



The Quamphegan

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Newsletter for the Town of
South Berwick

February 2005

ONLINE AUTO REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENEWALS

In addition to our regular walk in office hours, we will be improving our customer service by offering an online registration option. This service is slated to be operational for our residents with internet access sometime in March. If you do not have internet access, you may use the computers at the Library during their regular business hours. To access the service, simply go to the town's website at: www.southberwickmaine.org, scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click on the Rapid Renewal link. This will take you through the renewal process step by step. You will need your current mileage, insurance information and your current registration to complete this transaction. Please forward your comments about this service to rorsini@sbmaine.us or call the Town Manager's office at 384-3300.

Beginning July 1, 2005 we will no longer be mailing the registration renewal forms to our residents. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WELCOMES OUR NEW MANAGER

The Town Council is pleased to welcome our new Town Manager, Jeffrey Grossman to South Berwick. Jeff comes to us from Westbrook with 14 years of municipal management background. He has served as a Town Manager in the communities of Southborough, Massachusetts, Boothbay Harbor and most recently Westbrook. Jeff has already implemented changes and made suggestions for improved customer service in our Town Offices, our procedures and our long term planning. The Town Council looks forward to many years of solid guidance from Mr. Grossman.

SOUTH BERWICK COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

The South Berwick Community Food Pantry has been open for eight months at its new location on Ross Street in the Old Rescue Barn. In our first six months of operations we were able to provide assistance to 595 individuals. We have seen an overwhelming outpouring of support from the community and wish to thank everyone who has made a donation of their time, services or finances.

The Pantry is actively seeking cash donations as our ability to purchase food through the food bank can turn a \$10 donation into approximately \$68.00 worth of food. If you wish to make a contribution, please send your check to the South Berwick Community Food Pantry at 71 Norton Street, South Berwick, Maine 03908.

Hours : Thursday Evenings from 6-7:30 pm & 1st and 3rd Friday from 10-11:30 am.

Emergency: First Parish Federated Church: 384-4091, St. Michael's Parish: 384-4241 or Social Services Office: 384-3310

OLD BERWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The OBHS is requesting any pictures of the following to scan and then give back to the owner. The "Palace" on lower Main Street that contained a bowling alley and pool hall, the bowling alley and movie theatre that were located where Wadleigh Gardens is now, the bicycle shop where Dr. Zois' office is now, the race track where the golf course is now, old posters or memorabilia of the boxing promotions in So. Berwick or the events at Porter Pines or Quamphegan Park. These will be added to the history of our community as part of the OBHS collection. Please contact OBHS at PO Box 296 or call 384-2251 or 384-0000.

Please join us for our upcoming lectures held at 7:30 pm in the Fogg Memorial Building at Berwick Academy. Admission is free. February 24th-Wood Shipbuilding, Past and Present, March 24th-Digging Colonial House, April 28th-Revisiting Portland Street.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Committee has been working with the landscape architectural firm of Richardson and Associates to determine if the Norton Street site, proposed by the Town Council can be utilized for a new Library. The Building Committee plans to present its site plan with elevations to the Council in March. The Library Advisory Board is hopeful that this new site, with cost estimates and elevations will be approved by the Council thus taking the next important step toward a new library building for the Town.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

There are a few 4' x 10' plots available in the Community Garden on Willow Drive. All residents are welcome to join, priority will be given to previous gardeners and those who do not have space to garden at home. The cost for a plot is \$10. FMI contact the volunteer coordinator, Mimi Demers at 384-5258.

CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP

The Children's Leadership Council (CLC) meets on a monthly basis to discuss youth and family issues and the availability of local services to meet their needs. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the York Hospital Building on Portland Street at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

March 5th – Susie Burke in concert at the Town Hall at 11 am. Admission is \$3 per person or \$10 per family.

May 21st – Third annual Fun*Raiser Toy Sale. Donations of toys, books, games, videos/dvd's, bikes, etc. are welcome. Drop off locations beginning in April will include Town Hall and Ocean National Bank.

FMI about the CLC, contact Joanne Hoerth at 384-9946 or Val Brockway (384-4494 or email at idealady@comcast.net).

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Thank you, thank you, thank you to York Hospital and South Berwick Medical Services for sponsoring our 2004 annual summer concert series! How lucky we are to have such supportive members of our business community.

Almost two thousand spectators came to listen to the music. And what music there was! Everything from rock, to kids, to swing, to country, to our very own local boy who made it to the big time Slaid Cleaves!

This summer's concert series promises to be just as wonderful! Our local young musicians will continue to open for the seasoned professionals. And don't forget our new tradition to end the series in August - a hoot night/open mic where talented local people can play for the best crowd east of the Mississippi. So, drag out those old instruments and dust off that voice – you've got 'til August! For more information call Nicole St. Pierre at 384-2248

FIRE DEPARTMENT

This fall the Firefighters association did another outstanding job of raising money to help the citizens of our town. In September, they held their boot drive for Muscular Dystrophy and raised over \$11,000 to help find a cure.

During the Christmas Parade they collected \$1,200 worth of toys that were distributed throughout the area. Money was also collected and was used to purchase 12 food baskets for So. Berwick families. The association wishes to thank everyone for their generous support.

Consider volunteering in your community.

South Berwick has several openings on Town boards and committees. Call the Manager's office at 384-3300 for details.

SOCIAL SERVICES

There is still time to apply for fuel assistance for this heating season. Call 1-800-965-5762 to schedule an appointment.

Life Line Screening will be held on April 22nd at the Community Center. Call 1-800-324-1851 to schedule an appointment.

Thank you to everyone who donated food, toys, or cash to our holiday project which provides food boxes and gifts to less fortunate families in South Berwick. Due to the generosity of many, every family on our list received a large box of food, with a gift certificate for a turkey or a ham, for each holiday. Over fifty children on our list received several gifts as well as warm mittens and hats. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and holiday spirit are appreciated.

SENIOR CENTER

Mark your calendars! April 30, 2005 is the date of the Annual Attic Treasures Sale at the Community Center. This event offers something for everyone; beautiful hand crafted items, bake sales, raffles and "gently used" treasures. The event runs from 9 am to 2 pm. Please stop by to check out the bargains and support our Center.

Vendors are welcome, if you are interested in renting a space please call 384-3310.

We invite you to visit our Senior Center. The center offers a variety of activities including exercise classes, strength training, line dancing, card games, crafts, trips and delicious meals. All activities are open to adults aged 50 and over. A \$1.00 donation is the cost for most activities. Stop by to pick up a schedule; you don't know what you are missing!

GREAT WORKS RIVER FORUM

On Saturday, April 30th the Great Works River Watershed Coalition will host the first Great Works River Community Forum. The purpose of the forum is to inform the community of watershed issues (pollution, development, recreation, etc.) and to gather information about other concerns from attendees. The forum will be held at the No. Berwick Community Center at 264 Lebanon Road from 8am to 1 pm. The meeting is open to all residents of the watershed community and, best of all, it's free! FMI contact Mike Cannon @384-5881 or www.GWRWC.org.

LIBRARY EVENTS

A Blizzard at the Library, winter craft workshop will be held on Feb. 23rd at 6:30 pm for children ages 6-10. Create a flurry of snow crafts, to take home and to create a blizzard at the library. Registration req'd.

Book Discussions continue the first Wed. of each month. Call the Library for details.

Storytime runs thru May 26th— Reg. req'd. Call the Library for details at 384-3308. Hours: Mon & Wed 1-8 pm, Tue & Thurs 10-5, Friday 1-5, Saturday 9-1

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The York County NRCS Office will be taking orders for their annual shrub sale through April 22nd. This years selection includes fruits and balsams as well as rain garden varieties. Plants can be picked up on May 6th and 7th at Giles Orchard in Sanford. Contact Debbie Mayo at 324-7015 or email Debbie.mayo@me.nacdnet.net.

We will be offering a well water testing kit and session in March. Sample bottles will be available at Town Hall during the month of March. The collection date and price will be announced at that time.

ATV OWNERS

We would like to remind ATV owners and riders that they now, by Maine Law are required to register their ATV's and to obtain land owner permission to travel across private lands. Use of ATV's through streams and wetlands is prohibited.

MT. AGAMENTICUS RACE CMTE

The 1st Annual Mt. Agamenticus Time Trial was held last summer, on August 15. The race started on Willow Dr. and ended at the top of Mt. A. The event was sponsored by So. Berwick Medical Services, Great Works Family Practice, Gagnon Fuel, Lassel Architects, and Fred Loutz Woodworking and run by volunteers. The race was a huge success with sixty-two cyclists participating and \$3,500 raised for So. Berwick's annual Eastern Trail dues.

The second annual Mt. Agamenticus Time Trial will be held Sunday, August 14, 2005. FMI contact Terrence Parker at 384-5330.

SEWER DISTRICT

Bonnie Bishop has been hired as Office Manager for the South Berwick Sewer District. She has assumed the position held by Kathy Dumont. The District appreciates Kathy's seven years of service and wishes her the best of luck with her new endeavors.

The Brattle St. Pump Station is planned to be on line by the end of January, 2005. It will service the Academy St. area from Drury Ln. south to the Great Works River. Construction of a line across the Great Works River is planned for next summer.

Completed 2004 capital improvements include 2550' of sewer line on Agamenticus Rd., 600' on Main St. and 860' on Academy St. north of Wadleigh Ln. Funds for these projects, done in conjunction with town projects, have been obtained from the assessment of abutting district members and revenue generated from processing septic waste at the treatment plant.

A contract has been signed with Wright Pierce Engineers to conduct an odor study at the treatment plant. Preparation of the report will take place over the next several months, with results and recommendations scheduled to be available in May 2005.

YOUTH CENTER

The Youth Center on Willow Dr. is available to rent for parties and meetings. The fee is \$25 for 2 hours; proceeds directly support the Youth Center. The Center is open from 4-6 pm weekdays & 12-4 pm on Saturdays.

Monday-Quilting
Tuesday-Arts & Crafts
Wednesday-Cooking & Baking
Thursday-Games
Always time & help for homework.

Saturday-Pizza, Movies & Mage Knight.

STORMWATER

If you live in Agamenticus Estates, Old Mill, the village area in Town or another newer subdivision, you have storm drains along the sides of your roads.

These storm drains form a network to efficiently collect water from the road surface to maintain a safe travel surface. Under the road they connect into catchment areas which help settle the heavier sand and dirt from the water flow. Our tax dollars are used to clean out these catch basins on a regular schedule. From the catch basin, the water flows into some form of detention area to slow the flow and allow for further settling of sediments. Overflow from these detention areas then feed into wetlands and streams. This last step is the most significant. Wetlands serve to remove many remaining nutrients and pollutants. They recharge our drinking water supplies whether Town or private. They provide habitat for wildlife and they store water which helps prevent flooding downstream. Wetlands are very efficient cleansers of natural pollutants but not for waste oils, pesticides and other chemicals. The better these storm water systems work, the safer your drinking water will be. Please do NOT put these types of items in storm drains. The Town has regularly scheduled hazardous waste days at the Transfer Station. It also has a receptacle for waste oil. Do not throw yard wastes into the detention areas or wetland edges. Your tax dollars will need to be spent to clean them out.

The next Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for October 8th at the Transfer Station from 7 am to 10 am.

SOUTH BERWICK VOLUNTEER NETWORK

The South Berwick Volunteer Network (SBVN) celebrates two years of service to the community this month. Volunteer drivers provide free transportation to medical, dental and therapeutic appointments for South Berwick residents unable to drive themselves. Thanks to a grant from the South Berwick Rotary Club and Rotary International, free wheel chair van service is also available to local residents. To request services please call (207)384-3311 at least 24 hours prior to your appointment. Those needing van service should call at least 48 hours in advance.

Take an active role in your community. Please attend the Annual Town Budget Meeting. June 6, 2005 at 6:30 pm at the Community Center on Norton Street next to the Fire Station.