The Mission of Preble St.

By Mark Swann

Every good social worker knows that work starts with a relationship, starts where the client is at. Not where they could be, but where they are. Together a social worker and client build toward future goals. They evolve just like a community evolves.

That is what Preble Street did in 1975, when Joe Kreisler, then Chair of the USM Social Work Department, and his social work students walked the streets, talked with people, knocked on doors, hosted focus groups, and conducted surveys.

They listened and learned about where the community was at. From the analysis that followed, they intentionally developed services, action items, and plans to build what ultimately became Preble Street.

Preble Street didn’t start as a shelter, or a soup kitchen, or even an organization focused on homelessness. We started and remain a social work agency that is informed by and responds to our community.

From the beginning, Preble Street has focused on both the hard work of meeting urgent needs and on advocating for solutions to systemic problems. The result is a dynamic organization that has had an impact on countless people. Some of them are like the young man sleeping at the Joe Kreisler Shelter tonight, a young man who, like others before him, will earn his high school degree, even while homeless, and may become a doctor, or a social worker, or present compelling testimony to the legislature that informs state policy.

No one can predict the achievements that are possible if we listen and respond with opportunity and hope. And no one could have predicted from the beginning the breadth and depth of Preble Street operations, geopolitical reach, and influence. But as the public commitment to human services declined and one after another local provider was forced to close programs or shut down, Preble Street heard time and again about soaring needs, and we responded.

Keeping a close eye on where the community was at, we made strategic mission-driven decisions, balancing compassion and nimbleness with responsibility and strength. In 1993 when we led efforts to form a Community Resource Center with several organizations, buy and renovate a building, and move across the street from the Preble Street Chapel, we had only a staff of four, a very small budget, no credit history and little fundraising experience. But Preble Street was more than just “the hippies in the basement of the chapel”, and we proved it with this unique collaborative expansion.

Three years later, when the City and the United Way asked us to run the Teen Center after two agencies gave up, we expanded our first capital campaign to purchase a building to create a suitable space for the Teen Center and Homeless Healthcare Clinic, improve the Resource Center, pay off the mortgage, and establish an endowment.

We grew into an established organization able to take on big projects and willing to work relentlessly to fulfill its mission and accomplish its goals. And in the midst of escalating need, we took on the challenge of finding a solution to homelessness—a big risk we mitigated by partnering with Avesta Housing, the preeminent nonprofit housing organization in Maine, who shared our vision.

Logan Place, the first housing-first model in northern New England and one of the first nationwide, was arguably the single most important development in Preble Street history. We proved unequivocally that you can save lives of people lost on the streets for years. We proved that you can lower shelter numbers. We proved that there are cost savings to housing chronically homeless people rather than leaving them to cycle from shelter to emergency room to jail to detox and on and on.

We proved that there are solutions to homelessness. And we raised the program development bar for ourselves.

As we continued to listen, we continued to find innovative short- and long-term solutions to other problems that were compromising the wellbeing of our neighbors in Portland and across the state, engaging both public and private partners in those efforts.

In 2008, in response to the dramatic increase in hunger in Maine and unsustainable pressure on the emergency food system, we created the Maine Hunger Initiative, our first statewide program.

We were called and responded to a shelter crisis in Portland when the YWCA suddenly closed its doors, opening Florence House in 2010, combining permanent housing, safe haven, and emergency shelter for homeless women.

Our Preble Street Veterans Housing Services began in 2011 to cover Southern Maine but grew twice to cover all of Maine at the request of the Veterans Administration.

In addition to creating more housing programs to include young adults and developing the Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Coalition with a Department of Justice grant, we filled gaps in health care for homeless people by partnering with Maine Medical Center on the MMC-Preble Street Learning Collaborative to provide our neighbors with same-day health care and permanent health homes.

And as we write, another housing-first program, Huston Commons, is welcoming thirty chronically homeless people home for good.

Our roots in Bayside were planted when we first opened our doors to our neighbors living in poverty. Our commitment to listening, to meeting urgent needs, and to creating solutions has grown strong here.

But we can’t do it alone. Knowing housing is both a prevention of and a cure for other ills, we’re supporting legislation to seek state-level investment in housing first. Knowing that children who are undernourished can’t learn, we are advocating for school meals programs. And we need you, our community, to join us in supporting these initiatives as well as solutions to the other systemic problems brought on by state and federal cuts to social safety nets.
B.N.A.

COMMITTEES

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Meets bi-monthly; see Facebook page for dates/times/locations (in the community room in Unity Village, unless otherwise posted, at 6 pm). Please contact the BNA or Kelly Crothy at Midtown Policing if you have an issue to bring to a meeting. The public is always welcome.
Ron Spinella and Mike Bachelder Co-Chairs
Midtown Policing 772-1371

BAYSIDER COMMITTEE
Meets regularly at various locations. Writes, collects articles and information. Publishes The Baysider quarterly. Promotes advertising.
Colette Bouchard
Steve Hirshon
Susan McCloskey
Rob Sylvain
Baysider Committee is seeking new members with an interest in writing or graphics. No experience necessary. Call the BNA for more information.

GARDEN COMMITTEE
Organizes and runs the Bayside Chestnut St. Community Garden. Deborah and John Van Hoevyk, Co-Chairs
Kate Pendleton
Robert Sylvain

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meets as needed. Steve Hirshon, Chair
Sean Kerwin
Stephanie Scherer, Treasurer

TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE
Meets as issues arise. Alex Landry, Chair
Collette Bouchard
Steve Hirshon
Ron Spinella

TREE COMMITTEE
Meets as needed. Works on bringing more trees to Bayside streets. Robert Sylvain, Chair
Jeff Tarling
Colette Bouchard
Alex Landry

BYLAWS COMMITTEE
Meets as needed. Rob Sylvain, Chair
Collette Bouchard
Sean Kerwin
Alex Landry

 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Meets each year to recruit and nominate new members for the Board.
Collette Bouchard, Chair
Cindy Bachelder
Susan McCloskey
Alex Landry
Rob Sylvain

THE BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BNA)
Bounded by Forest Avenue, Marginal Way, Congress Street, and Franklin Street, we are just minutes from Downtown, the beach, the working waterfront, and the core. Historically, Bayside has been home to warehouses, scrapyards, manufacturing, small businesses, and many families that go back generations. Today, it is a mix of families and singles, young and old, immigrants and Mainers, old and new development, social services, businesses, offices, and an active neighborhood association.

We have monthly Board meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, which are always open to the public. It is a great way to hear about what is happening in the neighborhood. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place in the community room at Unity Village, 24 Stone Street. Check out the committee page to see all the active subcommittees and what they are doing.
The BNA also produces the Baysider.
HTTP://WWW.BNABYLINE.COM

THE BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BNA) REPRESENTS ALL THOSE WITH A VESTED INTEREST IN THE BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD. OUR MEMBERS ARE MADE UP OF RESIDENTS, PROPERTY OWNERS, BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE WELCOME ANYONE WHO LIVES, WORKS, OR OWNS PROPERTY IN BAYSIDE TO BECOME INVOLVED.
In this issue, you will find a report on the 2017 Spring Edition of the BAYSIDER. The report highlights the community, including the homeless population and their access to resources. The report also discusses the impact of the “Housing First” initiative and the role of Preble Street in providing permanent supportive housing. The report concludes with a call to action for the community to continue to support Preble Street and its mission.

Sharing the Problems of Preble Street

FOUR DECADES OF BAYSIDE’S BURDEN

BY STEVE HIRSCH

ONE OF THE BIGGEST challenges facing community-based organizations like a neighborhood association, is staying within its capacity to effectively do the things it sets out to do. In the BNA’s case that means operating two community gardens, maintaining a vocal neighborhood watch, and advocating for issues we feel are important in Bayside. Targets of our advocacy include the three legs of the stool that support our mission—Housing, Diversity, and Safety. We continually advocate at the City and State level for increased housing opportunities, particularly bringing first-time homebuyers into the market. Our community gardens have been actively recruiting immigrant families, many of whom relish the chance to grow foods from their native lands, and also to be a part of neighborhood life. Safety is a huge issue in Bayside. The statistics roll off of any Baysider’s tongue. Three percent of the population responsible for 21 percent of Portland’s police and fire-ambulance calls. Very few of these calls are intended for permanent residents; almost all are responses to the burgeoning transient population who come for services. Those are the areas the BNA focuses on, but there is so much more we as a neighborhood can and should do. The opportunities are endless. The people-power is all too finite. This neighborhood is short on resources and big on need. Youth athletics and kids’ enrichment programs are two areas where we can make a difference. Neighboringly, preble-Street Age-group soccer teams are something the neighborhood could support. Neighborhood businesses could fund camperships. Holiday parties and festivals should be a regular part of the calendar. All it takes are people and money. Money shouldn’t be a huge barrier.

Preble Street in the Neighborhood

The successes, however, don’t translate to neighbors. Even without those 100 Housing First people, the City and other agencies, including Preble Street, house over 440 people a night. Preble Street’s ReSource Center serves many during the daytime, over a hundred people an hour at the Resource Center (last year that was 813 people a day, and 212,160 a year); last year, they served 1,726 meals a day in three soup kitchens and several food pantries. Together, these two neighborhood-based services represent just a third of Preble Street’s budget (based on their tax returns).

If you live, work, or play, or are otherwise invested, in the Bayside neighborhood, Preble Street’s achievements pale in comparison with the impact of these daytime service programs. In fact, you might be prone to thinking that Preble Street programs ARE the problem, a plague upon our houses, our yards, our gardens. Those of us who watch the “laying” being revived by emergency services, avoid the staggering guy cursing a blue streak (maybe at us, maybe not), confront people using neighborhood nooks and crannies as toilets, or try to negotiate Oxford Street when the soup kitchen or the shelter is open, certainly do. Those of us who have been robbed or had our property vandalized, have cleaned up naked needles, have seen underware, rotting takeout, vomit and feces, and endless empty “Natty Denny” cans, certainly do.

Of course, Preble Street doesn’t operate every social service program or facility in Bayside, and Preble Street is quite correct that it rose to the occasion as other social service providers closed. And Preble Street is not responsible for macro trends in de-institutionalization of the mentally ill, laws that make affordable housing difficult to build and limited in its application, economic crashes that have forced service organizations out of business, or the ever-increasing presence of drugs.

The Bayside neighborhood has a century-long history of being considered Portland’s slum, which has made it easy to dump the intractable social problem (urban planners use the term “wicked problem”) of homelessness and its community sequelae on Bayside. In 2000, when Preble Street was 25 years old and well entrenched in the “hood, the City and a team of citizen planners issued A New Vision for Bayside, which posed that “the ‘investiment and urban blight’ that was Bayside be transformed into a new urban gateway” that would present “a proud image to the community.”

No one really objected to the fact that a small corner called “Government Center” was to be where social services would be colocated (in the Post Office building, as a matter of fact), beside a sort of “campus” where “the streets that were once dominated by vacant lots and public works yards are now lined with trees, small quiet buildings and corner parks.”

FROM CO-LOCATION TO CONCENTRATION

In fact, the notion—very trendy in 2000—of colocating social services seems reasonable enough: put all the services needed by the homeless and low-income people together for ease of access.

But remember, you build it, and if you build it, like Housing First, with low barriers to participation, they will come. And keep coming, in great numbers. In 2000, the size of Portland’s homeless population (measured by shelter-bed utilization) was only a little more than half of what it is now, and Preble Street’s budget was about 10 percent of what it is today. The line graph shows the relationship between Preble Street’s budget and the percentage of homeless measured by shelter-bed utilization.

Bayside is not the only place this has happened, so the academics have busied themselves studying the issue. The conclusion is basically that concentrating the homeless is
ENGAGING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Community Asset Mapping and the Food System

By Deborah VanHoewyk

“Environmental Justice” can be a massive, history-changing event—huge in its discovery, dramatic in its action, restorative in its outcome. Think A Civil Action, the film that narrates the tragedy of toxic chemical waste poured into Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York—and the successful lawsuit that brought some recompense to the people poisoned by that waste. Love Canal was responsible for the Superfund—the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980—and the entire notion of brownfield cleanups as integral to urban development.

Of course, environmental justice action can be a dragged-out struggle, and it’s not always successful. (How are we doing on pipeline protests in 2017?) But tending small, at the grass roots, from the ground up, almost always brings rewards.

Food Justice and the Food System

Food justice is not always linked to environmental justice, but it’s moving closer as more people recognize that the benefits and burdens of how and where food is produced and processed and distributed, purchased and consumed, and finally disposed of—i.e., the “food system”—must be equitably shared across society. There are any number of definitions of food justice, but at the bottom is whether it is an issue of any given person, neighborhood, or community has equal access and power to affect the workings of the food system to ensure that it meets their physical, financial, social, and cultural needs.

Community Asset Mapping Community Food Assessment

Community asset mapping is a technique developed in the 1990s by a pair of Northwestern University professors, John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight. Asset-based community development (ABCDD) was concerned with existing community capacity and sustainable development, as opposed to the prevailing top-down, deficits-based fix-it-with-external-resources approach. ABCD introduced the ideas of community empowerment and marshalling internal assets to solve community problems. A community food assessment builds on asset-mapping techniques to create a portrait of community food security at the food-system level, rather than just identifying the number of individuals and/or families that suffer from food insecurity.

Using the food-system perspective helps you assess your community’s capacity to solve local problems, thus leading to solutions that eliminate or prevent the cause. When a community starts looking at the structure of the food system to ensure that it meets their needs, it behooves them to look at the burden of stress—i.e., the “food system”—that other stuff they do doesn’t achieve very much, and that other stuff they do devastates the neighborhood, might encourage the neighborhood, resources and opportunities leave the neighborhood. The neighborhood becomes home to shelters and social services (a “service ghetto”) and marginalized are increasingly stressed and stigmatized, altering social behavior and perceptions of potential employers and landlords. When people are so badly off that the problem becomes so “wicked” that efforts to disperse the homeless, as Portland has just undertaken, have usually proved unsuccessful.

Perhaps the worst problem is crime. Criminals and drug dealers prey on the “victimize” population, with spillover to permanent residents. Last summer, the city made an effort to “clean up” the neighborhood. “Bayside Boost” offered increased police patrols, urban planning amenities (improved lighting and sidewalks), and more social services (a “service ghetto” again). Yet as the city’s “a 70-page report floating around about what a flop it was. With 24% of the city’s area (talk about concentration) and 5% of its population, it behooves the neighborhood, resources and opportunities leave the neighborhood. It’s a vicious circle: as people without homes to freeze to death in the winter. No one in Bayside wants someone who no longer has a job, who’s living in their car, who doesn’t have a place to sleep, who’s hungry, and who’s thirsty. Someone who is hungry and thirsty is not always linked to environmental justice, but it’s moving closer as more people recognize that the benefits and burdens of how and where food is produced and processed and distributed, purchased and consumed, and finally disposed of—i.e., the “food system”—must be equitably shared across society. There are any number of definitions of food justice, but at the bottom is whether it is an issue of any given person, neighborhood, or community has equal access and power to affect the workings of the food system to ensure that it meets their physical, financial, social, and cultural needs.

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By Rep. Rachel Talbot-Ross

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to repre- sent the Bayside Neighborhood at the State House. I am proud to be able to do so on your behalf. The Legislature has a great deal of work to accomplish this session, and our top priority is to pass a balanced and fair two-year state budget.

Legislative Democrats recently rolled out our own budget priorities, which focus on working-class Mainers and communities. Our plan would provide the largest property tax relief program in the state’s history, make no-cost community college available to our students, and boost our small businesses to create new, good-paying jobs—all without raising taxes or unnecessary cuts to vital programs.

I’m proud to support what we are calling the Opportunity Agenda for a number of rea- sons. It would fully fund public schools, increase revenue sharing, and expand the Homestead Exemption and the Property Tax Fairness Credit—all of which will provide property tax relief. It would make targeted investments in our students and workforce from pre-K through college and even be- yond with a plan to provide direct student-debt relief. It would also give Maine fami- lies the support they need to care for aging loved ones, leverage existing federal funds to reduce poverty, and tackle the devastating opioid crisis head-on.

My Democratic colleagues and I believe these are important investments to ensure that Maine communities have a bright fu- ture. I hope you will take a moment to read more about our proposal at www.opportuni- tyagenda.com.

In addition to my work on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am sponsoring a number of bills that I believe will benefit the people of Portland and all Mainers. Among the measures I’ve intro- duced are:

LD 1006, An Act Regarding Housing Ine- curity of Older Citizen

LD 1008, An Act to Establish the Perma- nent Commission on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Populations

LD 1308, An Act to Create a Bridge to Self-sufficiency for Vulnerable Segments of the Population by Providing Incentives to Employers

LD 1322, An Act Regarding Mental Health First-Aid Training for Corrections Personnel

You can find more information, including each day’s House schedule and schedule of public hearings and work sessions, at www.legislature.maine.gov. If you are interested in visiting the State House and observing a session, please let me know.

As always, please feel free to contact me on these or any other issues before the Legislature. Hearing directly from constitu- ents is crucial to the work we do in Augus- ta. My email address is rachel.talbotross@ legislature.maine.gov. You can also find my Facebook page @RachelTalbotRossMaine.

Kind regards,

Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross

PROTECTING REFERENDUMS PASSED BY THE VOTERS

As you may have heard, all four of the referen- dums approved by voters at the polls last November are under attack. There are pro- posals in the Legislature to repeal, ignore, or delay the new laws legalizing marijuana, increasing education funding by assess- ing a 3 percent surcharge on incomes over $100,000, increase the minimum wage, and allow ranked-choice voting. I respect the will of the voters on all of these referendum questions. The time for debate was last fall, when the voters cast their ballots—peal, ignore, or delay. I am working to make sure these new laws are fully implemented as soon as possible.

Defending Ranked-Choice Voting

Several weeks ago the State Senate voted to challenge the constitutionality of the new Ranked-Choice Voting law approved by vot- ers last November. I am strongly opposed to this challenge and believe we need to respect the will of the voters. I am one of eight State Senators who filed our own brief with the court in support of the new Ranked-Choice Voting law. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court heard oral arguments on April 13, and they are expected to issue a ruling soon.

Getting Money Out of Politics

The average Mainer doesn’t have the money to hire a lobbyist to advocate for his or in- terests in Augusta. But big businesses and other special interests do. Every day that I am at the State House I see far more lobby- ists walking the halls than I see constituents. Getting money out of politics is as crucial as the idea that politics is a corrupt enterprise.

I ran for office because I believe in public service, and it bothers me that the presence of so much money in our political system undermines the public’s trust. I want my constituents to know that when I’m in the Senate, I’m representing their interests, not the interests of whoever has the biggest checkbook.

That’s why I have introduced LD 1211—“An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Legisla- tive Political Action Committees.” This bill will extend the PAC fundraising ban that See page 6, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/CHIPMAN
Continued from page 5

 apiles to Clean Election candidates to pri-
 vately funded candidates. The Clean Election candidate PAC ban isn’t enough. The infusion of pot-ential for conflicts of interest are still palpable with privately funded candidates. People re-
 member who the donors are and who gave to whom. I hope that my constituents and Mainers all over the state want to get mon-
ey out of politics. This bill moves us in the right direction.

Opportunity Agenda Budget Proposal

Have you seen the good news? The Portland Press Herald and Bangor Daily News have both endorsed Opportunity Agenda, our Democratic budget plan, which in-
 cludes the largest property-tax cut in Maine history, fully funded schools, and smart in-
 vestments in our infrastructure, communi-
ties, and jobs—all without raising a single 
 cent in new taxes.

The Bangor Daily News Editorial Board said, “The Democrats Opportunity Agen-
da offers a positive vision and a roadmap for helping Maine people, especially young people, get ahead. In contrast to LePage’s budget full of unnecessary and damaging cuts, Democrats have put forth a plan that actually responds to Maine’s problems.”

The Portland Press Herald wrote that “the differences between the two approaches could not be more clear. LePage’s plan would put money in the pockets of the top 1 percent, hoping that they would invest some of it locally. According to an analysis by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, Le-
Page’s approach would give people who re-
 port more than $384,000 of taxable income a tax break of $2,665 a year. Meanwhile, everybody who earns less than $92,000 a year would see a tax hike. The Democrats would put money into local schools, public safety and roads.”

It’s no wonder the newspapers are paying attention. Everywhere we go, people are supporting our plan. Mainers want a fair tax system that doesn’t price seniors and family-
 lies out of their homes so that the wealth-
 ily can get another break. They want expanded pre-K and more affordable college for the next generation of Mainers. They want sound investments in infrastructure and training, so that businesses can grow and Mainers can get good-paying jobs in grow-
ing fields.

Democrats have been hitting the road, hold-
ing town hall meetings in every corner of the state, with more to come. We have been everywhere from Millicent to Scarborough and last week we were in nearby in Biddeford and Saco. We’re doing every-
 thing we can to build a groundswell of sup-
 port for a budget that strengthens Maine.

Years after the rest of New England re-
 covered from the Great Recession, Maine is finally getting back on stable ground. With revenues expected to outpace cur-
 rent spending obligations, now is the time to make the smart investments in our state that will pay off for years to come. I would like to know what you think about the Opportunity Agenda budget proposal. Please feel free to call or e-mail me any-
time.

Ben Chipman has been representing part of Portland in the Maine House of Representatives since 2010. He can be contacted at (207) 318-4961 or Ben Chipman@legislature.maine.gov.

Becoming American

By Alicia Harding

Sometimes we need to check our moral compass so as to be sure we are moving in the right direction. An excellent place to do that is at a naturalization ceremony for new citizens. It is an exciting event where immi-
grants realize their dream of becoming an American. For those of us who have always inhabited that dream, it is a reminder to hold on to the values and ideas that embody what it means to be an American, and that all, all peoples are equal.

At a recent naturalization ceremony Chief 
District Judge Nancy Torrensen, who admin-
istered the Oath of Allegiance, reminded us that with the exception of Native Americans (about 2 percent of the population), we are all here as a result of immigration and that two of the five federal judges in Portland are émigrés. Judge Torrensen is the first woman to serve as U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Maine.

The thirty people who were naturalized came from eighteen countries representing six continents and a diversity of languages, cultures, and customs. What brought them together was a desire to be American. For many their first action as a citizen was to reg-
ister to vote.

In a naturalization ceremony you can see the words of the Declaration of Independence in practice—that all men are created equal and are endowed with unalienable rights, and that the purpose of government is to protect those rights. Too often anger and fear overtake jus-
tice, but in that courtroom I was proud to be proud to be an American and to welcome the “storm tossed” to our city. Along with the new citizens I could say the pledge and sing the anthem with a full heart.

If you are interested in attending an Oath of Citizenship ceremony, the dates, times, and places are listed on the Maine Federal Courts website:

Note: Over 90 percent of those who apply for naturalization do so on the basis of hav-
ing been a permanent resident of the United States for five years and having no special circumstances. For more information on eligibility for citizenship see http://www. immihelp.com/citizenship/naturalization-
eligibility.html

District One/Ray

Continued from page 5

It’s Spring, and the Bayside Community Garden Is Growing Again

By Deborah VanHoewyk

The Bayside Community Garden, located on the strip of land east of the garage, west of the Unity-Pearls Family Community Garden on Chestnut Street garage to form the basis of the Unity-Pearls Family Community Garden, has selected the Bayside Community Garden as the site for the upcoming Oath of Allegiance ceremony. The garden, which was formed in 2016, has been working hard to diversify the neighborhood center by relocating some social services are some of the strategies the City is currently deploying to address quality-of-life issues in Bayside. It is my hope that you will see a difference this summer. And then a big-
ger difference next year, and continued improvements every year after.

In the meantime, check out the commu-
nity resources highlighted throughout this edition of the Bayside (the BNA, Mid-
town Policing, Neighborhood Watch), pro-

gram the police non-emergency number into your phone so you can report suspi-
cious behavior or disturbances when you see them (207.874.8575), and get out and support your neighbors and neighborhood businesses as much as you can.

Again, happy spring. I hope to see you out and about in warm weather soon.

To make the smart investments in our state that will pay off for years to come. The purpose of government is to protect those rights. Too often anger and fear overtake jus-
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Introducing ... Baxter Academy

Every day, Baxter Academy for Technology and Science’s students commute from 60 Maine towns to Portland. Starting next fall, when the school moves to 185 Lancaster Street, those 400 students (and the 50 adults who support their learning) will become enthusiastic new members of the Bayside neighborhood.

Baxter is a STEM-focused high school that believes students shouldn’t have to wait for graduation to do their work in the world. The school’s motto is “the real world starts now.” Baxter students filter out into the community to complete STEM projects, make films, do field work, engage in service, cultivate gardens, and walk to and from MECA and USM for early-college classes. They are busy with internships and apprenticeships. They eat lunch in neighborhood restaurants and shop in local stores. They are looking forward to biking, running, and walking on the trail system in and around Back Cove.

School leaders have been planning the transition with key resources in Bayside, including the Bayside Neighborhood Association, the Midtown Community Services Coordinator, and Preble Street Resource Center, all of whom have been helpful and welcoming. Students will participate in pedestrian training and safety programs. Local businesses will partner with the school to provide box lunches. Head of School Michele LaForge is designing walking corridors for students and establishing protocols for open campus.

Executive Director Kelli Pryor has worked with the City to manage how the school’s transportation needs will best fit within the neighborhood. A flashing yellow light will be installed on Elm Street to caution drivers during school arrival and departure times. Students will continue to mainly use public transportation, as well as contract school buses, for travel to and from school. Staff parking will be in a lot adjacent to the school.

Baxter Academy is a public charter school and therefore is tuition-free and open to any Maine student who receives a slot during the annual lottery. The school opened its doors in 2013 on York Street and because of high demand it opened a satellite facility on Congress Street in 2015. The move to Bayside will allow the school to consolidate operations under one roof and to establish a long-term home. The new space will be on two floors. The upper floor will be completed for a September start. In November, the school will also occupy the ground floor, which includes specialized science, engineering, computer, and fabrications labs. A presentation space will also be available for evening events.

Executive Director Kelli Pryor can be reached at kelli.pryor@baxter-academy.org and Head of School Michele LaForge can be reached at Michele.laforge@baxter-academy.org.

Meet Your Neighbor—Bruce Daigle

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI is believed to have said, “Blossom where you are planted.” This is a fitting description of Mr. Daigle. He was born in Maine and has lived his entire life here, a true Mainer. Not to say that Bruce hasn’t traveled, but more about that later.

He grew up in “the County” (i.e., Aroostook County). French is Bruce’s first language, an indication that he is from far northern Maine. Fort Kent is his hometown. His mother, brother, and sister still live there. After he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Maine in Fort Kent, he relocated to Portland to study for a Master’s degree in Statistics. After graduating he chose to remain in the Portland area and since 2010 has been our neighbor in Bayside.

Bruce and 1 are fellow teachers at Southern Maine Community College, where he teaches math. Statistics, his area of expertise, is so much in demand that the administration has asked Bruce to teach more than the maximum number of courses usually permitted to an adjunct. Bruce was also manager of a testing center, a job he enjoyed for the opportunities it afforded to interact with people from many different disciplines. After 18 years he ended that job in order to give more time and attention to teaching.

Daigle has frequently traveled but not as a tourist. His passion for more than 35 years has been genealogy. Before the digital age he researched written records such as birth certificates, vital statistic documents, and church records. Now, in addition to the written sources, he uses the internet, including social media. He has traced his family roots back to the 17th century. In conjunction with his research he is well-versed in computer technology. Bruce’s approach helps families with his research is welcome among family members from California to New York. He has met relatives previously unknown to him. Through social media he made contact with a relative that as a result of an adoption had been lost to the family.

The Internet is often referred to as the information highway, and Bruce is its frequent traveler, watching science and math lectures to keep abreast of new ideas. There is another aspect to the internet that interests Bruce—he likes to search for those “uncovered truths that have been unreported or ‘covered up’ by mainstream media.”

When not teaching or pursuing to his genealogy studies, Bruce enjoys eating out. Fortunately, it is possible to enjoy a great many wonderful restaurants in Portland.

If you are interested in genealogy, I am confident that you and Bruce would have some interesting stories to share. Math question? You have a neighbor who is an expert. Actually, I do have a question about Carbon-14 dating. I might just give Bruce a call.

By Alicia Harding

The goal of Sudoku is to fill the grid by entering a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of the grid. Each row, column, and region must contain only one instance of each numeral.


**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

name: ____________________________
home phone: ______________________
work phone: ______________________
cell phone: ________________________
email: ____________________________
date: __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership contribution levels - no contribution is REQUIRED for membership. All are welcome regardless of monetary contribution. Investing your time is just as important!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ $500 - will help sustain community events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ $390 - will pay for after-school snacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ $25 - will help publish our newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ $5 - will help to publicize events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Member’s interest: ☐ Education ☐ Housing ☐ Employment ☐ Urban Planning ☐ Green Space ☐ Diversity / Culture ☐ Transportation ☐ Crime / Safety ☐ Other

Other interests: ____________________________

“Blossom where you are planted.”

Said, “Blossom where you are planted.”

Signed

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**sudoku**

| 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 |

Medium Puzzle 2,491,245,274

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**SANDY SPRING**

The BAYSIDER

JUNE 2017

7

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**BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 560 – Portland Maine 04103 – 207-828-7959 – bayside@mainehost.com – www.baysideat.org

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**50 adults who support their learning) will**

**for funding purposes, we are required to count the number of members who**

**full in the following categories. Your name will not be given. Please check**

**any box that applies to you:** ☐ Elderly ☐ Disabled ☐ Victim of Abuse

“I choose to be a member of the Bayside Neighborhood Association.” signed
When Bayside Was the Bicycle Center of Maine

By Herb Adams

Spring is here, bringing the 10-speeds out into Portland’s newly painted bike lanes and happy peddlers out in quest of health, fresh air, and faraway places. As they whiz through Bayside, a few know they travel hallowed ground, for here in Bayside was born the velocipede craze that bloomed into Maine’s long love affair with the bicycle.

Velocipedes—the big-wheeled bikes with no brakes, hard seats, and a tendency to tip over—were a sudden sensation that seized America at the end of 1868. Harper’s New Monthly magazine in December 1868 profiled the craze that post-Civil War America, eager for fun, embraced with both arms. Not to be outdone, by January 1869 Portland boasted one of six sons of a wheelwright. All six went on to become major manufacturers.

Kimball must have watched the new Maine Charitable Mechanics Hall go up on Casco and Congress streets in 1858. From 1867 to 1868 Kimball served as president of the MCMA, a timely tenure indeed, for in 1867 the MCMA erected a new floor in their main hall, making two floors. When the velocipede craze exploded in 1869, he was ready.

“Velocipedes!” boomed his ad in the Eastern Argus. It went on, “The under-signed have commenced the manufacture … on an extensive scale, and will offer them to the public at the lowest rates possible, ranging from Fifty Dollars to One Hundred Fifty Dollars, … on an extensive scale, and will offer them to the public at the lowest rates possible, ranging from Fifty Dollars to One Hundred Fifty Dollars, … the very best article ever produced, for a small profit. Special attention given to orders for small size for Boys.”

(This was quite the “small profit”—$50 in 1869 would be over $1,500 today, a small profit. Special attention given to orders for small size for Boys.)

Kimball soon moved the wheels to the rented second floor of Mechanics’ Hall. “No Post!” he promised. “Plenty of Room for Wheelmen!”

Actually, posts were just what was needed. More than a art than a science, mounting and moving the big-wheeled bikes needed patience, practice, and puffing—and something to hold on to. The chainless bikes relied on pedal power and fast footwork. Both meant headlong smash-ups and heavy face-first crashes beneath a spinning machine, accounting for the loud crashes and cries echoing across Bayside from Mechanics’ Hall.

Portland papers noted that the shouting, wobbling wheelmen scared horses on Congress Street. But Kimball was a pioneer—pumping new velocipedes out of his factory on Preble St. and new wheelmen out of Mechanics’ Hall, the first bicycle manufacturer in Portland and all of Maine.

In 1875 the craze and Kimball both moved on, first to NYC and then Chicago, where C. Kimball & Co. quickly became the largest carriage-making factory in the entire United States and even the world.

Upon his death in 1891 Kimball was one of the wealthiest men in the Midwest. He was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, just as the first “horseless carriages” took to the American road.

As always, his timing was excellent. But for a time, Charles Kimball was the proud Maine man who had made the world—and Bayside—spin ‘round at a faster rate.

PILOTS WANTED!!

Portland Wheelers’ nonprofit mission is “Outdoor Adapted Biking Fun for People with Disabilities” who cannot ride a bike by themselves but would love to go for a ride. “Pilots” (pedalers) are the volunteers who give them these free rides. This time of year, we recruit and train new pilots and “safeties” (scouts). Serving Greater Portland, we use specially designed electric-assist trikes. We serve people of all ages with debility, dementia, or a wide range of significant disabilities. From their own home or facility residence, we get “wheelers” outdoors into the sun and fresh air, connecting with nature and the wider community. Everyone has a blast!

If being one of our volunteers appeals to you—good exercise, good giving, good fun—check out our website. Always growing, we always need more volunteers. This year, 40-plus pilots will give approximately 300 wheelers around 500 rides. Training runs April through May, are prebooked, and take place on Saturdays or Sundays. The season is here. Now’s the time! Join us!!

www.portlandwheelers.org/volunteer

Let’s Talk

Butte Community Conversation

It’s time to begin an open dialogue between local citizens and our prevention leaders!

Monday, June 12th, 6-8pm
Avesta Building
409 Cumberland Ave.

Join the conversation to increase communication between residents and social service providers in Bayside. Learn more at www.facebook.com/BaysideNeighborhoodAssociation/

Help Us Beautify West Bayside
Join us!
SAT, June 3, 9 to 11 am, as we give West Bayside a spring cleanup! Meet at Midtown Community Policing office, 26 Portland St.
The more, the merrier!

Forest City
VELOCIPEDES RIDEING ACADEMY
MECHANICS' HALL

Only Up One Flight of Stairs!
No Posts in the Way of Riders!

Come and See and Ride!