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**Issue 2 | January 2019**



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[City News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Staff Spotlight](#)

## Message from Peter Owen, City Manager

Dear Friends of Bath,

Happy New Year! It's been a busy season for the City and we have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. I'm always enheartened how we support one another in Bath, from fundraisers like the Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skatepark's *Spirit of Christmas Fair* to simple moments of community togetherness like the *Sing! It's Christmas* concert at the Chocolate Church. There is no replacement for a tight-knit community. Another way we can support each other, especially our merchants during difficult winter months, is to buy locally. Together we can keep Bath strong.

If you spent time downtown in December you might have noticed a special sight – the Bath Trolley primed for Christmas light viewing and full of carolers. If you want to learn more about the man behind the magic, be sure to check out this month's Staff Spotlight on [Charlie Williams](#), Trolley Conductor.

Finally, I want to take a moment to congratulate Bath Iron Works on its two recent contract awards with the U.S. Navy. The first is a destroyer added to the previous construction award in September. The second is for upgrades and maintenance services for Zumwalt-class destroyers. These contracts speak to the quality of work being performed at the shipyard where so many of our residents are employed. We all know the saying but I'm proud to repeat it: Bath Built is Best Built.

The City has a number of goals for 2019, which I will be writing about in future issues of *Front & Centre*. A brief list includes: updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan, progress on the Riverwalk Project along Commercial Street, improvement planning to Elm and Front Streets downtown, and completion of the South End Traffic Study. As the year unfolds there will be even more to discuss. In the meantime, I wish all of you a peaceful, healthy, and happy new year.

Sincerely,



Peter H. Owen  
City Manager

## City News

### Community FYI

- **Dog Licenses Due Jan. 31** - Don't forget to register your pooch at City Hall! Per state law, any dog license that is re-licensed after Jan. 31 will be subject to a \$25 late fee plus regular licensing fee. [Learn More](#)
- **Open Committee Positions** - Do you want to become more involved with your City? Consider joining one of the many committees that help make Bath a better place. [Learn More](#)

### City Offices and Landfill: Upcoming Holiday Closures

Please note that City offices and the [City of Bath Landfill](#) will be closed on:

- **Monday, Feb. 18**, in observance of Presidents Day. Curbside collection will follow normal schedule.

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### City Clerk Mary White Retires

City Clerk Mary White entered a well-deserved retirement on December 31st after nearly 24 years of service to the City of Bath. We thank her for her many contributions and wish her well!

Deputy Clerk Mary Howe will serve as Interim City Clerk until a permanent selection is made.



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## Bath Rotary Club Donates \$7,500 to Bath Police and Fire Departments

A very special "thank you" to the [Bath Rotary Club](#) for their recent donation of \$7,500 to the Bath Police and Fire Departments. The funds were used to purchase a NOPTIC camera for nighttime police surveillance and two FLIR handheld thermal imagers for use during fire events.



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## Bath Police Department Donates \$1,500 to Food Bank

On January 4th the Bath Police Department presented a \$1,500 check to the Bath Area Food Bank from funds raised during the Department's "No Shave November" challenge.

*Photo (L-R): Off. Brett McIntire, Food Bank Executive Director Kimberly Gates, Cpl. Garrett Olson*



## Skating at Goddard's Pond

Every winter, the Bath Parks and Recreation Department floods the field at the corner of High and Marshall Streets to create [Goddard's Pond](#), a lighted public skating rink. If you aren't sure whether the pond will be open, check the [Parks and Rec. Facebook page](#) before heading out.

See you out on the ice!



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## Hip Hop Dancing, Wrestling and More at Bath Parks and Rec.

Online registration is open for these great programs:

### **After School Sports Club (Jan. 28 - March 27)**

**Weekly Sessions: \$6.00**

**All 8 Winter Sessions: \$32.00**

This program gives students (grades 5-9) the opportunity to participate in physical activities after school with a range of games including basketball, wiffle ball, indoor touch football, soccer, dodge ball and more. *Sign up for all 8 weeks and get 2 weeks free!* [Learn More](#)

### **Hip Hop Dance Camp (Feb. 18 - 22)**

**\$40.00 Res. | \$45.00 Non-Res.**

This program gives students (grades 2-6) the opportunity to learn basic musicality, stretching techniques and dance terminology while engaging with other students and strengthening their creative skills in live performance. [Learn More](#)

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## Bath Rings in the New Year

Thank you to everyone who joined us on December 31st as we rang in the New Year with our Paul Revere bell - one of very few left in existence - which sits atop City Hall. Bath Citizen of the Year Darreby Ambler (*pictured above*) had the honor of ringing the bell while people gathered in the street below to sing songs and reflect on 2018.

The 16th Annual Paul Revere Bell Ringing was organized by [Main Street Bath](#). We thank them for making this special ceremony possible!

## Upcoming Events

### Welcome to Bath

**Monday, Jan. 28 | 6:00 - 8:00pm**

**Maine Maritime Museum | 243 Washington Street**

Are you new to Bath? Welcome! Are you a long-time resident who would like to meet some newcomers? We'd love to see you! Join Main Street Bath and the Maine Maritime Museum at this informal mixer and meet your newest neighbors. [Learn more.](#)



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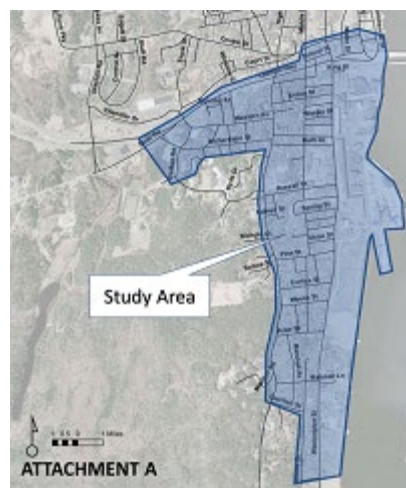
### South End Transportation Study Public Meeting

**Thursday, Jan. 31 | 5:30 - 6:30pm**

**Bath City Hall | 55 Front Street, 1st floor auditorium**



The next South End Transportation Study public meeting will be held on Thursday, January 31st. Thursday, February 7th will be held as the snow date. You can learn more about the project [Here](#), on the City of Bath website.



## Staff Spotlight



### Meet Charlie Williams

Charlie Williams retired from City work in the 2013, but patrons of the Bath Trolley would never know it.

Charlie, a Phippsburg native who moved to Bath and never left, was hired by the Public Works Department in 1983. By the time the first City trolley was purchased in 1998, Charlie was working four ten-hour days and wondering what to do with the other three days.

"I like to get out and do something," he said. "I don't like to sit around. When they opened a part-time driver position, I decided to take it."

That's the same mentality that has kept Charlie driving the trolley. Not only does he drive the trolley on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months but also for chartered events like weddings, and, in December, for caroling.

Riders on the trolley who want to learn a little more about Bath are welcome to ask Charlie for an impromptu history lesson – he’s happy to answer questions and share his knowledge of the City of Ships. Did you know, for instance, that the original trolley was named “Emma” after Emma Eames, Bath’s famous opera singer? And that the trolley in operation today, named “Charlie,” is not named after Charlie Williams but after Bath forefather Charlie Burgess?

“People ask if I get bored driving the trolley but I don’t. I like talking to people – in the summer I roll down the window and talk to people on the streets.”

When Charlie underwent an operation in 2017, local children painted trolleys on stones for him as a get well present. Charlie remembers their gifts with a smile.

“Bath is just friendly people. I like being one of the greeters. That’s what I do. I greet people every day.”

*The Bath Trolley is municipally funded, and does not receive or use federal or state funds. This year’s trolley caroling was made possible in thanks to the generous sponsorship of several local businesses: [Mario’s Pizza](#), [JR Maxwell’s](#), [Southgate Restaurant](#), [Byrnes Irish Pub](#), [Wilson’s Drug Store](#), [The Galley Restaurant](#). To learn more about the Bath Trolley, [click here](#).*

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