



The Quamphegan

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

My first year here as your Town Manager has passed by at a very high rate of speed. The Staff is second best to no other group of employees that I have worked with and they have accomplished much with less to work with. Due to their diligence in handling their budgets we have passed into 2012 with budgets that are in control and aligned for success.

The conversion of the St. Michaels Church on Young Street began with the movement of the old church Rectory. We were fortunate to have an abutter step forward and assume the costs of moving the building and setting it on a new foundation. The alternative of tearing it down was met with resistance and now it sits on a new foundation without any exterior physical changes and appears as a building that has been in the position forever.

Once the Rectory was moved, demo and reconstruction activities were started on the church. The original plan was to utilize town authorized funds to assure structural needs were completed and to build the 1800 square foot addition. Those plans were altered slightly and the result is that the structural plans and exterior needs were completed on the old church. The addition was completed in its entirety and became usable space as of January 01, 2012. In mid- February we will be moving into that addition from our present location at the Jewett-Eastman House on Portland Street. We should be in full operation on or before March first.

With the help of the "Friends of the Library" we continue to work on the interior of the church portion of the building. The end of the tunnel is visible with plaster repairs, painting, interior trim, and carpeting being the major work to complete. As I write this article we have released the plaster and painting projects to the contractor. We have extended our contract with RICCI Construction through June 30th of this year. If the fundraising continues at its present pace the major portions of construction will done by then. A great goal would be to utilize the space by next fall. It all depends on the ability of the "Friends" to raise money as the Town has exhausted its dollars and the commitment has been and continues to be that additional tax dollars will not be used for the completion of construction activities.

We are beginning to work on departmental budgets and endeavor to hold the line on budgets if possible. This should not happen though at the expense of allowing deterioration of our infrastructure such as roads and municipal owned buildings. We should not become too comfortable with the extremely warm winter with minimal snowfall during this season. Any funds not utilized will be returned to the General Fund for potential tax relief in the future. We expect to publish memos this year on the makeup of each budget so as to create an understanding of what they include. We have promised transparency and we intend to stand by that promise.

Please stop by and visit with me if you have ideas or do not gain a full understanding from what we produce. Numbers can only become realistic if they are explained. Lack of understanding can become the catalyst for trouble. We want you to understand how we intend to spend your tax dollars and what you are getting for them. I would appreciate your ideas as we move forward. My door is always open unless I am in a meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Town Manager. I feel confident that we will have the ability to meet the challenges of the future and pursue new opportunities at the same time.

Respectfully,
Perry A. Ellsworth



Upcoming events to benefit the Library:

- **March 23:** *Diva Night at the Red Barn*
 - **March 30 & April 1:** *CCSB Concert: On The Bookshelf*
 - **May 12:** *Book Sale* (book donations accepted after March 1)
 - **June 15:** *Marty England Concert*
 - **June 30:** *Strawberry Festival Red Sox Tickets Raffle*
 - **Ongoing:** *eBay donations*
- For more information about events:
cquater@comcast.net, 384-2958
www.friendsofsouthberwicklibrary.org

The Capital Campaign for South Berwick's New Library:

- Goal:** \$1 million.
- Raised to date:** \$365,000 in gifts, grants & pledges.
- Turned over to the Town for construction:** \$165,000.
- Cash flow needed to complete construction:** \$120,000.
- To furnish and equip the Library:** \$325,000 est.

The Campaign Committee invites you to tour the new Library building and talk with us about how you would like to contribute to this exciting and important project for South Berwick.

For more information:
fsbl.campaign@comcast.net | 384-5709

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

Lady Bird Johnson



New PAYT Bag Style

For the convenience of our residents, we will be changing the style of the blue pay-as-you-throw trash bags to "Draw Tape" style bags.

Although the draw tape style bags have the same capacity as the twist-tie bags, they may appear to have less capacity since they are 4" shorter than the twist tie bags. However, on our current bags, the same 4" is used up when the top of the bag is twisted and tied, leaving a tail. Physically, the draw tape bags are shorter, but when tied, hold the same volume of trash.

Our supplier has agreed to provide the draw tape bags at no additional cost. We hope our residents enjoy the ease of use of the new bags.

2012 Spring Concert



On the Bookshelf

A musical browsing, as if in a Library, of subjects including literature, the elements, poetry, sacred verse, and American folk songs. 60-voice chorus with instrumentalists including harp, oboe, and piano.

The concert will be a fundraiser for the Friends of the Library Capital Campaign.

Come hear great choral music & support the Library!

Saturday March 31, 7:30 PM
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newington, NH

Sunday April 1, 3:00 PM
Whipple Arts Theater, Berwick Academy,
South Berwick

Yardscaping



Stormwater pollution is caused when pollutants such as motor oil, road salt, pet waste, soil, pesticides, and fertilizers are picked up by rain water and washed off land surfaces, especially hard surfaces like parking lots and believe it or not - grass lawns. This contaminated stormwater rushes downstream, untreated, into local rivers and lakes, reducing water quality and harming aquatic species.

YardScaping reduces stormwater pollution by giving us the tools to reduce our use of pesticides and fertilizers. YardScaping shows us how to garden in a way that allows rainwater to soak into the ground instead of running off. Cutting down on pesticides and fertilizers is healthier for kids and pets because they have closer contact with our lawns.

This spring, South Berwick and surrounding towns will be providing an opportunity to learn more about YardScaping principles. Learn more in-depth about YardScaping by attending a YardScaping workshop through Marshwood Adult Education scheduled for Thursday, April 26 from 6-8 pm. Or get YardScaping information at the Berwick Public Library's annual plant sale in April or the YardScaping booth at Eliot's annual Dog Dayz event.

Take one of these opportunities to learn more about stormwater pollution and find out what you can do to prevent it; for the health of people, pets, and our local waters. If you are unable to make it to one of these events, visit www.yardscaping.org for more information.

Strawberry Festival

We need volunteers. Once again the South Berwick Strawberry Festival was a huge success last summer with over 20,000 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. To volunteer for the Hulling Party on Friday June 29th, please email:

hulling@southberwickstrawberryfestival.com

or for the Strawberry Tent on Saturday 6/30
tent@southberwickstrawberryfestival.com.

Community Garden

South Berwick has a vibrant and productive Community Garden! A few plots may be available this spring for new members.

For information, please contact Coordinator Mimi Demers at: 384-5258

or

mimiandray@gmail.com



Social Services

The need for General Assistance, the food pantry and the SoBo Central fuel fund has increased tremendously. We are grateful to those who lend their support to these organizations and to the Christmas Star program through their hard work and/or donations. The generosity of community members made it possible for over 175 families to put food on the table this past year. In addition, over 80 children under the age of 16 enjoyed a Christmas with a gift or two under the tree.

Need for these services continue even though the holidays are over. As fuel prices continue to rise the number of families struggling in our community increases. LIHEAP funding was slashed significantly this year. Many who have previously been able to make do through the winter, are now seeking assistance.

As you consider your charitable contributions for 2012, please keep the Food Pantry and the SoBo Fuel Fund in mind. 100% of the funds donated to these organizations serve South Berwick families in need. Donations to these organizations may be mailed to: SoBo Central, 46 Witchtrot Road, South Berwick, ME 03908.

So. Berwick Cemetery Association

The South Berwick Cemetery Association has been in existence since 1881 and oversees the care and maintenance of 3 burial sites: Woodlawn and Portland St. Cemeteries on Agamenticus Road and Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Wadleigh Lane.

As cemeteries get older, their maintenance costs go up. Unfortunately, the income from burials and investments cannot cover the increase.

The Association is facing this problem head-on. To help improve our financial picture we will be taking on fundraising efforts throughout the year. We are a 501C3 non-profit organization so all donations are tax deductible.

Also under State Statute Title 13 MRSA Sec. 1101 municipalities are responsible for the care and upkeep to Veterans graves and headstones. We have requested a donation from the 2012/2013 budget to offset the cost of maintenance to the over 500 Veterans graves maintained in the above mentioned cemeteries.

We are also asking for community support. There are several ways to do this.

1. Make a contribution to the South Berwick Cemetery Association.
2. Make a Memorial Contribution to the Cemetery Association when a friend or family member dies.
3. Support upcoming fund drives by the Cemetery Association.

Donations may be mailed to:

So. Berwick Cemetery Assoc.
c/o Bruce Whitney
40 Portland Street
South Berwick, ME 03908



Library

Walk down Young Street next time you are downtown to look at South Berwick's new library. A peek through a window shows a property transformed into an inviting, cozy and bright place. The addition is done and the sanctuary of St. Michael's continues to be renovated as donations and grants come to the Friends of the South Berwick Public Library. This month, the old church will become the new library as we temporarily move into the addition while we await completion of the rest of the building. It is a comfortable fresh space that can be a community commons for all of us to enjoy.

We expect to have only part of the book collection available while we are in the smaller quarters but will do our best to provide you with the materials you need. Please stop in and let us know what you are looking for in your new library.

Library director Mamie Anthoine Ney has accepted a job as the Southern Maine Regional Consultant for the Maine State Library and Karen McCarthy Eger has taken her place as your library director. Many thanks to Mamie for all her work at the old library and on the building project.

Assessing Notes

Why is the previous owner on your tax bill? What programs might be available to homeowners to reduce taxes? Find answers to these questions and many others on the Assessing Department page at: www.southberwickmaine.org.

You may notice that your tax bill features a pie chart showing a breakdown of expenditures. If you have any questions regarding the cost of school funding, contact the Superintendent's Office at 439-2438; the County portion, contact the County Commissioner's Office at 324-1571 or the local portion, contact Town Hall at 384-3300.

Conservation Commission News

► Open-space planning sub-committee: Southern Maine Regional Planning and Jodi Castallo of Mt Agamenticus to the Sea Coalition will lead the discussions. Work should be completed in about a year on an open space plan for the Town. This programming is funded with a grant by the Maine Coastal Program.

► Earth Day road clean-up: April 21, 2012 Lend a hand and live on the cleanest road in town!

► Sponsoring local well water testing with a discounted price, from Nelson Analytical, LLC; to be held May 5, 2012. Water test kits will be available in the Code Office at Town Hall and are dropped off on May 5th.

► South Berwick Town Forest: Volunteers are needed to restore the trails in the town forest on weekends this summer. If you like to hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe this is a great place for those activities.

For more information please contact the Commission at: 384-3300 ext. 336 or prnel@comcast.net or check out the Conservation Commission's page at: www.southberwickmaine.org.

Discover South Berwick - we live here!