

CITY of SHIPS

ISSUE 11

CITY OF BATH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012

Above photo from Taylor Photography
www.miketaylorphoto.com



FEATURES

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MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

FOR HOLIDAY CHANGES AND ADDITIONAL MEETINGS, PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR ON WWW.CITYOFBATH.COM

- CITY COUNCIL
1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- PLANNING BOARD
1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS, 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- COMMUNITY FORESTRY
2ND WEDNESDAYS, 7:00 PM
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2ND THURSDAYS, 4:00 PM
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
- ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
1ST MONDAYS AS NEEDED, 7:00 PM
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM



Downtown Vicinity
City of Bath, Me.

Access audit, improvements ahead

The City of Bath has been awarded more than \$127,000 in grant monies from the Maine Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration for four accessibility improvements in the downtown.

of the identified problems within the plan. The improvements will allow disabled riders of the bus service to reach downtown destinations and improve pedestrian safety within the downtown.

The City of Bath has been awarded more than \$127,000 in grant monies for four accessibility improvements in the downtown.

The City Bus service made the community eligible to apply for accessibility grants to correct some

Over the course of the last two years, citizens and staff have worked together to identify and mitigate accessibility issues within the downtown. An outcome of the accessibility audit and other meetings was the development of an Americans with Disabilities Act compliance plan. This work led to an ADA accessibility plan, which identified and proposed solutions to barriers. Most of the barriers were located where crosswalks intersected with sidewalks that have vertical-faced curbs.

(continued on page 2)

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
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ..	725-8797
CITY CLERK	443-8332
CITY MANAGER	443-8330
CITY PLANNER	443-8363
CODES OFFICER	443-8334
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	443-8372
FINANCE	443-8338
FIRE DEPT.....	443-5034
GENERAL ASSISTANCE	443-8335
LANDFILL.....	443-8356
MAIN STREET BATH.....	442-7291
MAINTENANCE	443-8365
PARKS AND RECREATION ..	443-8360
PATTEN FREE LIBRARY	443-5141
POLICE	443-5563
PUBLIC WORKS.....	443-8357
SAGadahoc CNTY COURT	443-8200
TREASURER	443-8340
U.S. POST OFFICE.....	443-9778
W. BATH DISTRICT COURT.	442-0200

Information about municipal happenings are published in the local newspapers and advertised on Bath Community Television. You can also find information on the City's website (www.cityofbath.com).

All City Council and Planning Board Meetings are online. Meetings will be available to watch live and will be archived for a year. You can view these meetings by going to the City Council page of the City of Bath website and clicking on Meetings Online: Live/On-Demand or by going directly to TownHallStreams.com and select "Bath" from the list of towns.



THE CITY OF SHIPS NEWSLETTER

FMI CONTACT
MARC MEYERS AT 443-8330 OR
MMEYERS@CITYOFBATH.COM

Bath Police joins RAIDS Online

The Bath Police Department and BAIR Analytics Inc. recently partnered to provide an online crime map called RAIDS Online that maps and analyzes crime data and alerts citizens.

Citizens can view a map and grid with all of the crimes in their area and sign up for neighborhood watch reports that automatically email a breakdown of recent crime activity. RAIDS Online automatically syncs with the Police Department's records system to keep crime information updated. RAIDS Online cleans and geocodes the crime data, then displays incidents on a map, grid and analytics dashboard along with basic information about the incidents, including type of crime, type of location, date and time.

"The Bath Police Department's participation in RAIDS Online highlights their commitment to proactive communication with the public they serve," said Sean Bair, founder of BAIR Analytics, "We're excited to partner with the Bath Police Department to provide this free service for their public."

Typically, agencies can spend thousands of dollars annually through other crime mapping providers. BAIR Analytics offers RAIDS Online and the RAIDS Online Mobile app as a free service to any law enforcement agency that wishes to participate.

**For more information about
RAIDS Online, visit
www.raidsonline.com.**

Access *(continued from page 1)*

Prior to the availability of the grant funding source, city staff anticipated phasing minimal improvements over the course of three years. With this new funding opportunity, the City is able to expand improvements, conclude them in one phase, and reduce costs.

Although the design-phase of the project has just begun, the project is expected to focus on four principal intersections along Front Street: Front and Centre streets, Front and Broad streets, Front and Elm streets, and Front and Summer streets. Curb ramps will be installed on both sides of the street. Where the sidewalk is not sufficiently deep to provide an accessible curb-ramp, 'bump-

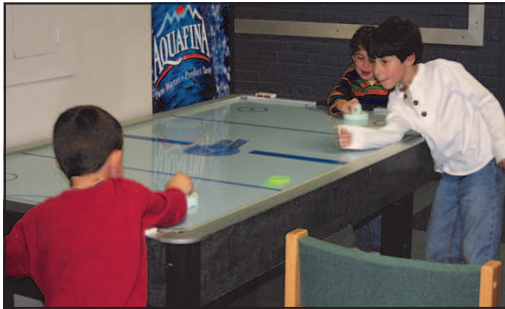
outs' will be constructed. 'Bump-outs' are effective at providing the necessary landing area for a wheelchair-bound individual, but also limit the distance a pedestrian must be in the roadway—and tend to reduce the speed of traffic.

This project will be designed and constructed by the MDOT, with design guidance provided by City staff and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Design is expected to be completed by the spring with construction in the summer.

For more information, please contact the Director of Planning & Development, Andrew Deci, at 443-8363.

**SECOND ANNUAL KEEP BATH BEAUTIFUL DAY
SAVE THE DATE — APRIL 21, 2013**





Grand re-opening for the Park

The Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skatepark grand re-opening was held in September at the former National Guard Armory on Old Brunswick Road. The Park is open Monday through Friday, 2 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday noon-9 p.m., and Sunday noon-6 p.m.



THINK SPRING!

Register today for Farm League baseball/softball and grades K-8 lacrosse. Call 443-8360.

City of Bath

Tel 443-8356

Urges You to Do Your Part for Earth Day 2013: Compost Your Yard and Food Waste!



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For more information call:

The Bath Landfill Tel: 443-8356

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Subtotals
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Rain Barrel		\$62.00	
Thermometer		\$19.00	
TOTAL DUE			

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Department spotlight: Bath City Bus

Long-standing service and a community feel

The City Bus celebrated its 75th year in 2012. True today as it was on May 16, 1937, residents, commuters and visitors are able to board the City Bus to reach their destinations.

"It provides transportation opportunities at a very affordable cost," said Director of Planning & Development Andrew Deci, who serves as Operations Manager for the City Bus. "Ridership is up over the past three years: 10,000, 11,000 to 13,000 riders last year."

A trip to the vet, weekly shopping at the grocery market and a regular checkup at the doctor's office. After eight years at the wheel, driver Marvin McKeown knows regular riders by name and their destination by day. The riders also greet familiar faces, talk about the day's events and news while headed to their destinations.

Tickets are sold for \$1 each or \$10 for 12. One-day passes are \$2. The City Bus operates from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and provides transportation within Bath to anyone. The City Bus serves a variety of riders, mostly on the two regularly-scheduled routes through the City. McKeown and Rob Drouin, the regular operators, usher riders to and from more than 20 different locations throughout Bath via two regional loops.

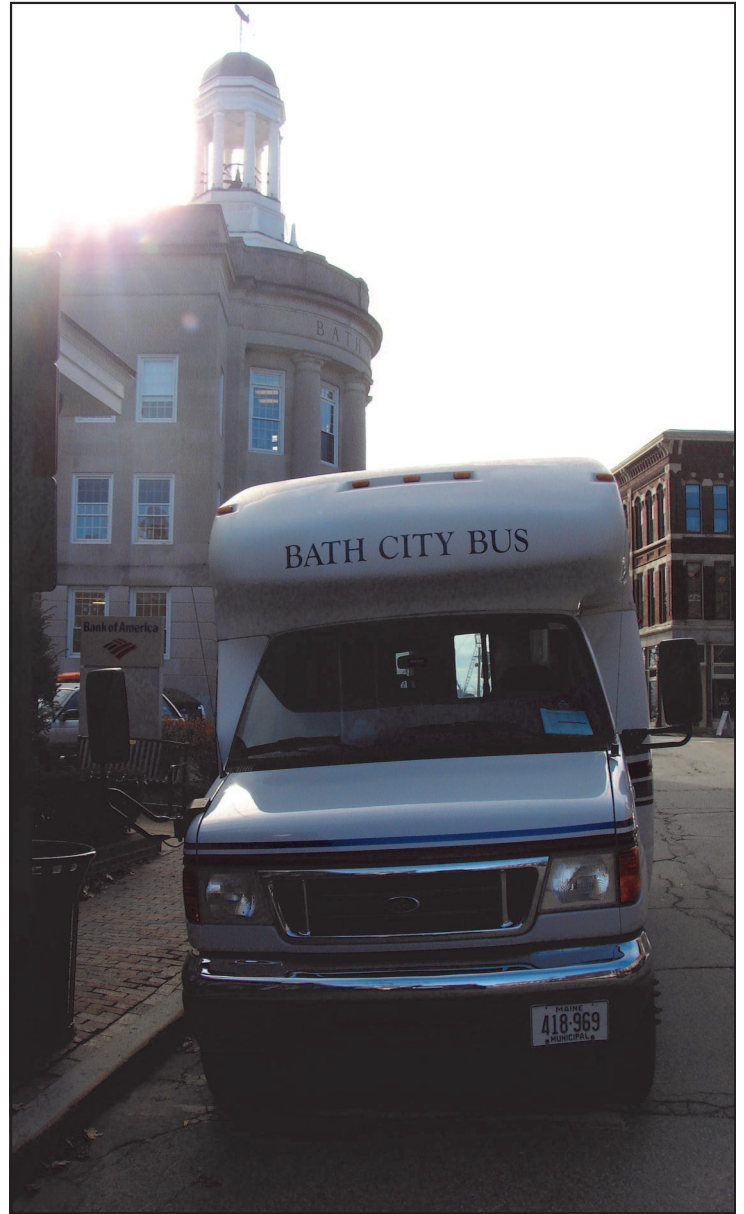
Both loops begin and end at City Hall and include stops at Sea Cliff and Shaw's Supermarket. Schedules are available at City Hall or online at www.cityofbath.com.

The North Loop, a 35-minute journey, meanders through roads above Leeman Highway with stops at Bath Area Family YMCA, Bath Housing Authority, Moorings, Congress Avenue Plaza, Shaw's, Sea Cliff, Maritime Apartments, Oak Ridge Apartments, Community Center at Lambert Park, Dike's Landing, Midcoast

"It provides transportation opportunities at a very affordable cost. Ridership is up over the past three years: 10,000, 11,000 to 13,000 riders last year."

Andrew Deci

Director of Planning & Development



The City Bus operates from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 443-8363.

Center for Higher Education and Patten Free Library.

The South Loop, a 25-minute ride, includes visits to Washington House, Sea Cliff, Shaw's, Coastal Plaza, Richardson and High streets, the Plant Home and Maine Maritime Museum.

The City Bus also makes trips to Midcoast Hospital and provide BIW commuter service. For more information on the City Bus or these services, call 443-8363.

The City Bus is part of more than a century's tradition of public transportation in Bath. The bus was preceded by 37 years of electric trolley service.

The City Bus is a service provided by municipal, state and federal funds.



Main Street Bath

"5-minute Pitch" produces grant, mobile application

Main Street Bath participated in a "5-minute Pitch" contest at the Maine Downtown Center's annual conference in Farmington last spring, winning a grant valued at \$2,500 in cash and services to use for development of a mobile marketing platform for Bath businesses.

The award was based on the use of innovation to positively impact the downtown by promoting business entrepreneurship. Cathy Matero of David Matero Architecture, and Main Street Bath director Jennifer Geiger teamed up to pitch the judges on a project to

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create a mobile-friendly version of the existing online business directory at visitbath.com. Their concept won points for practicality, and for the likelihood it would

"move the needle" in a positive direction for Bath's small, independent businesses.

"There is a growing population that uses a smartphone or other mobile device to gather information rather than sitting at a computer, especially when traveling. We need to be able to reach these people to stay competitive," said Geiger. "Thanks to the MDC grant, Main Street Bath can do this as an organization and eliminate the time

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An Old-Fashioned Christmas in Bath



Downtown Bath kicked off the holidays Thanksgiving weekend with the annual Lighting of the Children's Tree in the Gazebo, followed by cookies and a Visit with Santa at Bath City Hall.

Honors abound at Main Street annual meeting

Main Street Bath's 11th annual meeting in October was a celebration of local food and chefs, camaraderie, achievement and talent in service of the community.

Chefs from Mae's Café and Solo Bistro prepared the menu using food from Bath Farmers Market, Gilmore's Seafood, and Pineland Farms Meats.

Local resident Charlie Hudson was recognized with the 2012 Presidents Award for his work on the video that helped win the Great American Main Street Award.

"Spirit of Bath" Awards were given to Betsy Fear for Banners Over Bath and the viaduct murals project; Roger Heard for his work on downtown parking; Zachary McDorr for his Bath Maine History Center Facebook page; and the Maine Maritime Museum for their outreach efforts.

Carolann Oullette, director of the Maine Office of Tourism, was the featured speaker.

MAIN STREET BATH THANKS TO ALL WHO RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE MAIN STREET BATH SURVEY. THE RESULTS ARE BEING ANALYZED AND WILL BE SHARED SOON! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT MAIN STREET BATH ONLINE AT VISITBATH.COM

Haynes' History Lesson: Whispers from Oak Grove Cemetery

Graveyards are quiet places, but you can almost hear whispered stories in Bath cemeteries. For those whose family members rest here, good memories recited by remembered voices echo in their heads. For others interested in community history, the markers for influential shipbuilding families, immigrant workers, and children lost too early, narrate past events in the City of Ships. The skillful ornamentation tells of changing technology and fashions.

The landscape has a tale of its own, a story of change as the 19th century re-imagined burial grounds. No longer a fearful place as pictured by Washington Irving, the cemetery became a garden – planted not just with weeping willows, but interesting botanical specimens; watered not just by tears, but by the creation of picturesque ponds; traveled not just by hearses along straight lines of leaning markers, but by tourists and families seeking inspirational strolls along curving paths. The city of the dead became a garden for the living.

These were the ideas behind



John H. Ramsay's imaginative use of tree limbs and roots made a "summerhouse," that invited lingering to admire the surrounding landscape.



This fanciful bridge over the southern pond at Oak Grove Cemetery demonstrates well the ideals of the rural cemetery.

Oak Grove Cemetery. The city purchased the burying ground in 1872, needing more space for burials. The purchase and the 1883 hiring of John H. Ramsay as Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries encouraged the cultivation of a new type of cemetery. Massachusetts' Mount Auburn Cemetery of 1831 was the first North American landscape inspired by the European "rural" or "garden cemetery." In a "rural cemetery," landscape designers sought to create a park-like setting, a pastoral place separated from the workaday world, a recreational space where one might contemplate both the beauty of nature and the sweetness and shortness of life.

The improvements drawn by Ramsay to transform the burying ground into a cemetery that echoed these ideas were detailed in the November 21, 1885 edition of *The Bath Independent*. The "lake" to the north of the main entrance road and many interior improvements had begun in 1883. The 1885 projects included the digging of another pond to be spanned by a

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bridge done in a dramatic interpretation of rustic style. As the reporter described, the bridge's "sides are built in rural fashion of the limbs and roots of trees intertwining and gradually rising, until over the centre of the bridge they form an arch fittingly crowning this fine specimen of rustic work." Without the newspaper's account, it would be difficult to

(continued on page 7)

Mobile app

(continued from page 5)

and expense it would take for Bath's small independents individually."

The mobilized directory will be designed by Maine Hosting Solutions. The landing page will be customized with buttons for places to eat, shop, and stay, to find music, art and health services, and to relax or explore the outdoors.

A designated button will also link to the calendar of events for the coming week at visitbath.com. The "mobilized" directory of Bath business listings, information and links is expected to go live early in 2013.

For more information about Main Street Bath, visit www.visitbath.com.



Sister-city supporters sought



An historical relationship between Bath and Shariki village, now part of Tsugaru City, has grown into a sister-city relationship between the two communities and a sister-state relationship between Maine and the Aomori region of Japan. The program welcomes new members, sponsors, volunteers and interested travelers. For more information, contact Cindy Matthews at cmatthews@rsu1.org or visit bath-tsugaru.org. In the above photo, the 2012 travelers from the Bath area.

Haynes' History Lesson (continued from page 6)

identify a photograph found in a photo album at Patten Free Library's History Room as even being Oak Grove. In 1895, the same newspaper reprinted an article about Oak Grove Cemetery from the Chicago publication *Park and Cemetery*, with the headline "Bath's Pride and One of the Most Beautiful Bits of Landscape Work in Maine." The article reported on Ramsay's beautification of the area, specific plantings, and the purchase of additional lands to the north of the original burial grounds. The description of the "handsomest rustic summerhouse in Maine," which capped the summit of the northwest section, allowed the identification of another photograph in the photo album mentioned above.

As with the earlier bridge, the natural and irregular curves of the tree limbs and roots were arranged in an exuberant composition, inspired by the then popular Adirondack style. That architectural fashion had grown out of the work of

Oak Grove today

A coalition of Bath organizations are developing a restoration plan for Oak Grove Cemetery.

The Bath Forestry Committee, along with Sagadahoc Preservation, Inc., Bath Garden Club, Bath Historical Society and Kennebec Estuary Land Trust have begun preliminary work on the development of a restoration plan that focuses on the historic and natural resources of the cemetery. Over the next three years, the collaborating organizations will develop a restoration plan that identifies the cemetery's unique assets and uses, and how they can be preserved and enhanced in the future. Plan development is expected to occur over the next three years, with restoration activities beginning after that.

At this time, the group is inventorying all known information about the cemetery. If you have news clippings, stories, pictures, or ideas for the plan, please contact Andrew Deci at 443-8363.

mid-nineteenth-century architects, who had rejected the contrived geometry of classical styles and embraced more organic and asymmetrical designs based on a transcendental view of nature. However, by the time of a 1909 article on the city's cemeteries, it appears that the bridge had been remodeled and the summerhouse dismantled, since neither appeared in illustration nor descrip-

tion within the report. Ramsay died unexpectedly in 1897.

While much of Ramsay's original work is gone, the peaceful atmosphere of the rural cemetery remains at Oak Grove. The voices of the departed, including Ramsay whose remains lie there, the leaves of the trees, and the breezes over the lakes continue to whisper their stories.



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Meet the City Council



New members of the Bath City Council were sworn in on Dec. 5. In the front, from left, Carolyn Lockwood, Sean Paulhus, David Sinclair, Meadow Merrill. In the back row, Mari Eosco (vice chair), Bernie Wyman (chair), Steve Brackett, Andy Winglass, Leverett "Tink" Mitchell.

Ward 1

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meadow.ward1@myfairpoint.net

Ward 2

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seanpaulhus@gmail.com

Ward 3

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Ward 6

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Ward 7

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winglass@gwi.net

At Large

Steve Brackett 443-2011
market@gwi.net