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Issue 7 | June 2019



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Message from Peter Owen, City Manager

Dear Friends of Bath,

The City turned blue and white this month to celebrate Morse High School Alumni Weekend. Some alumni took to the Bath Golf Club greenway for the Blue and White Golf Classic, some ran in the Shipbuilder Sprint, many attended the 129th Annual Alumni Banquet, and others simply visited the streets of Downtown Bath to catch up with old friends. In whatever way you celebrated, I hope you enjoyed the community spirit that Morse alumni are famous for. Please join me in congratulating our newest alumni: the Class of 2019.

As many of you know, RSU1 is in the process of constructing a new high school. This brings about the timely conversation of what to do with the existing high school. The City understands that Morse is a source of passion and pride for its alumni, so we want to provide opportunities for the public to provide input on the future use of the building.

On Thursday, June 20 at 6 p.m. in City Hall, Bath will hold the first public meeting to discuss the concept of redevelopment. For those of you who are unable to attend, we will post a feedback form to the City of Bath website, [here](#). Please stay tuned to the website and the City's Facebook Page for the latest updates.

I also want to remind everyone that Bath Heritage Days is coming up – this year will feature live music from 30 bands, so get ready to enjoy great tunes on the shores of the Kennebec River in addition to all of the usual attractions. Have fun, stay safe, and celebrate Bath! You can find out more at BathHeritageDays.com.

Sincerely,



Peter H. Owen, P.E.
City Manager

City News

Community FYI

- **Richardson and Western Public Meeting** - The City will hold a public meeting on June 26 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of City Hall to discuss proposed traffic calming on Richardson St. and Western Ave. [Learn More](#).
- **Marijuana Legislation** - The Planning Board will hold a workshop on marijuana on June 18 and a public hearing on July 9. [Learn More](#)
- **Trolley Schedule** - Hop on the trolley for only \$1 per ride! The 2019 schedule is available on the City website [Here](#).
- **Hallet's Clock being repainted** - Hallet's Clock is under restoration but will be back up before Heritage Days.
- **Public Works projects** - Public Works is currently repainting crosswalks and stop bars across the City, making pavement repairs, preparing for street paving, inspecting sewers and storm drains, and designing storm drain improvements at Fisher Mitchell School. They are also planning for several projects, including the construction of sidewalks on Oak Grove Avenue, Judkins Avenue, and Old Brunswick Road.

City Offices and Landfill: Upcoming Holiday Closures

Please note that City offices and the City of Bath Landfill will be closed on **Thursday, July 4**, in observance of Independence Day. Curbside collection will follow normal schedule.

Morse High School Redevelopment

With construction underway at the new high school, the City will hold a public meeting on June 20 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of City Hall to discuss the concept of redeveloping the existing Morse High School building. [Learn More](#).



Parking Changes on Commercial Street

Starting June 26, the 2 Hour Parking Zone abutting Waterfront Park on Commercial Street will be reserved for Farmers' Market vendors from 7 a.m. - 12 noon every Saturday from the first of May until the end of October.

To find alternate parking downtown, check out [Bath's Parking Brochure](#).



Bath Fire Department First in State to Digitally Track Turnout Gear Cleanliness

The Bath Fire & Rescue Department has adopted a high-tech solution to protect their firefighters from carcinogens. [Read Story](#)



Lori Benson Receives Mainsail Award

Congratulations to Lori Benson, this year's recipient of Morse High School's annual Mainsail Award. The award goes to a community member who has made outstanding contributions to benefit the youth of the greater Bath community. You can read the speech honoring Lori [here](#).

Pictured: Lori with Morse High School Principal Eric Varney



Sign Up for Soccer and Mad Science Summer Camps!

Bath Parks and Recreation is accepting registrations for [Mad Science Summer Camp](#) and [Seacoast United Soccer Camp](#)! [Click Here](#) to see all programs.



Bath Area Food Bank Offers Year-Round Programs for Students

Did you know that the Bath Area Food Bank is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 - 4 p.m. for students only? The program, which allows food insecure students to 'shop' for groceries, is available all year long, not just during the school year.

This summer, from June 25 to August 29, the Food Bank will also be offering bagged lunches/breakfast for any student that comes to their soup kitchen between 12 and 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays.

To learn more about the Bath Area Food Bank and their other student programs, please visit <https://www.bathfoodbank.org/>

Upcoming Events

3rd Friday Art Walk

Friday, June 21 | 4 - 7 p.m.
Downtown Bath

Every 3rd Friday from June to September the streets of Downtown Bath will be lined with local artists! [Learn More.](#)



Maine's First Ship Solstice Soiree

Saturday, June 22 | 6 - 10 p.m.
Maine's First Ship, 27 Commercial Street

Join Maine's First Ship for a festive evening: enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and cash oyster bar, dancing to Tom Whitehead's "Rites of Swing", and a bonfire, all while supporting The Virginia Project. [Learn More](#)



Dark Horse Consort at Green Lion Gallery

Saturday, June 22 | 7 - 9 p.m.
Green Lion Gallery, 104 Front Street

The Portland Bach Experience is coming to the Green Lion! Join us for an unforgettable evening with the Dark Horse Consort, a brass quintet, for an intimate evening of music and art. [Learn More](#)



Bath Heritage Days & Music Festival

Wednesday, July 3 - Sunday, July 7
Downtown Bath

This annual festival will feature a 4th of July parade, carnival, live music from 30 bands, and many other events held throughout the City's downtown area. [Learn More](#)



Find more community events on VisitBath.com

Staff Spotlight



Meet Robert Gonzalez

Bath's [Waste Water Treatment Plant](#) is essentially a large-scale chemistry set, and Robert Gonzalez knows how to keep it running smoothly.

Robert grew up in Miami, Florida and spent twenty years in the Navy as an aircraft mechanic before moving to Bath in 1994.

"I was having trouble finding work in Maine, and this job was an answered prayer," he said. "One day I went to the North End Boat Launch, which is right next to the treatment plant. I asked God to help me find a job, otherwise I was going to have to leave Bath. Shortly afterward I got a job as a maintenance operator at the plant."

The well-timed job opening has turned into a twenty-five-year career for Robert, who quickly moved from maintenance operator to lab operator, and then, most recently, to plant operator.

"I learned a lot as the lab operator. In a nutshell, it's the lab's job to make sure that the plant doesn't have any violations. We have a specific license from the Department of Environmental Protection to release water back into the Kennebec River after it's been through the plant. We're always monitoring to provide high quality wastewater treatment and most of the time, the water we release looks as good as drinking water."

As plant operator and work leader, Robert now oversees four staff members who maintain the plant's facilities, whether that means greasing the machinery, changing valves, inspecting clarifiers, or snow-blowing around hatches in the winter. He has to be ready to respond to alarms and troubleshoot malfunctioning equipment but said that it's less stressful than working in the lab where maintaining a balanced treatment environment required lots of focus and planning.

"Robert is a highly skilled City employee," said Bryan Levitt, Superintendent of the treatment plant. "His knowledge of the process, his reliability and excellent work ethic, his dedication to every task and the high standards he sets for himself are just a few of the things that makes him an outstanding operator and a valuable asset to the City."

"The City entrusted me to work here," said Robert modestly, "and I don't want to let them down."

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