bath Food Bank and the Bath Mobile Food Truck's monthly visits for the past three years. Kimberly saw a need in the community and has worked with local and regional volunteers and donors to make sure that need was met. In addition to the Food Truck, Kimberly has been instrumental in making fruits, vegetables, and healthy snacks available for young children in Bath's elementary schools. Her dedication has benefited thousands and enhanced the health, hope, and confidence of those served.

The Community Pride Award was presented to Steve Mosher for his efforts to rebuild the welcome to Bath sign at the City's entrance on the Old Brunswick Road, a job he completed by donating his own materials

and time to complete the project. To this day Steve continues to maintain this area by mowing the lawn on his own time with his own equipment.

Kyle Wood Nichols was presented with the Youth Award as someone who believes happiness comes from service to others. Kyle is a two season athlete and an active participant in Interact, serving as the groups President. Kyle has worked on numerous community service projects including Coats 4 Kids, Salvation Army bell ringing, Sledding Event for Youth, Lacrosse Clinic for Youth, the SCLC Mainsail Banquet, and the Bath Antique Show.

The Community Project Award was given to the Bath Mobile Food Truck. Nutritious food is vital to health and growth, but not readily available to all people. Hunger is a reality for hundreds of Bath residents. Volunteers at the Food Truck's monthly visits have filled a void by bringing not only food, but also hope, dignity, and respect to those in need of sup-



Pastor Michael Ambler of Grace Episcopal Church and Kimberly Gates receiving the Project Award for their involvement with the Mobile Food Truck..

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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 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
Patten Free Library.	443-5141
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, 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.

Congress Avenue Multi-Use Path



In 2008, the City applied to the Maine Department of Transportation for a Transportation Enhancement Grant under its Quality Community Programs to construct a bike and pedestrian facility along Congress Avenue. This heavily traveled route, used by many walking to and from the Bath Middle School area, begged for a safe walkway. The problem was funding it.

This route was identified previously during a study to connect the Brunswick bike path to Bath. The study identified a route into Bath near Route 1 that would direct bicycle riders to travel down Congress Avenue and North Street to Washington Street and then to the bridge to potentially travel further north. The route brings both bikes and pedestrians to the downtown to enable other forms of transportation by boat, rail or to explore. The path would be for both bicycles and pedestrians, and is thus a "Multi-Use Path."

The City was successful in its application and was awarded \$595,000 to build a Multi-Use path on Congress Avenue that would stretch from the end of Chandler Drive to the beginning of North Street at the intersection of Lincoln Street. The City funded twenty percent of the project and hired Wright-Pierce to design the path. This past summer Harry Crooker & Sons was awarded the qualifying bid and began construction in July. In October the project was completed within budget and on schedule. The Multi-Use Path is now complete and is in use. The City intends to apply for the next Enhancement Grant to extend the path down North Street.

Although many walkers used this route before, the new path provides a safe and convenient travel lane on this busy city street. The path is nine-feet wide with a three foot esplanade to separate path users from motor vehicle traffic. The path includes two crosswalks with pedestrian traffic signals: one where the path crosses over in the vicinity of the Tainter Field entrance and the second at the intersection of Congress Avenue and Centre Street. These crossings are not stop lights, but are caution lights intended to warn motor vehicle traffic that a pedestrian is

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First Historic Markers Installed



The first two historic markers were installed in October on Water Street in recognition of the original Bath Iron Works site (today's Beale Street Barbeque and Grill location) and its founder Thomas Worcester Hyde.

Expect more markers to be installed in the City beginning next summer.



This is a close up of the marker remembering Thomas Worcester Hyde, the founder of what is now Bath Iron Works.

PACE Ordinance: Can It Help Me?

In December of 2010 the City of Bath adopted the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Ordinance. The passage of this ordinance makes it possible for properties within Bath to become eligible for PACE loans and appliance rebates administered by Efficiency Maine. PACE loans are low interest loans awarded to homeowners for the purpose of making home energy improvements. A few examples of potentially eligible projects for PACE loans include weatherizing, heating system improvements, hot water heater upgrades, and thermostat replacements.



You may qualify if you meet the following criteria:

- The homeowners have a debt-to-income ratio of not more than 45%;
- Property tax and sewer charge payments are current;
- The property is not subject to any outstanding tax or sewer liens;
- The property is not subject to a reverse mortgage;
- The property is not subject to a mortgage or other lien on which there is a recorded notice of default, foreclosure, or delinquency.

For more information please visit the Efficiency Maine website at www.efficiencymaine.com/pace, or call (866) 376-2463.



WINTER MARKET is open for business!

9am-noon

UCC Church, 150 Congress Ave.

Every Saturday through April

City Planner Retires After 15 Years Serving Bath



After 15 years as Bath's City Planner, Jim Upham stepped down on September 30th. Jim came to the City of Bath in 1996 from the Town of Wells where he also served as Town Planner. Previously he had been Planner in the communities of Bangor and Sanford and even served as the Director

of the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission. Before planning became Jim's career, he served as the Town Manager for the Towns of Mattawamkeag and Glenburn.

**DOZEN DISTINCTIVE
DESTINATION 2005**

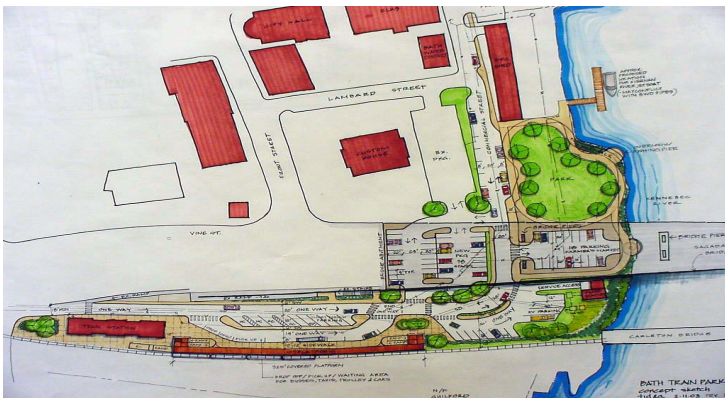


**NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™**

2009 when Bath's Front Street was named one of the country's "10 Greatest Streets" by the American Planning Association.

As City Planner, Jim has been part of almost every major development the City has undergone over the past 15 years, including the South End Boat Launch, Train Station/Visitors Center renovation, Waterfront Park upgrades, the Wing Farm Business Park, and the construction of the Hampton Inn Hotel on the waterfront.

Jim lives in Bath with his wife Susan.



Example of a sketch used by the City Planner. (Train Park)

New Faces in City Hall: Planning Office



Andrew Deci began his new role as City Planner on October 1st. Andrew comes to Bath from Fredericksburg, Virginia where he served as an Urban Planner for Spotsylvania County for the past 5 years. Andrew has a degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Mary Washington.

Andrew and his wife, Abby, who grew up in Freeport, moved to Bath this past summer. Abby is currently working at Dike-Newell Elementary School as a kindergarten teacher. They reside in Bath.

City Manager's Office



Justin Poirier was recently hired as the Community Development Coordinator. Justin most recently worked for the Town of Pownal as the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen. Previously, he worked for the Town of Belmont, Massachusetts as a facilities manager. Justin holds a bachelors degree in Public Management from the University of Maine and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Public Policy. Justin resides in Augusta with his wife Jennifer and their pug, Hiram.

History Lesson

(continued from page 8)

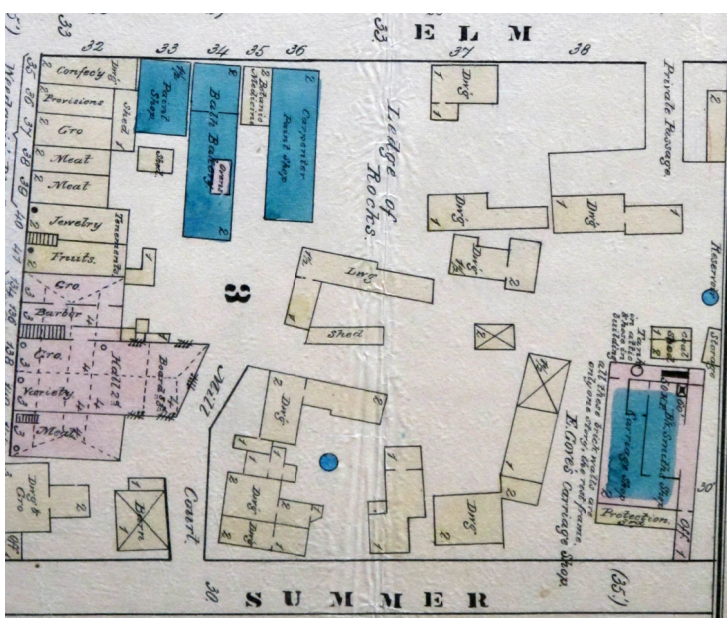
Centre Street, on the parcel now used by the Five-County Credit Union, was built in the fall of 1883 to serve as a multipurpose hall. One of its primary uses was for that craze of the 1880s, roller-skating, whether as a pleasant social activity, or the strenuous sport of roller polo – hockey on roller skates.

The land currently occupied by the Y addition and its immediate neighbors has been used for a variety of buildings and purposes. Details from two maps from 1873 and 1878 demonstrate this, while only capturing one of several arrangements of residential, industrial, re-

fers treats, a confectionery or candy store courted customers. None of the buildings pictured on the map on this portion of Front Street survived the fires of the 1890s.

The detail from the bird's-eye map of 1878 captures the visual quality of the dense downtown and its watery underpinnings. While Water Street had become a road by this time, rather than just an extended bridge, the unnamed artist indicated a small boardwalk, in the lower left corner, over the still periodically flooded lowland. The park, to the north or right, still contained privately owned parcels with homes; it would be another fourteen years until Patten Free Library's "new" building would be opened. On this map it becomes more obvious to today's viewer that the E. Gove Carriage Factory, mentioned above, was housed in the former Unitarian Church, built by the congregation in the early 1850s and sold by the early 1860s, when they joined the Elm Street Baptist Church in the same block. Only one residence shown here on Summer Street has survived today, the one closest to the former Unitarian Church. The other residences on Summer Street, and those crowded into the interior of the eastern half of the block near Front Street, would disappear during the twentieth century. On the bird's-eye map, just left of the S in "Summer," is a single home of two stories. This structure gained an additional floor around 1903, was known as Park Chambers and used as a hotel/apartment house for over fifty years, and then was demolished for the Y addition in 1968. Change.

Contributed by Robin A.S. Haynes, Bath resident and historian.



Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Map, Bath, Maine. November, 1873. Image courtesy of the Daniel R. Donovan Collection, Sagadahoc History and Genealogy Room, Patten Free Library.

tail, and institutional land uses that once occupied this portion of the changing downtown. Finding what has changed and what has stayed the same can be an engaging pastime.

The more customary map of 1873 (above), with its lined streets and building footprints, takes the viewer into a block of an active downtown, where there was a carriage factory and blacksmith shop, a paint shop, a bakery of which the front portion continues on Elm Street, a carpenter's shop whose structure remains standing today, and a store for botanical medicine. Near where cherubs currently grace the entrance to the old Y, a barn stood. And on Front Street, between Elm and Summer Streets, Bath supported four grocery stores, several butcher shops, and a fruit store – in that single block. At the corner where an ice cream parlor now of-

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT DAY

(continued from page 1)

port. The City of Bath thanks all volunteers and donors who have supported the Bath Mobile Food Truck.

The Community Spirit Award was awarded to Joe Grace and Main Street Bath. Joe Grace was recognized for his dedication to Bath's senior community. Joe has been delighting audiences at Bath's senior living facilities with his singing for years. He not only entertains the residents he is also a friend to the residents. Main Street Bath was recognized for their commitment to our community through its continued leadership and volunteerism to promote not only the City's downtown, but the City's sense of community. Main Street's activities are too numerous to mention and they have impacted everyone who works, lives or plays in Bath.

Main Street Bath:

December events for *An Old Fashioned Christmas in Bath*

Santa arrived in downtown Bath on Saturday, November 26th, for an early visit with Bath families in City Hall auditorium and the lighting of the children's Christmas Tree in the City Park gazebo. Thanks to all who came downtown for the event and in support of Small Business Saturday!

Downtown Holiday Open House

Next on Main Street Bath's schedule of December festivities for Bath is the annual *Holiday Open House* on the evening of Friday, December 16th. Downtown shops, restaurants and bank lobbies will be open from 5-8pm to welcome shoppers with refreshments, music, specials, and one-of-a-kind gifts. Sidewalks will be lined with luminaries, and the downtown will be looking its holiday best for this last big shopping weekend before Christmas and Hanukkah.



Window Decorating Contest

Our Holiday Open House evening on December 16th will also kick off Bath's Window Decorating Contest. Come see Bath's historic downtown in holiday dress, take in the lighted shop windows and decorated storefronts, and vote for your favorite! Ballot boxes will be placed on Hallett's Clock, at Brackett's Market, and in bank lobbies and businesses throughout the downtown. Voting will continue through Sunday, December 18, and the winners will be announced December 19th. All ballots will be entered in a drawing to win a Gift Basket full of stocking stuffers from downtown merchants. Along with the "popular choice," judges will select winners in the "most charming" and "most festive" categories. Each winning business will receive a \$50 Gift of Bath gift certificate, redeemable at over 70 businesses throughout the city.

Trolley Caroling

Trolley caroling continues this year on Friday evenings December 9-23. Grab a blanket and a thermos of hot chocolate and hop on the trolley with your family and friends for a trip through Bath's neighborhoods. Passengers are picked up at City Hall every 30 minutes between 6-8pm.



Santa Bags

Each year Main Street Bath sets out "Santa Bags" in the lobbies of Bath City Hall, the Patten Free Library, and the Bath Area Family YMCA to collect toys for needy children. In the spirit of the holidays, children and adults are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped gift or toy to stuff the bags with presents for distribution at the Bath Soup Kitchen holiday party. Please help us fill Santa's bag with toys!

Santa's Letters

Red boxes dot the downtown area to receive your children's letters to Santa. He can't promise a reply at this busy time of year, but we can promise they will be delivered!

For more information, call Main Street Bath at 442-7291 or www.visitbath.com. For a full schedule of holiday events, pick up the 2011 calendar from the Main Street Bath office in the train station or from businesses throughout the downtown.

If you would like information about having a display in the Visitor's Information Center or are interested in being a vendor or sponsor of the 2011 Bath Heritage Days, contact Ed Rogers at 522-4026 or Main Street Bath at 442-7291.



Congress Avenue Multi-Use Trail Opens

(continued from page 2)

in the crosswalk.

Pathway facilities are popping up throughout the country as a community asset to encourage people to choose alternatives to driving their cars. The benefits of walking or riding a bicycle whether for utilitarian or recreational purposes can enhance quality of life within a community as well as having economic rewards. These benefits include exercise and health benefits to the individual who is walking or bicycling. Because a car is not being used, traffic congestion, fossil fuel consumption and the discharge of pollutants to the environment are reduced. Let's face it, riding a bike is also a lot more fun.

We can all remember how fun it was the first time we rode a bike. That basic feeling of mobilizing swiftly under your own power, quietly and freely, is why many choose to ride a bike. So get out and experience the multi-use path. Whether you walk it or ride it, the path is a community asset to be utilized. Walk to an event at Tainter Field or ride your bike; it will feel good and it won't cost you anything at the pump.



A view of the Multi-Use Path crossing Congress Street with the newly installed traffic signals and signage.

Curbside Collection Notices

Christmas Tree Collection

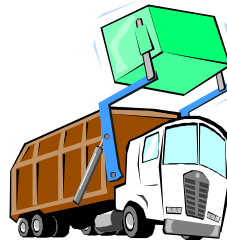
January 2, 9, and 16, 2012 – All streets



Landfill Closures:

Christmas Day (observed) Dec. 26

New Years Day (observed) Jan. 2



Collection Schedule:

Trash and recycling collection will follow the regular schedule on December 26th, January 2nd, January 16th (Martin Luther King Day), and February 20th (Presidents' Day).



Bath is Recycling

Single Stream Recycling -
Don't let your money go down the drain.
Fill your Bath tub.

One Tub - No Sorting

What to Include

- ☒ Mixed Paper: direct mail/envelopes (all types), paper (all colors, staples/paperclips are okay), computer paper, folders
- ☒ Newsprint: newspapers/inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone/soft cover books
- ☒ Paperboard: cereal boxes, food boxes, shoeboxes, paper towel rolls
- ☒ Milk/Juice Cartons or Jugs
- ☒ Corrugated Cardboard (flattened)
- ☒ Brown Paper Bags
- ☒ Plastic Bottles/Containers #1 thru #7: soda/juice/water bottles, food containers (margarine, yogurt, etc.)
- ☒ Glass Bottles/Jars (any color)
- ☒ Aluminum Products: pie plates/trays/foil
- ☒ Metal Cans: tin/steel/aluminum

What NOT to include

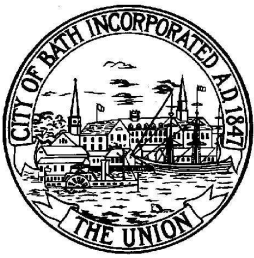
Plastic bags, foam packing material, Styrofoam, food liners, hardcover books, rope, twine, unmarked plastics, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, dishes, Pyrex, ceramic, aerosol cans, spray paint, paint cans, hazardous or universal waste, recyclables containing food waste

FMI: Contact Bath Landfill @ 207.443.8356
www.cityofbath.com



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Haynes' History Lesson: *Change*



The *City of Ships* newsletter

For questions, comments and other inquiries
about the newsletter, please contact
Justin Poirier at 443-8330 or by email at
jpoirier@cityofbath.com.

*"Bird's Eye View of the City of
Bath, Maine, Sagadahoc
County, Maine, 1878." J. J.
Stoner, Publisher, Madison,
Wisconsin. Image courtesy of
the Sagadahoc History and
Genealogy Room, Patten Free
Library*

Change. "The only constant is change," an oft-quoted statement that captures the idea central to the work of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus (535-475 BC). In Bath's downtown, the city center itself illustrates this thought, with some structures that are over 170 years old and others from the last 50 years. The upcoming demolition of the mid-20th-century Y.M.C.A. addition to the Columbian Block reminds us that a central business district is always a work in progress, even if it is part of a historic district.

The Skate Park will actually be the second skating establishment to leave Bath's downtown. The first, the Alameda, a large structure on-

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