



The Quamphegan

From the Manager's Desk

As I sit here today with the Town offices closed due to our first major snowfall this winter, I am thinking about the cost of winter maintenance in South Berwick. One might think that with the lack of snow at the beginning of the season we would be in great shape with our budget. Unfortunately, the lack of snow does not necessarily mean costs go down. This winter's mild conditions and frequent short icing events have meant that our eight trucks have been busy salting the 68 miles of road that we must maintain. We continue to meet our Public Works Department budgets, but only because we have a dedicated crew who work to make sure all of our roads are safe. I know when I cross the South Berwick line that I will make it to my destination safely thanks to their due diligence in getting the job done right.

The Town finalized the sale of 0.67 acres to Avesta Housing in early December. Upgrades to this area will create lighted parking on Young Street, and safe access for parents to drop their children off during the school year. Also, the Town will have approximately \$150,000 which will be utilized to reduce taxes in future years.

Twenty eight senior units will be created

once Avesta completes the project in September. Affordable senior housing has been, and continues to be, an issue here in South Berwick. The new residents must be over 55 years old and meet certain income requirements to live in the housing. They will enjoy the many benefits of living within walking distance to all that Downtown South Berwick has to offer.

Town councilors Gerald MacPherson and David H. Webster retired since our last Quamphegan. I enjoyed working with them. They were a significant part of the successes accomplished by the employees and myself during their time in office and we wish them the best.

We would like to welcome our new Town Councilors, Laura Leber and John James. We look forward to working with them.

The recent transition from South Berwick Rescue to York Ambulance Services was a success. Residents continue to enjoy the same supreme services of an in town ambulance service at a reasonable cost. Many of the faces that were associated with South Berwick Rescue continue to work for York Ambulance. They offer a full time crew that responds 24 hours a day,

seven days a week and they are dedicated professionals prepared to provide excellent care to the residents of South Berwick.

As we move forward with our budget we continue to look at things we must have to provide the services you desire. These are difficult times when the State continues to reduce payments back to the Town.

Please take time to participate in the budget process this year. It is your community and it is important to us that we are supplying you with the services that you feel are important. If you cannot attend the budget hearings, you can watch them live on your computer through Town Hall Steams at www.townhallstreams.org.

If you have questions, comments or concerns feel free to call me directly at 384-3300 x115 or send me an e-mail at pellsworth@sbmaine.us.

Better yet, stop by and see me—my door is always open.

Respectfully submitted,
Perry A. Ellsworth

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Closed on Wednesday

Phone: 384-3300 Fax: 384-3303

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Wednesday: 7 am to 6 pm
Saturday: 7 am to 6 pm
Sunday: 7 am to 12 pm

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday: 10 am to 5 pm
Wednesday: 2 pm to 9 pm
Thursday: 10 am to 5 pm
Friday: 1 pm to 5 pm
Saturday: 9 am to 12:45 pm

Closed: Sunday and Monday

Phone: 384-3308

Pay Taxes Online

The Town offers residents an easy and convenient method to pay their tax bills online.

It's Fast, Easy, and Safe!

The system is very user-friendly and bills can be paid via a checking account or credit/debit card. No registration is required to view an online replica of the paper bill or to pay the bill.

To pay your bills online, go to www.southberwickmaine.org then click on the Online Services Button and then simply click on the tax check out button.



Well Water Testing –May 9, 2015

The South Berwick Conservation Commission is sponsoring the annual well water testing program. Test kits will be available at Town Hall, on the second floor, in March. The kits must be returned to Town Hall on Saturday, May 9th between 9 am and 12 noon.

The Conservation Commission has teamed with Nelson Analytical Lab, in Kennebunk, to offer special pricing for South Berwick residents. The basic test will be \$50 and additional tests are available for an extra fee.

Assessing News

Exemption Programs

If you are a Maine resident and have owned and lived in your home for more than 12 months, you may be eligible for a Homestead Exemption.

Applications for the Homestead Exemption as well as the Maine Veteran Exemption, and Blind Exemption program are available in the Assessor's Office. You can also print out an application from the Assessing Department page online at www.southberwickmaine.org.

Applications for any of the exemption programs must be filed by April 1st to qualify for the coming tax year.

YardScaping Workshops

Six Easy Steps to a healthy pest-free lawn.

Workshops are FREE to the public:

Wed. 3/4/15 South Berwick Library
(27 Young Street)

Thurs. 3/5/15 Marshwood High School Adult Ed Room
(260 Dow Highway, South Berwick)

Wed. 3/11/15 Kittery Community Center Function Room
(120 Rogers Rd)

Thurs. 3/12/15 Kittery Community Center Multi-Purpose Room
(120 Rogers Rd)

Register at: <http://marshwood.maineadulted.org>

GOLLY, MA, LOOK
WHAT CRAWLED OUT
OF THE STORM DRAIN!

AW, YOUR FATHER'S
BEEN OVERSPREADING
FERTILIZER
AGAIN!



South Berwick Volunteer Network

Help your neighbors by becoming a driver or scheduler for the South Berwick Volunteer Network. This group provides free transportation to non-driving South Berwick residents so they can access the first rate, and in some cases, life-saving medical services available in our area. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity for a few hours a month, or if you need transportation to a medical appointment, please call the South Berwick Volunteer Network at 384-3311 for more information.

Old Berwick Historical Society

WANTED: OLD PHOTOS!

The Old Berwick Historical Society (OBHS) is looking for old photos of South Berwick's people and places. If you have photos you would like to share with OBHS, they will be appreciated.

The annual Hike Through History will be held this year on May 28, 2015 with a rain date of June 1, 2015. The MSAD35 school district's third and eighth graders will participate in this unique live history event. Many businesses and homeowners open their doors to students who learn about village trades from South Berwick long ago.

The Counting House Museum currently has an exhibit entitled "Downtown South Berwick." We invite you to visit us on weekends in the summer or by appointment. Our volunteers may be reached by phone: 384-0000 or through our website: www.oldberwick.org.

Earth Day Roadside Cleanup

The Conservation Commission is organizing a town wide roadside clean up to celebrate Earth Day this year.

On Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th simply pick a road to clean up, and bring the trash to the transfer station between 7 am and 6 pm on Saturday or 7 am to noon on Sunday.

Help make your road the cleanest in town!

Library News

What's New at the Library?

- The flat screen monitor in the Youth area is now available to be used for gaming and casting (projecting a laptop screen onto the TV). You can bring in your game box, controller and headsets and hook it up to play or cast a project on the screen to share and work together.
- The Young Street Studio Project (youth creating and donating art to decorate the library) is underway. Middle School age youth are welcome to join in.
- There is a low-vision reader in the library that can be used to read the newspaper or a magazine.
- SoBo Sings! is a newly formed group that is holding occasional Open Mic's for teens in the library on Saturday nights.

Strawberry Festival

Last summer the Strawberry Festival was a huge success! We had over 20,000 people attend. We couldn't do it without the large number of volunteers who help out each year. We are already planning for this year's festival which will be held on Saturday, June 27th. If you want to join us and help make this another great year, please check out our website at www.southberwickstrawberryfestival.com

See you this summer!

South Berwick Cemetery Association

The South Berwick Cemetery Association is a non-profit group responsible for the care and maintenance of the Woodlawn and Portland Street Cemeteries on Agamenticus Road and Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Wadleigh Lane.

With the income from fundraising projects, burials and the contribution from the Town of South Berwick, the association plans to continue making improvements and upgrades to these historic burial grounds.

The six-member group is a 501C3 non-profit organization so all donations are tax-deductible. Any contributions should be forwarded to:

South Berwick Cemetery Association
Attn: Dawn Chase
PO Box 245
South Berwick, ME 03908

2015 Diva Night

"Pajamas and Pearls"

March 20, 2015 at The Red Barn

Wear your jammies along with your jewels and heels and enjoy a night of free games and dancing. Proceeds to benefit SoBo Central.

Tickets are \$35/each or \$40 at the door. You can get your tickets at P. Gagnon or Curves.

Thank You For Supporting The Annual Giving Tree!

Through the wonderful support of the community, we were able to provide a very, Merry Christmas to over 80 children. The Annual Giving Tree continues to be a success because of your continued support.



*2015 Spring Concert :
A Season to Celebrate
60 Voices from throughout the Seacoast,
with Instrumentalists*

Saturday, April 11, 7:30 pm
Newington, NH - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 12, 3:00 pm
South Berwick, ME - Lady of Angels Catholic Church

Community Garden

Did you know that South Berwick has a vibrant and productive Community Garden?

There may be a few plots available this spring for new members.

For more information, please contact Mimi Demers at 384-5258 or by email at mimiandray@gmail.com.

