



## The Managers Desk

### Southern York County Regional Development Authority

In August of 2006, the South Berwick Town Council unanimously supported a grant application to study regional cooperation for a business/ industrial park. Six surrounding Towns supported this grant application submitted by Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission. The Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup (REG) has spent the past year reviewing how a regional opportunity of this kind would develop. Legislation to create the Southern York County Regional Development Authority (LD 2003) was submitted to the Legislature this year as emergency legislation in response to the varying Town Meeting dates of the member communities. Due to concerns with portions of the language of the bill, this legislation has been tabled to allow the member com-

munities, now at 7, to revisit the language and make amendments. In order to solicit public opinion on the project, several information sessions have been held.

The next Public Hearing at the State level is currently scheduled for February 26th. The original intent of the group was to provide for the authority, following with public meetings in each member community. While this schedule has been altered slightly, the ultimate goal to provide a vehicle for regional cooperation on a business park is still viable.

If you have comments or questions about the legislation or this idea in general, please call me at 384-3300 x 115. Thank you,  
Jeffrey A. Grossman

### Economic Development

In its continuing effort to reach out to local businesses, the South Berwick Economic Development Committee (EDC) discussed the importance of recognizing not only new but existing South Berwick businesses. Since November 2007, members of the Town Council, Town Manager's office, Town staff and EDC as well as the media have participated in ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Little Hat Company, Nature's Way Fresh Market, the Masiello Group, Asia Café and Bob's Trophies. The EDC looks forward to many more successful ribbon cuttings and would like to encourage any businesses interested in having their own ceremony to contact the Planning office at Town Hall.

### Tax Club Applications

We're pleased to offer you another way to pay your taxes. The Tax Club allows property owners to pay their taxes in eight (8) equal installments with a payment book that the Town will issue once an application has been approved. The first payment will be due September 15th. Please remember your application is valid for only one tax year.

In order to qualify, your taxes must be paid to date and you cannot have a tax escrow account through your bank or mortgage company. Applications are available in the Business office or on the Town's website (from the Assessing Dept. page) and must be returned by August 30th.

If you would like more information, please call 384-3300 and ask for Brenda Harvey or Beverly Hasty.

### Town Clerk

Is your vehicle registration up to date? If it's time to renew you can come into the office during regular business hours or renew online at [sostonline.org](http://sostonline.org). You will need your old registration, proof of insurance and current mileage.

**REGISTER TO VOTE EARLY!!**  
Beat the rush in June & November!

## Homestead, Blind & Veterans Exemption

The deadline for filing for the Homestead, Blind and Veterans Exemption is April 1, 2008.

You qualify for the Homestead Exemption if you have lived in your home for one year and

have filed the appropriate paperwork with the Assessor's office by April 1st. If your residence has changed, a new application must be filed. If you have not taken advantage of this exemption, we encourage you to do so.

If you are unsure if you qualify for the Blind or Veterans Exemption, please contact the Assessor's office at 384-3300 to determine your status. Applications are available at Town Hall and on the Town's website: [www.southberwickmaine.org](http://www.southberwickmaine.org)

### BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Friday

9 am to 5 pm

Thursday

9 am to 6 pm

Closed Wednesday

### TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Sunday 7 am to 2 pm

Wednesday 7 am to 6 pm

Friday 7 am to 6 pm

Saturday 7 am to 6 pm

Please make a note of these hours for your convenience.

### Committee Openings

South Berwick has openings on several Boards and Committees. If you are interested in serving, please fill out an application and return it to the Town Manager's office. Applications are available on the Town's website and at Town Hall.

◆ Conservation Commission - 3 positions, meets 3rd Wednesday of each month.

◆ Library Advisory Board - 2 positions, meets 1st Monday of each month.

## Social Services

### FUEL ASSISTANCE

Thank you to the anonymous donor of several heating oil gift certificates. It has been a difficult heating season for many families in So. Berwick and we have been fortunate to have these funds for households that "fall through the cracks" of heating fuel programs.

There is still time to apply for the Fuel Assistance Program if you have not done so this heating season. Eligibility is based on household income for the three months prior to the month you apply. Call 1-800-965-5762 to schedule an appointment to apply.

### TAX/RENT REFUND

Residents who lived in Maine for all of 2006 still have time to apply for a refund on taxes or rent. Eligibility is based on income and rent/taxes for 2006. Applications are available at the Town Hall and the Community Center. The last date for application is June 2, 2008. You can also file online at [www.maine.gov/revenue](http://www.maine.gov/revenue). The program to apply for a refund for 2007 will start after August 1, 2008.

### HOLIDAY THANKS

Thank you to all the businesses, organizations, schools and individuals who support our programs.

### Senior Center

The Senior Center located at 71 Norton Street continues in its endeavor to enrich the lives of all area adults age 50 plus. We currently have several day trips scheduled in addition to extended trips to Washington, DC & Italy.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual Attic Treasures scheduled for April 26. The doors open at 9 am. We will be accepting "gently used" treasures beginning April 15. If you are interested in renting a table please call the Senior Center at 384-3310.

Membership, although not required for participation, is only \$10 a year. A monthly newsletter is available the last Wed. of each month. You can also view the newsletter on the Town's website or FMI contact: [seniorcenterassist@yahoo.com](mailto:seniorcenterassist@yahoo.com)

## Friends of the Library



Announcing Friends of the South Berwick Library's website: [www.friendsofsouthberwicklibrary.org](http://www.friendsofsouthberwicklibrary.org)

The library is happy to announce it has purchased Ancestry Library Edition database for its patrons. The database includes key genealogical collections for family research including federal census images from 1790 to 1930. HeritageQuest Online is also available covering America since the 1700's.

Monday & Wednesday 1 pm - 8 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 10 am - 5 pm  
Friday 1 pm - 5 pm & Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

## Strawberry Festival

Planning is in full swing for this year's 33rd annual South Berwick Strawberry Festival. This is a rain or shine event, so mark your calendar for June 28, 2008. The Committee would like to thank the hundreds of community volunteers and non-profit organizations for all their hard work. Their volunteer hours have been crucial in making the Festival such a success. If you are interested in volunteering and helping make the Festival successful, please contact Jim Protzman at 384-5848 or Joan Wade at 752-6396.

Last year we received a number of requests for funds and were able to honor many of the requested grants. The total amount dispersed was \$14,280.

To continue honoring the many requests for funds and because the fireworks come at such a high cost, we have decided not to sponsor them again this year. In this way we will have more money available to help the community.

## Hot Summer Nights Concert

In its 7th year, we've had yet another successful season! Whether the shows were in the Town Hall auditorium or on Central School's spacious lawns, over 2,000 music lovers came to listen to everything from rock & blues, jazz & country, to our very own local boys-*Slaid Cleaves & Rod Picott!*

Thank you to Kennebunk Savings Bank, P. Gagnon & Son, Enel North America & Berwick Academy for sponsoring our 2007 summer concert series.

We'd also like to recognize the hard working guys of the Public Works Dept. for moving our stages, Central School staff, Jan Vancour & Mo's signs. We also send thanks to Rachel & Brad Martin for their ongoing support & a standing "O" for Chip Harding, sound man extraordinaire. See you next summer on the lawn of Central School!

## Food Pantry

The mission of the So. Berwick Community Food Pantry is to provide a supplemental food source to individuals and families who are in need of food. The pantry is located at the corner of Dawson and Goodwin Streets behind the Community Center. The pantry is open every Thurs. from 6 pm to 8:30 pm & the 1st & 3rd Fri. from 10:30 am to noon.

Recently the pantry had a facelift which makes access to the building easier. We invite you to stop by and see the renovations.

If you would like to volunteer to work at the pantry stop by, or if you have food to donate please drop it off during open hours. We ask that you not leave food outside the door as someone is not always at the pantry.

## Recreation

New this year: Register online for most recreation programs on the Town's website. From the Recreation Dept. page click the online signups link. For some programs it is still necessary to come into the Town Clerk's office during business hours or mail in registration forms.

Look for activity flyers coming out soon to include: Winter Kids in the Kitchen, Cross Country Ski Program, After School Adventures with Wildlife Encounters, Mad Science, Spring Archery, Happy Feet Walking Club, Snow Tubing and Experienced Indoor Tennis.

**New Pre-school Adventures** - A hands on interactive parent and child program for children 3-5. Mondays March 10, 17, 24 & 31 at the First Parish Federated Church on Academy Street (9:30-10:30 & 11:15-12:15).

**2008 Easter Egg Hunt** - for children pre-school to 1st grade on Sunday, March 16 at 2:00 pm at the Great Works School. This is a free event but you must pre-register.

**Strawberry Run** - It's not too early to be thinking of becoming a sponsor or volunteer for the Strawberry Run on Strawberry Festival morning, June 28, 2008.

Check our website for future events or call Sharon Brassard at 384-3306.

## Volunteer Network

New volunteer drivers are always welcomed by the So. Berwick Volunteer Network, a local organization providing local residents with free transportation to medical appts. Drivers are scheduled for 1 day per month M-F, but there is an urgent need for a driver willing to assist a dialysis patient with Sat. appts. Call 384-3311 for more information.

## Dunnybrook

Free public access to the Gladys Hasty Carroll Collection of the Dunnybrook Historical Foundation is offered on Sundays from 2:30-4:00, or evenings by appointment at 24 Academy St. This is a wonderful collection of letters, manuscripts, photographs and artifacts representing 350 years of rich local history and Mrs. Carroll's fifty year writing career. For more information contact: Sarah Watson at 384-2018.

## Conservation Commission Report

The Conservation Commission sponsors: **Well water testing** by Demers Lab in Sanford. The basic complete test includes the following: total coliform & e-coli, nitrate, chloride, hardness, pH, iron, manganese, sodium, color, odor & turbidity for \$50.00. Add an arsenic test for \$15.00. You can pick up kits after April 1st at the Town Hall (date to be confirmed) and drop off at Town Hall Saturday, April 12 between 9 am - noon. FMI & to register, call 384-3300 ext. 336 (Con. Comm. voice mail) or [prnel@comcast.net](mailto:prnel@comcast.net).

Also, **Earth Day** "Adopt a Road" clean up is April 22. On Saturday, April 19, clean up your neighborhood. The commission will provide bags for trash and recycling. Please wear gloves.

## Community Garden

It's not too early to plan for the upcoming gardening season! There are a few 4'x10' garden plots available in the So. Berwick Community Garden, located near the soccer fields on Willow Dr. All So. Berwick residents are invited to join; priority given to those who have held a plot previously and those who do not have space to garden at home. For more information call coordinator Mimi Demers at 384-5258.



The Community Chorus at South Berwick's Spring concert entitled "*From a Poet's Pen...*" will feature the sixty voice chorus performing works based on verses from throughout the centuries and around the globe. The concert will include the premiere performance of a piece commissioned by CCSB entitled "Spheres" by Charles Kaufmann of Portland based on the poem by Maine poet Constance Huntington.

Performances will be: Friday, April 4th at 8:00 pm at Whipple Theatre, Berwick Academy.  
Saturday, April 5 at 7:30 pm in Dover at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.  
Sunday, April 6 at 3:00 pm in Portsmouth at Christ Episcopal Church.

The **Old Berwick Historical Society** welcomes everyone to its 2008 events. Monthly lectures are held Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm upstairs in Berwick Academy's Fogg Memorial building on Academy Street. Times of other programs can be found on our website: [info@obhs.net](mailto:info@obhs.net) or (207)384-0000. Admission is free. Come and join the hundreds of people who enjoy these fun presentations.

The Counting House Museum is also open year round by appt. and June through October on weekend afternoons. Volunteers are needed for the museum and events throughout the year.

## JEM Committee

The Jewett Eastman Memorial Committee is a non-profit volunteer organization that owns and manages the historic house that contains So. Berwick Public Library. We meet 4 times a year and welcome residents to attend. To find out the date and time of our next meeting, please contact the librarian at 384-3308.