



# The Quamphegan

Volume XVI, Number 2

Newsletter for the Town of  
South Berwick

August 2005

## Transfer Station Hours

Beginning Wednesday August 17th the Transfer Station will be open the following 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 new hours for your convenience.

## Nomination Papers

Nomination Papers are available from the Town Clerk for anyone interested in running for Town Council or School Board at the November 8th election.

There are 2 Town Council seats, each for a 3 year term and 2 School Board seats, 1 for a 1 year term and 1 for a 3 year term.

Papers must be returned to the Town Clerk by 5 pm Friday, September 23, 2005.

## Library News

The Town Council voted to have a bond for the Library included on the ballot in November. Plans and site should be made public by the Town Council shortly.

## Board Openings

South Berwick has openings on the following boards:

- Board of Assessment Review
- Conservation Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Library Advisory Board

Applications are available at Town Hall and online at [www.southberwickmaine.org](http://www.southberwickmaine.org)

## Homestead Exemption

The 2006 Homestead Exemption amount has been increased to \$13,000. You qualify for this 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 you filed on time in 2005, please be sure the exemption is listed properly on your tax bill. If you have not filled out an application for this exemption, we encourage you to do so by April 1, 2006, to take advantage of this exemption on next year's taxes. The application is available at Town Hall and on the website: [www.southberwickmaine.org](http://www.southberwickmaine.org)

## From the Manager's Desk

I am pleased to announce the Town has hired a Director of Planning and Economic Development, James L. Fisk, RLA. Jim comes to us with a wealth of experience having worked with towns in New Hampshire and Maine for the past 20 years. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to work on the challenges facing our community with such a strong individual.

Please join me in welcoming Jim to our Community.

In the next month I also plan to hire a full time Assessor's Agent to replace the contracted assessors we have been working with for the past five years. This change will improve customer service and lay the foundation for clear lines of communication between Town departments.

It has been my pleasure to work in this community for the past year. We have accomplished many tasks in a short time. I look forward to working with the Council, Town Boards and employees to continue to achieve our goals.

Please feel free to contact us at Town Hall with your questions or concerns.

## South Berwick Public Library

The summer reading program at the library, Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds was a resounding success with 180 children from three to sixteen signed up. There were seven "Make and Take" activity sessions during the summer. Mad Science had a show at the library on July 28th for all ages. Prizes from the treasure box for reading were smile makers for the little ones. The Seashore Trolley Museum again opened its doors for all participants of library reading programs throughout southern Maine. The one day party is free and has special activities for the readers. Aggie's ice cream stand gave free cones to those that finished the reading log. Thank you to Tina Lincoln

and to the Friends of the Library for their sponsorship.

the discussions. FMI call 384-3308.

### Let's Talk About It in Maine book discussion series:

The schedule is as follows:

The South Berwick Public Library is pleased to host a program of the Maine Center for the Book in cooperation with the Maine State Library and the Maine Humanities Council. The series will explore children's literature through the years from fairy tales to contemporary fiction. Adults will explore the genre on several levels as they discover and rediscover the value of children's books. The program is free and open to the public. The series books are available for loan at the library. Joanne Hoerth will lead

Sept. 7 The Classic Fairy Tales by Iona and Peter Opie & Tatterhood and Other Tales by Ethel Johnston Phelps

Oct. 5 Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Nov. 2 The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graham

Dec. 7 Charlotte's Web by E. B. White & Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson

Jan. 4 Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor & I am the Cheese by Robert Cormier

## Social Services

### Tax and Rent Refund

Applications will be available at the Town Hall and Community Center by late August. Eligibility is based on the percentage of household income spent on housing. Income and taxes/rent for the calendar year 2004 are used to compute eligibility. The guidelines are liberal, so we encourage everyone to look into this. For assistance call Vicki at 384-3310 after 9/23. Applications must be submitted by 12/31/05.

### Fuel Assistance

This program is scheduled to begin in late August. The income guidelines are not available at this time. Anyone interested in applying should call 1-800-965-5762 to schedule an appointment.

### Transportation Program

The Volunteer Network provides transportation to medical appointments for any resident who does not have transportation available to them. This service is free and can be arranged by calling 384-3311 at least 48 hours in advance. Limited wheelchair van service is also available. Volunteers are always needed.

### Food Pantry

Hours of operation:  
Thursday from 6 to 7:30 pm  
1st & 3rd Friday of each month from 10 to 11:30 am.  
Cash donations are always appreciated and may be mailed to the So. Berwick Food Pantry, 71 Norton St., So. Berwick, ME 03908

## Senior Center

The Senior Center is open to all adults aged 50 and over. It is a great place to meet new friends, enjoy a meal, learn something new and have fun.

### Upcoming Programs:

9/7 @ 11 am & 9/27 @ 6:30pm Medicare Part D-Matt Kenney, a local pharmacist will explain this benefit.

9/28 @ 11am Kathryn Williamson Esq. will offer a program on retirement and post retirement.

10/5 @ 11 am Diabetes Education. These programs are all free and open to the public. Please call for a reservation.

Stop by the Center anytime to pick up a newsletter or give us a call at 384-3310 to register for any of our programs.

Election Day is November 8th, the polls are open from 6 am to 8 pm on the third floor of Town Hall. Handicap accessible!

### Community Chorus

Join with more than 40 singers from over 12 Seacoast communities who come together for the enjoyment, the challenge, and the fellowship that comes with singing in this chorus.

Rehearsals begin Monday, Sept. 12th from 7 to 9:30 PM at the First Parish Federated Church, 3rd Floor, in So. Berwick (at the corner of Academy & Main Sts). The season includes two 13-week terms, Sept. 12 to Dec. 3, 2005; and Jan. 9 to April 9, 2006.

Winter Concert: "A Garland for Christmas" w/ string ensemble and keyboard accompaniment. Dec. 2 & 3, 2005

Music director and conductor Harry Moon is available to speak with anyone interested in joining @ 384-7059 or [dessundorm@comcast.net](mailto:dessundorm@comcast.net). Singers are welcome to attend the first 2 rehearsals before making a commitment to join.

Visit our new Website at  
[www.CCSB-Sing.org](http://www.CCSB-Sing.org)

### Hot Summer Nights

Did you drive through town this past summer on Thursday nights and wonder why so many people were on the lawn at Central School? Or why music was pouring from the auditorium in the Town Hall? Well, it's all about the art and music! Every Thursday evening people gathered under the towering trees at Central School for the *Hot Summer Nights Concert and Art Series*. They came with their children, their families, and their friends for the music and the feeling of community that the music encouraged. This summer there were eight concerts, including 2004 Grammy Nominee Eliza Gilkyson and Americana Song of the Year winner Slaid Cleaves. Also performing were the incredibly talented Susie Burke & Dave Surette, Sammie Haynes, Cormac McCarthy, Rhythm Method, Pondering Judd, and The Serfs. All concerts had wonderful opening acts, including The Late Bloomers, winner of the New Folk Artist Award at the prestigious Kerrville Music Festival. We also had many talented artists graciously agree to show their work – from jewelry to oil to watercolor to photography and beyond! What amazing artists we have living among us!

Of course, without the very generous sponsorship by South Berwick Medical Services and York Hospital, things would be very quiet on Thursday nights in good ol' South Berwick. We give our heartfelt thanks for their support of our community.

### South Berwick Democrats

The So. Berwick Democratic Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from Sept. through June. Meetings are at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. FMI please contact Adam Scharff at 384-4494 or [scharffbro@comcast.net](mailto:scharffbro@comcast.net)

### Counting House Park

In celebration of Rotary International's 100th Anniversary, the Rotary Club of So. Berwick, as a Centennial project, donated \$4000 to the Town for a public dock at Counting House Park on the Salmon Falls River on Liberty Street. On Strawberry Festival day, outgoing Rotary President Helen Goransson unveiled a beautiful sign illustrating the river's connection to the entire Piscataqua estuary system, in anticipation of the dock's installation at a later date. The sign also features an 1877 lithograph from the Counting House Museum depicting the Quampegan Landing commercial area that thrived at the site 100 years ago.

Other donors to the dock/park project were Kennebunk Savings Bank and the NH Charitable Foundation, which each gave \$5,000; Nate Hazen of The Gundalow Project, who conducted the engineering study for the permit applications; and Steven Weesner and Abbey Box of GS1, who donated digital services.

The land for this park was generously donated to the Town by Consolidated Hydro New Hampshire, Inc., a subsidiary of Enel North America. The cost of improvements was made possible through a Maine DOT Gateway Grant awarded to the Town and special thanks go to the families who have donated memorial benches so all visitors to the park may enjoy the river view; the Becker's, the Perkins' and the Spencer's.

### Old Berwick Historical Society

This fall, the OBHS brings back a So. Berwick tradition. The **LIGHTING UP BALL** will take place November 12 at 7:30 PM at Spring Hill Lodge, with dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction. Tickets are \$30/person, or \$25/person for tables of 10. FMI: 384-0000 or [info@obhs.net](mailto:info@obhs.net)

The Historical Society is looking for a picture of the "Palace" located on lower Main St. It burned in 1949. Please contact us if you can help locate an image.

Everyone who loves history is also invited to the Old Berwick Historical Society's fall lectures, held at 7:30 pm in the Fogg Memorial building at Berwick Academy. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Sept. 22 - "**KINGFIELD COPPER-HEADS**" -- Local historian Paul Colburn relates the little known story of draft resistance in Maine during the Civil War.

October 27 - "**THE LIGHTING UP**" -- Brenda Whitmore, writer and producer of the historical documentary "The Lighting Up," will present the documentary of the Dover, NH, mill women's strike that changed history.

November 17 - "**SOUTH BERWICK - A RECREATIONAL HISTORY**" - Retired educator Ernie Wood explores recreational opportunities of the past: The Palace, Porter Pines, Quampegan Park, the rollerskating rink and other hot spots. Come and add to the stories if you can!

### Children's Leadership Council

The SBCLC meets on a monthly basis to discuss youth and family issues and the availability of local services. Meetings are used to network and share news, ideas, and thoughts. The meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the South Berwick Medical Building on Portland Street at 7pm. Any interested parties are welcome to attend.

The SBCLC has recently given Central, Marshwood Middle, Marshwood Junior High & Marshwood High School money to use toward programs for self esteem and/or substance abuse prevention. The money was from a donation made by KEYS of Promise, a project of York Hospital.

We have added several more pieces to Shoe Town Playground. There is now a teeter totter, a balance beam and a huge sandbox. Thanks to Terry Oliver, Glen, Wayne, and Gary from the Department of Public Works for installing the new equipment. They also added a bench/bike rack that gives the kids a safe place to park their bikes. Joanne Hoerth did a fabulous job ordering the new equipment and overseeing the installation. There is actually sand in the sandbox thanks to Mary Batchelder and her husband Paul Hussey. Also a huge thanks to Carol Minotti and her husband of Landscape Solutions for making the front gardens look spectacular! Thanks to George Gorman of the Fire Department for some assistance in plant watering. We also had an anonymous donor of lots of sand toys.

Look for more great programs and community involvement from the SBCLC in the coming year as we compile our goals into a strategic plan under the umbrella of America's Promise. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Val Brockway at 384-4494 or [idealady@comcast.net](mailto:idealady@comcast.net) or Carin Sarzynski at 384-4297 or [csarz@gwi.net](mailto:csarz@gwi.net).

### Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is seeking additional members to help write management plans for town owned lands and update the Salmon Falls River Greenbelt Plan. We meet monthly at Town Hall on the third Wednesday at 7:30 pm. We also walk and paddle many areas of South Berwick. Applications are available at the Town Hall and on the Town's website.

### Tax Bill Note

The current tax bill does not reflect prior outstanding taxes. Please call Deputy Tax Collector Beverly Hasty at 384-3300 for balances due on tax liens and personal property tax.

### Hazardous Waste Collection

**Saturday, Oct. 8th from 7 to 10 am**