



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, geographic 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 budget by 50 percent and, within two years, almost completely closed the deficit we inherited with the Teen Center, turned the program around, and confirmed our ability to pivot quickly to fill service gaps.

Opening Stone Soup, an entrepreneurial venture, in 1997, we trained over 100 homeless people in culinary arts and learned about running a small business with slim

profit margins and when to make the difficult decision to close.

We were challenging ourselves and others when we launched 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 unmanageable pressure on the emergency food system, we created the Maine Hunger Initiative, our first statewide program.

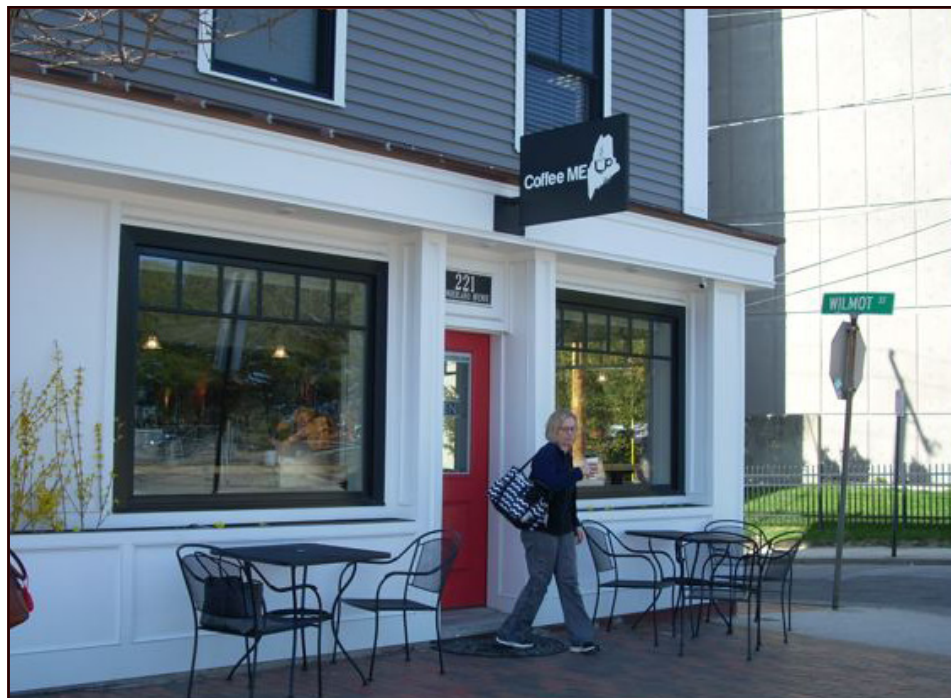
We were called and responded to a shelter crisis in Portland when the YWCA suddenly closed its doors, opening Florence House in 2010, combining permanent housing, safe haven, and emergency shelter for homeless women.

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.

There is still much to do, and we continue to listen attentively, think strategically, communicate strongly and transparently, and pivot the best we can in this new landscape.



What's New in the 'Hood

BAYSIDE'S COFFEE ME UP has been garnering rave reviews from the local press, and no wonder. Even among the wealth of good coffee shops in the city, this one shines like a jewel. Owners (and Bayside dwellers) Mateo Hodo and Alba Zakja pooled their skills (she had experience as manager of a coffee shop; he

worked as a carpenter and renovator) to create a warm and welcoming space in which to enjoy delicious breakfast and lunch offerings and unique sweets. The shop's baked goods (blueberry-lemon cake, chocolate croissants, and merengue cookies, for just a few examples) are made on the premises; bagels come from Union Bagel Co.

In its own category is byrek (a savory pie made of delicate layers of phyllo dough stuffed with various fillings, such as leeks or spinach). Try it—you're guaranteed to love it.

Coffee ME Up is at 221 Cumberland Ave. and is open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weekends from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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.

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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 Crotty 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 Hoewyk,
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

Colette 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

Colette Bouchard

Sean Kerwin

Alex Landry

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Meets each year to recruit and nominate new members for the Board.

Colette Bouchard, Chair

Cindy Bachelder

Susan McCloskey

Alex Landry

Rob Sylvain



Bayside Neighborhood
Association

PO Box 11563
Portland, Maine 04104
207.523.0602

email:
Bayside_neighbors@msn.com
Websites: www.facebook.com/
BaysideNeighborhoodAssociation
www.baysideportland.org

BNA BOARD

Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 pm in the community room of Unity Village, 24 Stone Street (behind City Hall).

This is a great way to find out all that is going on in Bayside. Reports from all the subcommittees are given regularly. The public is welcome.

John Bass
Cindy Batchelder
Mike Batchelder
Colette Bouchard
Jon Bradley
Laura Cannon
Dennis Ferrante
Steve Hirshon (President)
Charles Kaufmann
Sean Kerwin
Alex Landry
Susan McCloskey
Ron Spinella
Rob Sylvain
Deborah VanHoewyk
Sarah Michniewicz

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.

Neighborhood Illustration in masthead
by Robbie Neil

Layout & design by Lisa Peñalver,
penart1@gmail.com

poetry corner

On May 8, 1945, 16 million Americans tuned in to hear *On a Note of Triumph*, Norman Corwin's radio masterpiece marking the end of World War II. The broadcast ended with this prayer.

ON A NOTE OF TRIUMPH

BY NORMAN CORWIN

Lord God of trajectory and blast
Whose terrible sword has laid open the
serpent
So it withers in the sun for the just to see,
Sheathe now the swift avenging blade with
the names of nations writ on it,
And assist in the preparation of the
ploughshare.

Lord God of fresh bread and tranquil
mornings,
Who walks in the circuit of heaven among
the worthy,
Deliver notice to the fallen young men
That tokens of orange juice and a whole
egg appear now before the hungry
children;
That night again falls cooling on the earth
as quietly as when it leaves your hand;
That Freedom has withstood the tyrant like
a Malta in a hostile sea,
And that the soul of man is surely a
Sevastopol which goes down hard
and leaps from ruin
quickly.

Lord God of the topcoat and the living
wage
Who has furred the fox against the time of
winter
And stored provender of bees in summer's
brightest places,
Do bring sweet influences to bear upon the
assembly line:
Accept the smoke of the mill town among
the accredited clouds of the sky:

Fend from the wind with a house and
hedge, him whom you made in your
image,
And permit him to pick of the tree and the
flock
That he may eat today without fear of
tomorrow
And clothe himself with dignity in
December.

Lord God of test-tube and blueprint
Who jointed molecules of dust and shook
them till their name was Adam,
Who taught worms and stars how they
could live together,
Appear now among the parliaments of
conquerors and give instruction to
their schemes:
Measure out new liberties so none shall
suffer for his father's color or the
credo of his
choice:
Post proofs that brotherhood is not so
wild a dream as those who profit by
postponing it
pretend:
Sit at the treaty table and convoy the hopes
of the little peoples through expected
straits,
And press into the final seal a sign that
peace will come for longer than
posterities can see
ahead,
That man unto his fellow man shall be a
friend forever.

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 cove. 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 on
a quarterly basis to keep members and
the community informed on issues and
events of interest. We have special meet-
ings and host forums as the need arises
to get people together to discuss issues
impacting our neighborhood.

Community
 Contacts

GOVERNMENT

Portland City Hall
 207-874-8300
 389 Congress St.
 www.portlandmaine.gov

Belinda Ray, District 1 Councilor
 BSR@portlandmaine.gov
 207-671-4000

Jill C. Duson, Councilor At Large
 jduson@portlandmaine.gov
 207-878-0769

Pious Ali, Councilor At Large
 pali@portlandmaine.gov
 207-807-4283

Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr., Councilor At Large
 nmm@portlandmaine.gov
 207-774-0257

Representative Rachel Talbot-Ross
 rachel.talbotross@legislature.maine.gov
 (207) 746-5461

Senator Ben Chipman
 Ben.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov
 (207) 287-1515

POLICE DEPARTMENT
 Emergencies: 911

Senior Lead Officer, Dan Knight
 Cell: 650-8657, danielk@portlandmaine.gov

Midtown Community Policing Center	
Kelly Crotty/Officer Dan Knight	
26 Portland St.....	772-1371
Police Information Desk.....	874-8479
Non-Emergency Dispatch.....	874-8575
Office of the Chief	874-8601
Neighborhood Prosecutor,	
Rich Bianculli	756-8350
Internal Affairs	756-8351
Patrol Division	874-8555
Police Personnel.....	874-8588
Directed Patrol	874-8545
Criminal Records.....	874-8570
Traffic Unit	874-8532
Detectives	874-8533

SOCIAL SERVICES

Family Shelter

Jeff Tardiff, (207) 772-8339
 54 Chestnut St.

Homeless Health Clinic

Bill Burns, (207) 874-8445
 20 Portland St.

The HOME Team

(207) 838-8904, (207) 468-1866
 Outreach Teams work
 Monday-Saturday, 12-8 pm;
 Sundays, 3-7 pm
 Milestone Office: (207) 775-4790

Ingraham Youth and Family Services

Tom Dunn, (207) 774-4357
 237 Oxford St.

Neighborhood Prosecutor

Rich Bianculli, (207) 756-8350
 richb@portlandmaine.gov

Oxford Street Men's Shelter

Robert Parritt, (207) 482-5217
 203 Oxford St.

Preble Street

Mark Swann, (207) 775-0026
 18 Portland St.

Preble Street Florence House

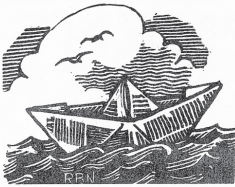
Amanda Wells, (207) 699-4392
 190 Valley Street

Preble Street Teen Center

Greg Perchik, (207) 874-1197
 343 Cumberland Ave.

Salvation Army

John and Annette Lock (207) 774-4172
 297 Cumberland Ave.
 john.lock@use.salvationarmy.org
 annette.lock@use.salvationarmy.org



The BROADSIDE



BEING A FORUM FOR Editorial Viewf e THE Publick Opinion

The Ripple Effect

By Steve Hirshon

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 to folks 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 home-buyers 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 the entire neighborhood would benefit. 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 bar-

rier. Neighborhood businesses, by and large, are generous. People are another story. Not many people are willing to give their time. The folks in Bayside who are actively engaged in community building do a fantastic job. But depending on the same few people all the time leads to burnout. We need a lot more people--not to do everything; just to do something. If more Baysiders took on even one job a year, this neighborhood would be a much better place.

Some time ago I attended a conference for small community-benefit organizations such as the BNA. My biggest takeaway likened people's participation to throwing a stone in the water. Imagine the ripples radiating out from the center. Those folks most involved are at the center. Those on the outer ripples are less so. But everyone has an impact. Even one thing you do make Bayside a better place to live and work.

Sharing the Problems of Preble Street
 FOUR DECADES OF BAYSIDE'S BURDEN

By Deborah VanHoewyk

ELSEWHERE in this issue, you will find a "biography" of Preble Street, the nonprofit social service agency that runs the Resource Center at the corner of Preble and Portland, pretty much dead center in the Bayside neighborhood. Preble Street has indeed accomplished remarkable things—at considerable distance from the Resource Center, where success seems hard to achieve.

[B]Preble Street on the Cutting Edge

Homelessness is an acute problem across the country, and solutions have been hard to find. Working with Avesta Housing, Preble Street has done a great deal to demonstrate that "Housing First"—the idea that homeless folks need homes FIRST, regardless of whether they also need assistance with addiction or mental health or financial issues—works. There are some who say Housing First doesn't work, on the reasoning that the homeless usually suffer from a complex of problems that makes them unlikely prospects for retaining their housing. The reason it works for Preble Street is that they don't really do Housing First, they do "permanent supportive housing," in which housing is bundled with social services that support people in their efforts to return to a safer, more structured life.

Chronic homelessness is defined as having been homeless for more than a year, or having experienced four bouts of homelessness in the previous three years, AND having a "disabling condition." Altogether the Preble Street-Avesta partnership has created three Housing First facilities—Florence House, Logan Place, and the newly opened Huston Commons—that provide permanent apartments for 100 people. (It should also be noted that Preble Street keeps moving forward on solving major social problems associated with homelessness while the City's much-publicized Task Force on Prevention of Homelessness recommendations sit on some dusty shelf somewhere.)

Preble Street in the Neighborhood

The successes, however, don't translate to the neighborhood. Even without those 100 Housing First people, the City and other agencies, including Preble Street, house over 440 people a night. Preble Street's ResourceCcenter serves many more 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 about 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 "layouts" 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, who clean up naked needles, abandoned underwear, rotting takeout, vomit and feces, and endless empty "Natty Daddy" 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 like the de-institutionalization of the mentally ill, laws that make affordable housing difficult to build and limited in its application, economic crunches 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 proposed that the "disinvestment 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, if 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 homeless in Portland (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

See page 4, THE 'RIPPLE EFFECT'

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 starting 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, transported 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 bottom the issue is whether 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 (ABCD) 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 your assessment identify underlying causes of problems, thus leading to solutions that eliminate or prevent the cause. When a community starts looking at the structure of the food system, people can create a vision of change. The assessment process leads to community engagement and ownership, changes in the food system that truly benefit their own community, and cross-sector strategies that increase community capacity.

Bayside, Portland, Maine

With support from the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund and partnerships with Avesta Housing, a major affordable housing developer in northern New England, as well as a private property owner, the Bayside Neighborhood Association has established a new garden in Portland’s most distressed neighborhood. The ten plots of the Unity Pearls Family Community Garden established last summer were snapped up by African and Latino families; this summer’s plan is to build wider community en-

agement with these families and 30 more (funding from the City). The major tool for building engagement is a community food assessment.

The basic steps in the assessment will be to develop community participation (always a difficult task in Bayside, since the substantial immigrant and low-income population is slow to engage with other groups, let alone organizations and City departments). We plan to start with bed-owners and social events to encourage participation, a strategy that has started working in a small way for us. Initial discussions of the food system, using the garden itself as the starting point, will introduce the idea of assessment, develop the issues people need to know more about, and identify the information resources we need to do it. (The assessment itself is already funded.)

This early phase is intended to build community ownership and will last until we can begin collaboration with “consultants”: students/interns from the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service, as well as volunteers from the recently organized Portland Food Council. As the garden season closes, the community gardeners and the consultants will work together

to design and conduct the actual research. The teams will meet to discuss findings, envision solutions, and prepare goals and objectives for food-system work. Along the way, the team(s) will start establishing relationships with agencies and organizations that can help identify strategies for achieving the goals and objectives of the “new and improved” Bayside Neighborhood Food System, whose chief stakeholders will be the families and kids of the Unity Pearls Family Community Garden.

This article was prepared for the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund’s blog on environmental justice. The community asset mapping for Bayside is planned for Summer 2017.

The clearest, most comprehensive resource for conducting a community food asset is *What’s Cooking in Your Food System: A Guide to Community Food Assessment*, by Kami Pothukuchi, Hugh Joseph, Hannah Burton, and Andy Fisher, published by the Community Food Security Coalition in 2002. The Guide is downloadable from <http://alivebynature.com/pubs.html> (it’s also available on a number of food policy websites by googling the title).

Introducing . . .

Kelly Crotty, West Bayside’s new Community Services Coordinator

Tell us a little about your job as Midtown Community Services Coordinator. What do you do?

As a Community Services Coordinator, I work as a liaison for residents and businesses of the Midtown community and the Police Department. I work to reduce Calls for Service, assist DHHS with home visits, attend Neighborhood meetings, and help with many other neighborhood concerns.

Can you give us some real-life examples of situations you’ve dealt with since taking the job?

I have worked closely with our neighborhood prosecutor to keep residences in the neighborhood from become Disorderly. A household becomes disorderly when there are three or more calls for service. Recently, I had a building with multiple disorderly calls including overdoses, criminal trespass, and general disturbances. I was able to contact the landlord and get ahead of the issues before they became a bigger problem. We worked to get problem tenants out and completed background checks on new tenants. This has reduced calls for service and we have already seen an improvement in the neighborhood.

Before you took this job, you worked at Preble St. What was your job there, and was it good training for your present job?

I worked at Preble Street as a caseworker. I would provide case management services to homeless adults in a low-barrier setting by connecting clients to resources such as housing, healthcare, employment, outreach, and mental health services. I would manage the milieu, respond to crises, and triage situations while building trusting relationships. I think this background was tremendously helpful. When I began this job I was already very familiar with the area and the population.



Above, Kelly Crotty in her office at 26 Portland Street

What is the hardest part of your job?

I would say the hardest part of my job is connecting people from all different backgrounds and striving to find common ground to keep everyone happy. I have found, though, that everyone has been so nice and definitely willing to work with me in my new role.

What about your job gives you the most satisfaction?

I honestly love my job and enjoy coming to work every day. The people I work with and experiencing new and different things every day keep me coming back!

What do you most want the neighborhood to know about you and your job?

I just want the neighborhood to know that my door is always open. I’m happy to be a resource and will work hard until issues are resolved. I’m easy to approach and will always listen to any ideas and concerns. I’m very excited to be in this new role. Please stop by the office and say hello!

Kelly can be found at the Community Policing Office at 26 Portland St. You can reach her by phone at 772-1371 or by email at kcrotty@portlandmaine.gov.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

continued from page 3

not helpful—to the homeless themselves or the area where the concentration occurs. It’s a vicious circle: as people without resources and people with health problems that curtail opportunities flood a neighborhood, resources and opportunities leave the neighborhood. The neighborhood becomes home to shelters and social services (a “service ghetto”). The homeless and marginalized are increasingly stressed and stigmatized, altering social behavior and perceptions of potential employers and landlords. After a certain point, 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 “captive” 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 service outreach. Apparently there’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, Bayside produces 21% of all calls for service to Portland’s police, 30% of all Portland’s arrests, and 34% of Portland’s “public disorder” crimes (see the paragraph on peeing, pooping, and passing out). Calls for service in Bayside increased 71% in the decade between 2006 and 2016. (In that same period, shelter bed utilization went up by 217% and Preble Street’s budget went up by 147%.)

Easing the Burdens of Bayside

No one in Bayside thinks it’s easy to be homeless—shelter “beds” are skinny green vinyl mats laid out cheek-by-jowl on the floor, and sometimes the “beds” are just chairs. No one in Bayside wants the homeless to freeze to death in the winter. No one in Bayside wants someone who can be helped by a social service referral, a meal, a shower, an address from which to send out a job application, to be ignored. Moreover, the Bayside Neighborhood Association is making efforts to establish collaborative relationships with Preble Street.

But as Preble Street calls for “you, our community, to join us in supporting . . . initiatives” that advocate for Housing First and solutions to failures of the social safety net, it behooves them to look at the burden Bayside already carries as a result of the population attracted by the Resource Center. Preble Street’s continued funding relies on its “outputs”—those meals served, those showers provided, etc. The more outputs, the more money. But, as Mark Swann admits, Preble Street does not have the resources to measure “outcomes” of its services. What is the long-term effect of service on any given homeless person? Why do the numbers of homeless keep going up despite housing placements? And, significantly, what is the impact on the neighborhood? Perhaps a genuine effort on Preble Street’s part to acknowledge that some stuff they do doesn’t achieve very much, and that other stuff they do devastates the neighborhood, might encourage more Baysiders to support their work.

I would like to thank Mark Swann for his generosity in giving an extended interview to someone who has a clear record of pointing out Preble Street’s negative impact on Bayside.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

By State Rep. Rachel Talbot-Ross

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to represent 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 reasons. It would fully fund public schools, increase revenue sharing, and expand both 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 beyond with a plan to provide direct student-debt relief. It would also give Maine families 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 future. I hope you will take a moment to read more about our proposal at www.opportunityagendamaine.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-



RACHEL TALBOT-ROSS

duced are:

LD 1006, An Act Regarding Housing Insecurity of Older Citizens

LD 1008, An Act to Establish the Permanent 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 calendar 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 welcome to contact me on these or any other issues before the Legislature. Hearing directly from constituents is crucial to the work we do in Augusta. My email address is rachel.talbotross@legislature.maine.gov. You can also find my Facebook page [@RachelTalbotRossMaineHouseDistrict40](https://www.facebook.com/RachelTalbotRossMaineHouseDistrict40).

Kind regards,

Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross

By Senator Ben Chipman, District 27

THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION began in January, and we are making progress on a number of important issues. In this column you will find information about my work to protect the voter-approved referendums and get money out of politics as well as an important update on the state budget. It is an honor to represent you in the State Senate. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas. I can be reached at (207) 287-1515 or email: Ben.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov.



BEN CHIPMAN

PROTECTING REFERENDUMS PASSED BY THE VOTERS

As you may have heard, all four of the referendums approved by voters at the polls last November are under attack. There are proposals in the Legislature to repeal, ignore, or delay the new laws legalizing marijuana, increasing education funding by assessing a 3 percent surcharge on incomes over \$200,000, raise 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. It is not our role as elected officials to repeal, 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 voters 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 interests in Augusta. But big businesses and other special interests do. Every day that I am at the State House I see far more lobbyists walking the halls than I see constituents. Their clients’ money guarantees that their perspective will be heard every single day.

Those same lobbyists regularly hand checks to lawmakers during fundraisers for their campaign committees or PACs. While these donations may not cause a legislator to vote the lobbyists’ way, they lend weight to 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 Legislative Political Action Committees.” This bill will extend the PAC fundraising ban that

See page 6, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Belinda Ray, District One

THE PROS & CONS OF WARMER WEATHER

HELLO, BAYSIDERS, and happy spring. It’s cold and rainy as I write this update, but hopefully by the time it’s published we’ll be enjoying some sunshine and warmer temperatures.

Those milder temperatures will usher in many wonderful things, like outdoor Farmers Markets, beautiful Sundays on the Boulevard, a slew of festivals and special events, and opportunities to enjoy food, drink, and recreation outside. Unfortunately, the warmer temperatures also tend to bring some unwelcome activities, such as increased criminal mischief and noise.

While these trends occur citywide, Bayside is especially affected. As a neighborhood with just 1 percent of Portland’s land mass and 5 percent of Portland’s population, Bayside has historically accounted for about 20 percent of all police calls for service. According to a recent memo Police Chief Sauschuck prepared for the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee, 30 percent of the arrests made in the first ten months of



BELINDA RAY

2016 occurred in Bayside.

This is obviously unacceptable, and because numerous factors have combined over many years to create this situation, it will not be fixed overnight. But it will be fixed. The City is committed to addressing quality-of-life issues in Bayside, and there are numerous programs underway to help do just that.

Current Initiatives in Bayside

This spring you will see new pedestrian lighting being added in Bayside, and the City will continue its work repairing sidewalks, paving streets, adding street trees, and making landscaping improvements where possible. Fresh striping and painting of roads and crosswalks will take place soon, and extra street-sweeping details will be added. You will also see an increase in the police presence in the neighborhood in order to allow the benefits of community policing to be more fully realized.

In the way of longer-term efforts in Bayside,

the city is seeking development ideas for several city-owned properties in the neighborhood, with the hope of creating more housing, office space, and retail destinations. If we can get more mixed-use development in the area, we can bring more positive foot traffic into the neighborhood and create more well-tended spaces. This, in turn, will do a great deal to enhance the vibrancy—and safety—of the area.

Indeed, the opening of Fork Food Lab, the new Bayside Bowl addition, and the 56 new housing units at the old Schlotterbeck & Foss building are indications that Bayside is turning a corner. Still, there is much work to be done.

A Change to Shelter Zoning

In early April, the Health and Human Services Committee (which I chair) approved a plan to increase shelter zoning in the city. This proposal was approved by the Planning Board on April 25th and will be coming before the full City Council in the next month.

The goal of this zoning change is to provide the city with more areas where an emergency shelter could be located so that we can design and build a new facility that will allow us to put best practices into place. It has become clear that despite the City’s magnificent and talented shelter staff—who perform amazing feats daily—the current Oxford Street Shelter is inadequate for the services and resources the City would like to offer. What began as a multi-unit building converted into a 50-bed adult shelter in 1989 now handles upward of 200 people nightly—154 inside

the shelter and up to 75 in overflow rooms. Needless to say, it is bursting at the seams.

In an improved facility, we could potentially offer meals, day programming, and essential services on-site. We could create a facility that would not require residents to pack up all their belongings and vacate each morning. The increased stability that a day room, hot meals, and on-site programming would offer could greatly improve the quality of life for people seeking emergency shelter. This, in turn, would enhance their ability to transition into steadier housing and work situations.

And of course, relocating the Oxford Street Shelter could help relieve some of the stress that has been placed on Bayside by concentrating many of the city’s social services in one area. Many years ago, co-locating social services in one neighborhood was considered a good idea. The goal was to improve access to these services, thus helping people get back on their feet more easily. But this well-intentioned idea has had unintended results. This concentration of a vulnerable population in a small area has not only slowed or prevented the reintegration of people into the larger community but has also, in effect, made many of them targets for criminal activity.

In the Meantime ...

So, increasing community policing, making improvements to infrastructure, encouraging positive development, and trying

See page 6, DISTRICT ONE’

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/CHIPMAN *Continued from page 5*

applies to Clean Election candidates to privately funded candidates.

The Clean Election candidate PAC ban isn't enough. The influence and potential for conflicts of interest are still palpable with privately funded candidates. People remember who the donors are and who gave to whom. I know that my constituents and Mainers all over the state want to get money 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 the Opportunity Agenda, our Democratic budget plan, which includes the largest property-tax cut in Maine history, fully funded schools, and smart investments in our infrastructure, communities, and jobs—all without raising a single cent in new taxes.

The Bangor Daily News Editorial Board said, "The Democrats' Opportunity Agenda 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, LePage's approach would give people who report more than \$384,000 of taxable income a tax break of \$22,665 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 families out of their homes so that the wealthy 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 growing fields.

Democrats have been hitting the road, holding town hall meetings in every corner of the state, with more to come. We have been everywhere from Millinocket to Scarborough and last week we were in nearby Biddeford and Saco. We're doing everything we can to build a groundswell of support for a budget that strengthens Maine.

Years after the rest of New England recovered from the Great Recession, Maine is finally getting back on stable ground. With revenues expected to outpace current 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 anytime.

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.

DISTRICT ONE/RAY *Continued from page 5*

to diversify the neighborhood center by relocating some social services are some of the strategies the City is currently employing to address quality-of-life issues in Bayside. It is my hope that you will see a difference this summer. And then a bigger difference next year, and continued improvements every year after.

In the meantime, check out the community resources highlighted throughout this edition of the Baysider (the BNA, Midtown Policing, Neighborhood Watch), pro-

gram the police non-emergency number into your phone so you can report suspicious 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.

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 immigrants 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 Torresen, who administered 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 Torresen 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 an American. For many their first action as a citizen was to register 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 justice, but in that courtroom I was 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 having 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>

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

By Deborah VanHoewyk

The Bayside Community Garden, located on Chestnut Street between Oxford Street and Hall Court, has 27 beds—all spoken for—and a waiting list of eight more gardeners. With a boost from the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation a couple of years ago, and a lot of cutting and bolting by garden co-coordinator John Van Hoewyk, almost all the raised beds have been renewed. Once again, the Oxford Street shelter is generously donating water for the garden, and the system has all been hooked up and is (at least for now) leakproof. Since it's that time of year when everything looks possible in the garden, there's lots going on!

For the third year in a row, you'll see the STRIVE volunteers tending their bed and working away on garden cleanup projects, especially against the back wall, and trying to establish a strip of raspberries along Hall Court. And although Regina Smith's beehive is looking a little winter-worn, don't

lose heart. Regina is an entomologist with the Maine Forest Service, so expect her bees to be ready to pollinate your crops. Just give them a wide berth so they can do their job. Your tomatoes will love you for it.

One of our long-time gardeners, Chip Kaufmann, found a larger plot a little out of town, so he's devoting his Bayside plot to four chickens. In a coop that looks like something out of the "Tiny House" movement, with wrap-around-and-over-the-top fencing (that was a LOT of work on Chip's part), four hens named Gabriel (called Gabby because, of course, she's a girl), Eulalie, Catherine, and Eva are making themselves at home. The names come from Chip's real-life career as director of the Longfellow Chorus and its spring concerts; they are all characters from Evangeline, or the Belle of Acadia, a Victorian-era musical comedy based, very loosely, on the epic Longfellow poem.

On the docket for the summer are some routine items the coordinators do, such as hunt-

ing down some compost and loam for adding to beds, shoe-horning in one more bed, etc. Then there are some larger projects that will require WORK BEES (with food!) to accomplish. We will be clearing up the back wall to position a larger garden shed and make space for a concrete-block composter. A couple of BNA board members are interested in working on the decaying fence.

The garden has a little sister, too. If you wondered how we were able to fit a few more gardeners in, the Summer Lunch Program kids' gardens have moved to the other side of the Chestnut Street garage to form the basis of the Unity-Pearls Family Community Garden on the strip of land east of the garage, west of Pearl Place I and II, and north of Unity Village. Gardeners are residents of these Avesta facilities, and when some more beds get funded, they will be used by inhabitants of the immediately surrounding community. The Portland Pollinators Partnership put in a little pollinator bed so cruising wild bees will make a stop and do their thing for the

ten beds.

This new garden has been initially funded by the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund. The BNA has also received a planning grant from the Horizon Foundation to expand this garden, identify and develop more green space in Bayside, and assess the micro-local food system in Bayside. The Resilience Hub has selected the Bayside Community Gardens as the site for an end-of-summer "permaculture," which is like a humongous work bee.

All in all, the gardens are ready to provide joy and fun in this season in the sun!

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

By Alicia Harding

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 I 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 welcomed by 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 underreported 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.

sudoku

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. www.websudoku.com.

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

Medium Puzzle 2,491,245,274



BAYSIDE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1563 • Portland, Maine 04104 • 207.450.769 • bayside_neighbors@msn.com • www.baysidenet.net

MEMBERSHIP FORM

name _____ email _____

full address: _____

home phone: _____ work phone: _____ cell phone: _____

Membership contribution levels - no contribution is REQUIRED for membership. All are welcome regardless of monetary contribution. Investing your time is just as important!

- ☐ \$100 – will help sustain community events
- ☐ \$50 - will pay for after-school snacks
- ☐ \$25 - will help publish our newsletter
- ☐ \$5 - will help to publicize events

☐ other _____

I’d like to help with:

- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Neighborhood Watch
- ☐ Steering Committee
- ☐ Adopt-a-block
- ☐ Event planning
- ☐ The Baysider
- ☐ Community Garden

☐ Other _____

my main interests:

- ☐ education
- ☐ housing
- ☐ employment
- ☐ urban planning
- ☐ green space
- ☐ diversity / culture
- ☐ transportation
- ☐ crime / safety

☐ other _____

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

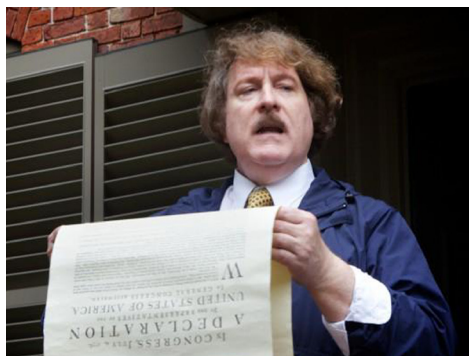
By Herb Adams

SPRING IS HERE, bringing the 10-speeds out into Portland's newly painted bike lanes and happy pedalers out in quest of health, fresh air, and faraway places.

As they whiz through Bayside, 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 Port-



Historian and former Maine legislator, Herb Adams

land's *Eastern Argus* newspaper boasted that Mainers could buy the fantastic machine right in town, from shrewd seller Charles P. Kimball.

Charles Porter Kimball was born in 1825 in Woodstock, Oxford County. He was one of six sons of a wheelwright. All six went on to become major manufactur-

ers, but go-getter Charles took to wheels early and fast.

In 1847, at age 22, he moved to nearby Norway town and soon had 30 workers in a three-story factory sending carriages and sleighs by train to Portland. In 1850 Kimball followed, building a big carriage factory on Preble St. in Bayside, just off Market (now Monument) Square.

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 undersigned 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, ... 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 huge sum for a working man.)



Portrait at left: image of Mr. CP Kimball from the *History of Woodstock ME.-CP Kimball*, courtesy of the Portland Room, PPL, Abraham Schechter C.P. Kimball, pictures. Above: Velocipede Riding Academy-1869. Below: *Eastern Argus*, a picture from- "*Harper's Weekly*" February 1869.

Kimball soon moved the wheels to the rented second floor of Mechanics' Hall. "No Posts!" he promised. "Plenty of Room for Wheelmen!"

Actually, posts were just what was needed. More an 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 Street and new wheelmen out of Mechanics' Hall, the first bicycle manufactory 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.

Forest City ! VELOCIPEDE RIDING ACADEMY

—AT—
MECHANICS' HALL.
Only Up One Flight of Stairs!
NO POSTS IN THE WAY OF RIDERS!

The subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to the numerous riders of the famous Velocipede that he has THIS DAY purchased for THEIR USE several of C. P. Kimball & Larkin's Very Best Machines, that cannot be excelled in this country, in addition to his former stock, which he has put in perfect order, and is now better prepared to accommodate riders than any other concern in the city.
Admission Free. Reserved seats for the ladies.
Come and See and Ride!
mel21-11
EASTERN ARGUS 1869

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 disability, 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.

Trainings run 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



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!



**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/