



## From the Town Manager's Desk

We have completed the addition to the Library and we moved in March of this year. Phase three construction continued and I am happy to report that we are close to completing the necessary construction to be able to open the wall into the greater hall and start outfitting with furniture and book shelves. The "Friends of the Library" fundraising campaign took off early in the year and with their help we should have the construction completed in September. Completing the task in a year was not easy but with the extra help and donations your total library space (6800 sq. feet) will be ready for use soon.

The second part of the Young Street purchase was to develop the unused portion of the property. Early on it was decided that Senior Housing was needed in South Berwick and this spot would be a prime spot for that development. We are working with AVESTA Housing from Portland, Maine to create 28 affordable apartments for seniors over 55. A zoning change to clarify senior housing was passed and special town meeting authorized the Town Council to enter into a purchase and sales agreement. Improvements will include upgrades to the library parking lot, sidewalks, and green space. The town will net approximately \$150,000 after completion of the upgrades which will be used to reduce debt which has the effect of reducing our taxable assessments. Although this will be a change in the neighborhood the majority of taxpayers believe the project will be an asset to the community.

You are blessed to have the talented folks working in your best interest. Their due diligence resulted in us actually returning funds for the last fiscal year to the undesignated fund. Attention to detail allowed us to bring a budget to town meeting that was slightly less than last year. An increase in revenues also allowed us to fund capital accounts that had been stripped in the past. We believe that we are stabilized with a sustainable budget as we move forward. We thank you for your attention, understanding, and support throughout the process. The municipal budget was reduced by 31 cents per \$1,000 of valuation. Your tax bill includes municipal, school, and county portions. The total result will show an increase due to the funding of the RSU.

These are not easy times to maneuver through. The economy continues to be at best stagnant. We are looking at opportunities to collaborate with other communities to share services, thus providing the same level of services at a reduced cost to the taxpayer. Changes in the way we do business need to be justified and transparent. Change for the sake of change usually does not go well. We must gather the facts, share them, and make a decision knowing that every action has a reaction. Please consider getting involved. Stop by and share your ideas with me. Go to the Town of South Berwick webpage and become a "subscriber" at the bottom of the Home page. By doing this you will receive notice of Town Council meetings and/or information posted on the website delivered to your personal e-mail. It only takes a few minutes to get into the information loop.

The longer I am here the more assured I become that I made the right move in coming to your community. You have made me feel welcome and from time to time we may have agreed to disagree. Coming here has allowed me to work with terrific staff and an involved neighborhood. I look forward to the years ahead.

Respectfully,  
Perry Ellsworth

### Over Halfway to Library Campaign Goal

The Friends of the South Berwick Library are thrilled to report the Capital Campaign is well over halfway to the goal of \$1 million for the new Young Street Library. At this point, with construction and renovation all but complete, funds are needed to purchase bookshelves, furniture and equipment. Many thanks to the generous donors who have shown their commitment to this project in the heart of our community, including the numerous dedicated volunteers who have given time, goods and services. Special thanks to Salmon Falls Nursery & Landscaping of Berwick, for the donation of design, materials and labor to install plants and an irrigation system. Owner Mark Pendergast thanks his employees who donated their time, and Winding Brook Turf of Lyman for the donation of sod. Once the sod was laid by the town crew, our dirt lot was transformed into the attractive site we currently enjoy. Mark dedicates this project to the former South Berwick residents who encouraged him when he began his local business 35 years ago: Bill Bray, Dick Gagnon, Cliff Ham, Gloria Roberge and Dennis Smith, and current mentors Sam & Carol Mick. Salmon Falls Landscaping would also like to thank all other residents of South Berwick for the years of support.

[www.friendsofsouthberwicklibrary.org](http://www.friendsofsouthberwicklibrary.org), 384-5709, [campaign.fsbl@comcast.net](mailto:campaign.fsbl@comcast.net)

#### Nomination Papers

Nomination papers for Town Council and School Board are available from the Town Clerk. Papers must be returned to the Town Clerk by 1 pm Friday, September 21st, 2012.

Each board has 1 (3) year open term.

#### Firefighters Needed

The South Berwick Fire Department needs four firefighters. You must be 18 years old and have a Maine drivers license. No experience necessary; training will begin in September. Stop by or call the station at 384-2731 for an application. There will be an orientation night on August 27 at 7 pm at the Fire Station.

#### Hazardous Waste Collection

The annual hazardous waste collection day will be held October 6th from 9am to 1 pm at the Regional Maintenance Facility, 2B Industry Dr., Berwick, ME. A flyer outlining acceptable waste and transportation safety guidelines is available at Town Hall, the Transfer Station and can be found on the Town's website.

Plan to use this collection day to help keep harmful chemicals and pollutants out of our storm drains.

FMI on stormwater and tips to reduce runoff on your property: <http://www.thinkblumaine.org>

#### Conservation Commission

##### Open Space Planning

A subcommittee has been actively working on a plan with help from Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and a grant from the Maine Coastal Program. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 P.M. at the Community Center. All are welcome to participate.

Volunteers are needed to work in the town forest to repair the trails that were lost when the harvest was completed. If you are interested in helping please call: 384-3310 ext. 336.

### South Berwick Public Library

Dream Big! is the summer reading program theme for children at the library this year and we certainly are setting our sights high with the new library. We are *so close* to moving the contents of the library again and this time it will be across the floor and into our entire space at 27 Young Street. Our set-up will remain a little primitive as the Friends of the Library continue to seek donations toward new furniture and equipment.

Many of you have been in to the new library to update your memberships or sign up for borrowing for the first time. A baby story time for infants and toddlers is planned for the fall, as well as the resumption of story time programs for 2-3 year olds and 4-6 year olds. We are doing the first ever adult summer reading program and 65 adults are enjoying the challenge.

In anticipation of having more room we would like to add to our local history collection by having both Marshwood High School and Berwick Academy yearbooks (pre-1955 when B.A. was the town high school) available in the library. Do you have an old yearbook you are willing to donate?

### Old Berwick Historical Society

#### People, Places and Pantaloons!

Visit the Counting House Museum on weekends through October 28th. Historic fashions and tools used by local families: Mathews, Hayes, Lord, Jellison and Woods. The Counting House is staffed by Old Berwick Historical Society volunteers from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on weekends through October, and year round by appointment.

Admission FREE - donations welcome

### Social Services

Eligible Maine residents can receive a partial refund of property taxes assessed and/or rent paid during 2011 on their primary residence. This program remains open through May 31, 2013. To determine if you are eligible, log onto [Maine.gov/revenue](http://Maine.gov/revenue) and open the Tax Relief page.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is scheduled to open in late August. To apply please call: 324-5762.

Please mark your calendars: Wednesday, 11/8 from 5 to 7 pm is the date for SoBo Central's Annual Soup Supper at Spring Hill. This event is held to raise fuel assistance funds for South Berwick residents.

A big thank you to the dedicated volunteers of the Food Pantry who provide 9 hours of open staffing and countless hours of organizational time. This contribution to our community is immeasurable.

### Community Chorus at So. Berwick

*Invites singers to join this South Berwick based 60 singer regional chorus.*

*Rehearsals start Monday, September 10.*

*For more information visit our website:*

[www.CCSB-SING.org](http://www.CCSB-SING.org) or

Call Director Harry Moon at 384-7059



#### Fall 2012 Concert:

*"Gloria in excelsis Deo" ushering in the holiday season; performing with brass quintet and percussion.*

December 1 and 2, 2012

South Berwick (Marshwood High School) & Newington (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church).

### Strawberry Festival

Once again the Strawberry Festival was a huge success this summer with lots of people in attendance. This success was due mainly to the large number of community volunteers who help out with the hulling on Friday and all the work that goes on Saturday under the strawberry tent. The committee members would like to thank you very much for making the festival a success and helping to raise money for many of our non-profit groups in town. The committee was able to award 6 grants totaling over \$9000. Again, thanks a lot and we hope to see you next year

### Lanternfest

Lanternfest will be held on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm at Spring Hill (rain date 8/23). Mainesqueeze will be headlining the music and the lantern parade will commence at dusk. This event is open to all South Berwick residents and is a family friendly way to close out the summer with friends and neighbors. Bring your handmade lantern or purchase one that has been made by local students. Spring Hill will again be offering BBQ items or you are welcome to bring your own picnic. We hope to see everyone there!

### New Property Owner

Why is the previous owner on your tax bill? Maine Law requires the taxes to be committed in the name of the owner(s) of record as of April 1. If you purchased your property after that date and we have received a deed indicating transfer of ownership we typically send tax bills "in care of." Please notify us of any change of address if town correspondence or the tax bill was forwarded via an old address.

### A Letter From The South Berwick Sewer District

The US EPA along with other organizations is conducting ongoing studies of nitrogen impacts on Great Bay. Much of the work is being modeled after work done in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. The impacts are created from point source and non point source discharges. Point sources typically are sewage treatment plant effluent discharges and municipal storm water collection system discharges. A number of municipal sewage treatment plants and communities contribute discharges to Great Bay. Currently State and Federal relicensing for facilities is being withheld pending a determination of what new nitrogen limits will be placed on effluent discharges. Facilities impacted are South Berwick, Berwick, Kittery, North Berwick, Dover, Exeter, Durham, Portsmouth, Somersworth, Rochester, and Newmarket. It appears the South Berwick treatment plant currently provides the best effluent nitrogen qualities of the impacted plants, and attaining any

new limits will be easier for this plant and staff than for other impacted facilities. However, imposition of stricter nitrogen effluent limits will, at a minimum, increase operating costs and possibly require capital improvements at the treatment plant. It is anticipated that the limits will be imposed over a period of time, perhaps five years. In anticipation of this, the District has begun an Inflow and Infiltration Study to help improve the treatment process at the plant and provide consistently lower nitrogen levels in the effluent discharge. The study will pinpoint areas of the collection system that are deficient, and will prioritize improvement projects to garner the largest savings for the District.

In ongoing attempts to decrease costs of operations in the District and to maintain or lower member service rates, District staff have conducted three capital improvement projects in the past 18 months. These include installation of

\$500,000 sludge screw presses which replaced the original 1996 equipment, replacement of the original fluorescent lighting with new LED technology and exchanging the existing aeration blowers with high speed turbo blowers.

The screw press addition was financed by a conventional five year loan from Sanford Institute for Savings and is projected to be paid off in two and a half years with operational savings. Those savings will then be available to defray treatment plant operating costs.

The blower project was partially funded with grants from Efficiency Maine with the balance coming from the District Capital Reserve Account. Estimated operating expense savings from the lighting and blower projects is approximately \$17,000 per year which also results in an annual reduced carbon footprint of 180 tons.