



The Quamphegan

From the Manager's Desk

The Town Council, the staff and I are constantly exploring new opportunities to benefit South Berwick. Our new Maintenance Facility on Rt. 4 is one of the many examples of a Dept. Head's ingenuity. When Public Works Director Terry Oliver first heard of an available space we could use for our vehicle maintenance, he approached me with the idea to create this facility for the Town and share the space with the School Department. We had previously tried to establish a Regional Maintenance facility, but the other communities we discussed this idea with were not ready to move forward at that time. SAD 35's bus fleet had been serviced through the Noble High School facilities; that relationship was ending and this site was closer geographically for the school. The timing felt right to pursue this opportunity.

Now in its 8th month of operation the facility is defining itself as a major contributor to future

cost savings for the Town. This is a very important goal in light of continued citizen initiatives to cap taxes. The preventative maintenance we now perform on all vehicles (Fire, Police and Public Works) will enable the Council to delay vehicle Capital Expenditures previously planned at a more aggressive rate. Recently, we have been approached by surrounding communities to service their vehicles. While the start up costs have been significant, the long term value will also be significant. As more and more communities realize the benefit we can provide, our savings will increase.

The Town in conjunction with other local municipalities has been awarded a Regional Efficiency Grant from the State to study a Regional Industrial Park. The Towns of No. Berwick, Berwick, Wells, Eliot, Kittery and So. Berwick have all approved this request for further study. This initiative began in the spring of 2006 with a presentation to the Town Council, Water District and the Sewer District by Craig Nelson. Mr. Nelson was instrumental in the establishment of an interlocal agreement for FirstPark in Oakland, Maine, a regional park supported by 24 communities. In the summer of 2006 the Town Council met with representatives from five local communities to discuss the idea of a Regional

Industrial Park in Southern Maine. The grant application was prepared by Southern Maine Regional Planning with South Berwick as the program manager.

We are very excited to be pursuing this regional project with our neighbors. An initial organizational meeting has been held and the group has met with Craig Nelson to help formulate an action plan. I look forward to reporting more on this valuable project.

The Town's plan to purchase land in the Industrial Zone on Rt. 236 was voted down at a Special Town Meeting in October 2006. Comments from the residents centered on concerns for further information and studies. We continue to work on this project. Several companies have since expressed their interest in locating to So. Berwick, should an industrial park become available. We have also discussed other possibilities with the property owner. At this time there are no concrete plans to move ahead, but I expect the Council will eventually return to the citizens of South Berwick with a new plan.

It is with deep regret I announce the retirement of Joe Scanlon, known by many of you as the "Man in the Square." Joe served many years with the Town first as a reserve officer and later as a traffic control officer. Joe will be greatly missed. We wish Joe our best as he relocates closer to his family.

Gary Gerard, a highway department employee for almost 20 years has also retired from the Town. Gary was offered a position with the State that he simply could not turn down. Gary was not only a driver and laborer, but also a talented carpenter. His skills will be difficult to replace.

Glenn Thompson a highway department employee since 2001 has left the service of the Town to join the York Public Works Department. Glenn would attend to any task assigned with a smile.

Lastly, after one year of employment our Assessing Agent, Rosann Maurice has returned to the City of Portsmouth. Rosann was offered the Assessor's position there. This was an offer she could not refuse. We are thankful for all the professional work Rosann accomplished in her short time with us. She took the Assessing Department to a new level of service and professionalism.

We extend our best wishes to Joe, Gary, Glenn and Rosann as they embark on their new ventures.

As we begin a new year, I continue to encourage everyone to attend Town Council meetings. Please be informed, check the website continually, and ask questions of the Town Council and Town staff. This is the best way to understand the Council's actions. Let's work together to make the best choices for South Berwick.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Grossman

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, 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.

- ◆ Board of Assessment Review, 1 position, meets as needed at Town Hall
- ◆ Building Committee, 1 position, meets as needed
- ◆ Conservation, 1 position, meets monthly, 3rd Wed., at Town Hall
- ◆ Library Advisory Board, 2 positions, meets monthly, 1st Tuesday at the Library
- ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 position, meets as needed at Town Hall, evenings
- ◆ Solid Waste Comm., 3 positions, newly reactivated

Homestead, Blind & Veterans Exemption

The deadline for filing for the Homestead, Blind and Veterans Exemption is April 1, 2007.

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 by April 1, 2007. 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

Social Services

Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual holiday distribution of food baskets and toys such a great success. The concern and support for those less fortunate demonstrates a sense of community spirit.

either rent or real estate taxes.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

You still have time to apply for this season's fuel assistance program. Eligibility is based on the household income for the three months prior to the month of application. If your heat is included in your rent you may still be eligible for assistance. To make an appointment call 1-800-965-5762.

TAX/RENT REFUND

Applications for this program will be accepted until May 31, 2007. Eligibility is determined by the percentage of your 2005 income that was used to pay for

Senior Center

We have many activities for all adults, age 50 & over. Pick up our monthly newsletter to find out about all the wonderful events coming up.

The annual Attic Treasures Sale is Saturday, May 5, at the Community Center. This is our annual fundraiser and offers something for everyone. Vendors are welcome.

Contact Vicki at 384-3310 for more information.

Emergency Management

The Town now has a special needs form for any resident in South Berwick who has special needs during an emergency or natural disaster. This includes needing extra help getting out of their home, a specific lift, car, bus or medical devices. A form is enclosed and is also available on the Town's website under Emergency Management. The completed form should be returned to the Town to the attention of EMS. Information will be kept confidential.

Children's Leadership

The Children's Leadership Council will continue its work to provide a safe and healthy place for the children and youth of South Berwick to grow and flourish. We are excited about the opportunities becoming a non-profit organization will provide. It opens doors to funding and programs not available to us in prior years. The next step will be a community forum to be held this spring. This will allow community input to see where the priorities are for our children and youth and what you, the citizens of South Berwick, would like to accomplish next.

Anyone wishing more information about the South Berwick Children's Leadership Council should contact Val Brockway at 384-4494 or email at sbclcl@yahoo.com or call Sue Godel at 384-5493.

Friends of the Library

We were pleased to purchase a new copy machine for the Library. This gets a lot of use and the nominal charge per copy goes to the Friends. We have begun to work with the Central School PTO, planning a children's event in March to encourage family involvement with the Friends.

Would you like to serve as treasurer? We could also use a bookkeeper, though one person could serve in both positions. Contact Patti Mitchem at 384-2195

Strawberry Festival

Planning is in full swing for this year's 32nd annual South Berwick Strawberry Festival. This is a rain or shine event, so mark your calendar for June 30, 2007. The committee would like to thank the hundreds of community volunteers and non-profit organizations for all their hard work. The Festival Committee is currently looking to expand our membership. We currently have openings for a committee secretary as well as a sign/special projects coordinator. If you are interested please contact Terry Poulin at 384-2882. Last year we received an overwhelming number of requests for funds and couldn't accommodate all of them. As a result, because the fireworks come at such a high cost we have decided not to sponsor them this year. This will allow us to have more money available to help the community because it is the community that makes the Festival such a success! Please visit our website at www.southberwickstrawberryfestival.com

Food Pantry

We wish to thank D.F. Richard Oil Co. and P. Gagnon and Sons for their generous support by providing oil for heat. We were able to provide fifty food baskets for the needy over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. We wish to thank the individuals who made monetary donations for food baskets. Monetary donations are always much needed and greatly appreciated.

Recreation Department

It is not too early to want to make a difference in your community. Consider sponsoring a child for a week of our Summer Day Camp for children ages 6-12 or a teenager for a week of Adventure Camp for ages 12-15. Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are available for the 2007 Reddy Family Chiropractic Strawberry Road Race on Sat. June 30, 2007.

Making Music-Early Childhood Music Class (ages 2-5) Tuesdays, March 6-April 3-St. Michaels Church (10-10:30 & 1-1:30)

Preschool Adventures-Mondays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26-First Parish Federated Church (9:30-10:30 & 11:15-12:15)

Contact Sharon from the Recreation Dept. at 384-3306 for other programs and information.

Yankee Thrift Shop

The Yankee Thrift Shop of the First Parish Federated Church has expanded its hours to include Thurs. evenings 5:30 to 8:00 pm & Fri. from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. With more volunteers coming forward, the shop has become the hidden jewel of South Berwick. With a fresh new look, reorganization and full shelves and racks, many customers old and new are taking advantage of the gently used items that have been generously donated. A fresh vision hopes to reach out to the many organizations that need the items that have cycled through. Donations of gently used clothing, household items, etc. are greatly appreciated. Any questions call 384-4091.

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 community garden located near the soccer fields on Willow Drive. For more information call coordinator Mimi Demers at 384-5258.

Dunnybrook

Free public access to the Gladys Hasty Carroll Collection of the Dunnybrook Historical Foundation is offered on Sundays from 2:30-4:30, or evenings by appt. at 24 Academy St. For more information contact Sarah Watson at 384-2018.

Conservation

RAINGARDENS - Winter is a great time to start planning your spring gardens. Why not consider planting a rain garden? Rain gardens are an eye-pleasing addition to any yard. They serve a practical purpose as well. They help decrease the amount of storm water runoff that goes into local streams and lakes. No need to worry about mosquitoes breeding in rain gardens. They are not filled long enough to be considered still water. To find out how to plant your own rain garden, go to clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden



SINGERS FOR A LIFETIME

"Generations Join in Song Sunday, March 4 at 4:00 pm"

Performing Arts Center at Marshwood High School. Don't miss this unique festival concert that will bring together our Community Chorus at South Berwick with

children's and youth singing groups for an intergenerational concert, with singers from ages eight to seventy-something. Called "Singers for a Lifetime", the program will also include performances by the Sandpipers (the Seacoast Children's Chorus), the Marshwood Junior High School Select Chorus, and Marshwood High School Select Chorus. Donations will fund summer music camp scholarships for students. The Community Chorus at South Berwick will separately present its spring concert, *Refractive Images of Light*, on April 27, 28 and 29.

Transportation to Medical Appointments

Looking for a way to help your neighbors? Join the South Berwick Volunteer Network, a local organization committed to transporting South Berwick residents to medical appointments. Wheelchair van service to medical appointments is also available through a grant from the South Berwick Rotary Foundation.

If you want to help or if you need a ride, call 384-3311 for more information. A 48 hour notice is required for a ride.

The **Old Berwick Historical Society** offers free Thursday Night History programs at 7:30 pm, on the top floor of the Fogg Memorial Building at Berwick Academy. FMI: info@obhs.net or 384-0000.

March 22 "Stories, Stones and Superstitions" - Exploring Northern New England Gravestone History.

April 26 "Sarah—Her Story" - the life of Sarah Parker Goodwin, wife of Ichabod Goodwin, NH's Civil War governor with ties to the Berwicks.

May 24 OBHS Annual Meeting at the Counting House

Sept. 27 "The Hale Family" - Local historian Sandra Rux presents the story of Dover, Portsmouth & Barrington, NH family of industrialists and ship builders.

Oct. 25 "The French Connection" - Cultural history scholar Ken Hamilton uses slides & artifacts.

Nov. 15 Archaeologist Emerson "Tad" Baker presents this year's "Chadbourne Dig Update" from the summer project.

JEM Committee

The JEM (Jewett Eastman Memorial) Committee will meet at the library on Wed., Apr. 11 at 7:00 pm. We are volunteers who plan and care for the building that houses South Berwick Public Library, the Jewett Eastman House, which in 1854 was the family home of author Sarah Orne Jewett.