

The *BAYSIDER*

FALL EDITION



October 2016

Published FREE by the Bayside Neighborhood Association

BOOMING BAYSIDE?

Once written off as a post-industrial wasteland, Portland's Bayside Neighborhood has been undergoing a dramatic transformation in recent years, as its close proximity to the social and cultural amenities offered by Downtown Portland has exerted a powerful draw to businesses and developers alike. As realtors are fond of saying, "location, location and location!"



Above, Bayside Bowl's addition on Alder St. will add bowling lanes, expand the dining and lounge area, and house a rooftop lounge, event space, a DJ platform, and back-room facilities such as food and keg coolers and a dry storage area. *Credit: Susan McCloskey*



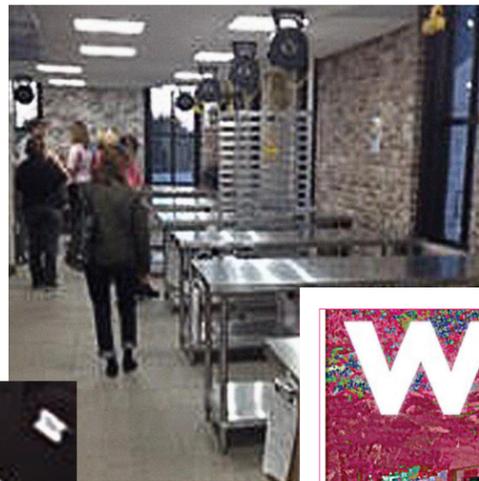
Formerly the home of Schlotterbeck and Foss, purveyors of specialty foods and flavorings, this building at 117 Preble St. will soon house tenants in 56 market-rate apartments. *Credit: Susan McCloskey*



Above, this historic building on the corner of Forest and Cumberland will soon house four market-rate apartments and office space. *Credit: Susan McCloskey*



Fork Food Lab on Parris Street, above, which offers facilities for food entrepreneurs to create and test their wares, held its grand opening on September 27. *Photo Credit: Susan McCloskey. Below, inside the Fork Food Lab. Credit: Christine Spinella*



Below left, Archetype Architects, working with developer Lou

Wood, show neighbors preliminary plans for a building on Chestnut St. that will contain 54 market-rate units. *Credit: Jay York*



ART EXHIBITION

Ron and Christine Spinella opened 3fish gallery in 1997 as a venue to showcase their artwork and as a space to host an ongoing schedule of works by visual and performance artists. This show of work by past participants will be the final exhibition for a while. So, until that happens we have decided to go out.

WITH A BANG!

1st Friday opening... and closing
December 2nd, 5-8 pm

3fish gallery

377 Cumberland Ave., Portland, Maine 04101
(Down the street from I/MECA)



A flower grows in the Chestnut St. garden. *Credit: Chip Kaufmann*

Interest in Portland's community gardens has grown enormously in recent years. Members of the Bayside neighborhood have been working to expand available plot space and exploring ways to engage school children. See article inside on page 6, by Deborah Van Hoewyk, about the Bayside Community Garden's partnership to launch "Unity-Pearls" Garden for families and kids.

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 Mary-Ellen Welch at Midtown Policing if you have an issue to bring to a meeting. The public is always welcome.

Laura Cannon and
Cindy 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

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm in the community room at Unity Village. Plans events and community gatherings. Helps with After-School Arts Program and Summer Children's Lunch Programs.

Cindy Bachelder, Chair
Colette Bouchard
Susan McCloskey
Steve Hirshon

Currently looking for new members. Please call the BNA if interested.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Works on developing and maintaining membership in the BNA.

Alicia Harding, Chair
Robert Sylvain
Colette Bouchard
Susan McCloskey
Alex Landry

Currently looking for new members. Call the BNA if interested.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meets as needed.
Steve Hirshon, Chair
Sean Kerwin

The BNA exists to serve you, our neighbors, and to make Bayside the best place to live and work in Portland! *We want to hear from you.* Attend a meeting or event, send an email, or call. Let us know your thoughts, dreams, and concerns.



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.

Colette Bouchard
Sean Kerwin
Rob Sylvain, Chair
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.

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

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

Song of the Open Road

BY WALT WHITMAN

Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me, leading wherever I choose.
Henceforth I ask not good-fortune—I myself am good fortune;
Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing,
Strong and content, I travel the open road.
The earth—that is sufficient;
I do not want the constellations any nearer;
I know they are very well where they are;
I know they suffice for those who belong to them.
(Still here I carry my old delicious burdens;
I carry them, men and women—I carry them with me wherever I go;
I swear it is impossible for me to get rid of them;
I am fill'd with them, and I will fill them in return.)

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 meetings 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
- Jon Hinck, Councilor At Large
jhinck@portlandmaine.gov
207-450-0003
- Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr.,
Councilor At Large
nmm@portlandmaine.gov
207-774-0257
- Representative Ben Chipman
RepBen.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov
318-4961
- Senator Justin Alford
Justin@JustinAlford.com | 828-0277

Police Department

- EMERGENCIES: 911**
- Senior Lead Officer, Dan Knight:**
Cell: 650-8657, danielk@portlandmaine.gov
- Midtown Community Policing Center**
Mary-Ellen Welch/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**
Beth Eilers, (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 St. 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 BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WANTS YOU!

The members of the BNA board would like you to become a member of our neighborhood association. We value your input and would be pleased if you would share your ideas for making our community a better place to live and work.

Please contact us at any of the following addresses and we will send you announcements of meetings and events. email: bnportland@gmail.com • website: www.bayside-portland.org • or contact Alicia Harding, membership chair, at aliciadharding@gmail.com (note the "d" after alicia).

The Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Unity Village Community Room, 24 Stone Street.



BNA MISSION STATEMENT

The Bayside Neighborhood Association brings members of the Bayside community together. The BNA brings conversations about Bayside to Bayside and to the greater community in a way that organizes, informs, and empowers residents, social service and other organizations, local businesses, and city representatives to form meaningful and long-term partnerships. The BNA preserves and promotes safety, multicultural diversity, housing, and carefully planned social, economic, and physical development in this unique urban community.



The BROADSIDE



BEING A FORUM FOR Editorial View & THE Publick Opinion

My Neighborhood

By Steve Hirshon

If you follow the news, you've probably read quite a bit about my neighborhood, West Bayside, lately. Much of it has been good, some of it is disturbing. Cranes and structural steel are visible all over the place. Projects that have languished for years appear to be moving forward. New projects are being announced and others are rumored. More disappointing is the news that Portland's intractable homelessness problem and associated problems of vagrancy and antisocial behavior that are centered in our neighborhood have needed extraordinary law enforcement resources to be made manageable.

For many people, my neighborhood is a "drive by" neighborhood. It's what you see on your way downtown or riding home on the bus. But if you stop and spend some time here you'll find a neighborhood with a richness and diversity with which only a very few places in America can compare. It's a neighborhood where nationally known restaurants sit down the street from a soup kitchen. It's a neighborhood where a mosque is a couple of blocks away from an evangelical church. It's a place where some people live part time and leave in the winter and others are happy to have a housing subsidy and a roof over their heads. There are plenty of folks in the middle, too. Some of them live in homes that were bypassed by the Fire of 1866. There are folks from all over the world who have come to get a fresh start, as thousands have before them, and old-timers who have worked hard and are spending their later years enjoying their views of Back Cove.

It's an easy walk downtown to work or to USM or MECA. We are located between Portland High and King Middle School, which makes it an ideal spot for one- or no-car families. If you're a foodie, folks here walk to stores that others drive a half hour or more to get to. It's the only place in Maine that hosts major league sports (PBA Pro Bowlers Tour).

It's also a place where people come to get help. Bayside is home to Portland's Gen-

eral Assistance office, along with Goodwill Employment Services and a couple of casual labor offices. Sweetser has offices here, as does Maine Behavioral Health. Health Care for the Homeless is located here and a new teaching clinic for Tufts students at Maine Med is slated to open soon. Freedom House conducts its counseling activities here, and the Salvation Army has been a presence for years. People get the help they need and, hopefully, move on with their lives.

Bayside is home to a family shelter, the Oxford Street Shelter, and an overflow shelter, soup kitchen, and dayroom at the Preble Street Resource Center. Oxford and Preble

"It's time for new approaches and better solutions."

Street are low-barrier, which means that virtually anyone who isn't threatening to someone else and isn't in possession of weapons or syringes is allowed to stay at the shelters. Portland typically houses well over two hundred people per night at the Oxford and Preble shelters. There is the teen shelter as well. Add in almost forty more at the Milestone shelter on India St. and at least one hundred (probably more) unsheltered individuals who sleep in encampments all over town, and the numbers are staggering. Per 10,000 people, these numbers exceed those of places like San Francisco and are among the highest in the nation.

Oxford Street is open from afternoon on, and Preble Street is open from breakfast time until the overflow shelter opens at night. People are free to come and go as they please. And they do. Being low-barrier means that while drinking and drug abuse are not allowed on premises, once you are off the property, anything goes. It's easy to obtain drugs in the area, and high-alcohol beer is readily available. Opiates get most of the headlines, but drugs like spice (a type of synthetic marijuana that causes psychotic effects) are new and constantly changing and are problematic for law enforcement and EMS workers.

Earlier this year the City of Portland began operation Bayside Boost, a comprehensive attempt to bring better lighting, cleaner streets, and a greater police presence to Bayside. Overall, it has been a little quieter, especially when the cops are around. When they're not, it's back to hanging on street corners, layouts, fights, and trash. No matter what one thinks about a low-barrier approach to providing services, the facilities we have are too small and send an "anything goes" message to consumers. We need to rethink our approach to how we provide services, whom we provide them to, and how they impact the surrounding neighborhood. One organization's "philosophy" shouldn't dictate the living situation for an entire neighborhood. Where else would that be acceptable? People shouldn't have to constantly call the police or clean up trash, or have their yards and gardens used as latrines. My neighbors, rich and poor, don't live that way.

The service providers (the city included) need to own the problems they have created. The city needs to rethink zoning regulations that confine these services to a small geographic area. Other communities and the state need to do their part. Historically, only about a third of shelter occupants are Portland residents. It's time to do some serious problem solving. Maybe we should bill other communities. Maybe one of those empty motels by "tent city" could be remodeled into studios and SROs. I don't have the answers, but maybe some of the people who run agencies and city departments with multimillion dollar budgets should stop telling us what a great job they are doing and acknowledge that only a small fraction of folks are truly getting the help they need.

Every individual is worthy of our attention and support. There are people who come from circumstances we can't ever imagine. But crowding three or four hundred people together and not genuinely engaging them, not having expectations of them, only creates chaos. It's time for new approaches and better solutions.



CITY COUNCILOR BELINDA RAY

CITY OF PORTLAND

By Belinda Ray, District One

This month's update is focused on the Housing Committee, which—in September—will at long last be considering its first action items.

HOUSING SAFETY & SECURITY

Among the first proposals up for consideration are those that fall under the heading of "Housing Safety and Security." (For a listing of these proposals, see the August 24th Housing Committee agenda, which you can find at: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/582/Housing-Committee>.) This policy area has received a great deal of attention from advocacy groups such as Homeless Voices for Justice and nonprofits like Shalom House and Pine Tree Legal Services. It is clear that a number of people feel insecure when it comes to housing and that the limited amount of affordable housing available in Portland and neighboring communities has added to this feeling.

It is important, however, for the Housing Committee to consider any proposed ordinances or rule changes very carefully. At present, state law already exists to address some of the concerns that have been expressed by advocacy groups. It is, for instance, already illegal to discriminate against someone seeking housing based on their source of income. If the City were to enact such an ordinance, it might sound good on the surface, but in truth it would serve no purpose since that law is already in effect.

Additionally, in some cases state law restricts the ways in which municipalities can regulate the tenant-landlord relationship. State law, for instance, expressly recognizes "at-will tenancies," also known as month-to-month leases, and allows for those leases to be terminated without cause with 30 days written notice from either the tenant or the landlord. If the City were to ban these types of leases, it could find itself in direct conflict with state law and would likely find itself soon thereafter in court.

So, as we seek to address the problem of housing insecurity, it is clear that the Housing Committee will have to work hard to avoid enacting ordinances that are either redundant—thereby serving no purpose—or unlawful.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Also in September, the Housing Committee will begin to consider the regulation of short-term rentals. Sharing economy sites such as Airbnb have really taken off in the city, providing entrepreneurs and homeowners

alike with new potential income streams. There are, however, problems associated with short-term rentals that need to be addressed. According to City code, short-term rentals are not allowed in many residential zones. In addition, when units that have historically functioned as long-term rentals are transitioned to short-term rental units, the result is a decrease in available housing stock for full-time residents. This can add to the problem we are having with the shortage of affordable rental units in the city.

A final issue with short-term rentals is that if they proliferate, they have the potential to weaken the fabric of a community. People who reside full-time in a neighborhood are typically more invested in the community and more likely to contribute to its health and well-being.

Of course, there are also benefits to having a strong short-term rental market. Renting out a room or a suite in a home can help homeowners meet their expenses and remain in their homes. And leasing a short-term rental is a great way for visitors to experience a city. Quite often Airbnb rentals are tucked into neighborhoods, placing visitors in the heart of a community in a way that more formal accommodations may not. Some people prefer this approach. Some don't. It's nice to have all options available for people who wish to visit Portland.

However, it's apparent that some form of regulation is necessary to make certain that the City's available housing stock for long-term renters remains robust. Regulations may also help ensure that our communities continue to be inhabited by people who are invested in their well-being and that homes in what are deemed residential—not business—zones are not being turned into de facto inns or hotels.

NEXT UP: ZONING

Should the Housing Committee make it through these policy areas in September, along with a proposed amendment to the Housing Replacement Ordinance, the next issue up for consideration is zoning. Included in that discussion will be a look at Shelter Zoning in the city. As most Baysiders know, the zone in which shelters are allowed is very limited at present.

Expanding shelter zoning throughout the city would have significant benefits. It would allow shelter services to be available in multiple locations, which could help integrate people seeking such services into diverse communities rather than segregating them in one area. Having multiple areas that allow shelter services could also spur developers and service providers to seek out and implement new approaches to helping vulnerable populations.

You can view the Housing Committee's agendas and find out when each of these issues (and others) will be coming before the committee for consideration on the committee website (<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/582/Housing-Committee>). The proposed work plan is included in the meeting materials for the August 10th meeting.

Public comment is always taken on action items, and we try to leave time for public comment on other issues at each meeting. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can always submit public comment by emailing one of the councilors on the committee or the city staff members assigned to the committee.



STATE REP. BEN CHIPMAN

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Ben Chipman

It has been a pleasure to represent Bayside and several other neighborhoods in the Maine House of Representatives since 2010. This will likely be my last *Legislative Update* as your State Representative, because I am running for State Senate in this November's election. The senate seat is a larger district that includes the entire Portland peninsula, the City's islands, and a large area off-peninsula, including the Back Cove, Woodfords Corner, and East Deering neighborhoods.

Rachel Talbot Ross is running to become the new State Representative for House District 40. She has many years of experience working to support and promote cultural diversity here in Portland, and she understands the needs of our neighborhoods and small businesses. Together we will make a great team in Augusta and are committed to providing you the best representation possible.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th. In addition to candidates, the ballot will also include several statewide referendum questions, which I have included in this update. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the election and, most importantly, please don't forget to vote on November 8th.

QUESTION 1: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Do you want to allow the possession and use of marijuana under state law by persons who are at least 21 years of age, and allow the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing,

and sale of marijuana and marijuana products subject to state regulation, taxation, and local ordinance?

QUESTION 2: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Do you want to add a 3% tax on individual Maine taxable income above \$200,000 to create a state fund that would provide direct support for student learning in kindergarten through 12th grade public education?

QUESTION 3: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Do you want to require background checks prior to the sale or transfer of firearms between individuals not licensed as firearms dealers, with failure to do so punishable by law, and with some exceptions for family members, hunting, self-defense, lawful competitions, and shooting range activity?

QUESTION 4: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage of \$7.50 to \$9 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases up to \$12 in 2020, and annual cost-of-living increases thereafter; and do you want to raise the direct wage for service workers who receive tips from half the minimum wage to \$5 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases until it reaches the adjusted minimum wage?

QUESTION 5: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Do you want to allow voters to rank their choices of candidates in elections for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Representative, and to have ballots counted at the state level in multiple rounds in which last-place candidates are eliminated until a candidate wins by majority?

QUESTION 6: BOND ISSUE

Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment, and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds?

City of Portland

Fall Curbside Leaf Pickup:

Beginning Monday, October 24th, 2016 ending Friday, November 18th, 2016, the City of Portland will continue its fall curbside leaf pickup program.

IMPORTANT! - The leaves **MUST** be in the large, paper biodegradable leaf bags that can be purchased at most hardware stores. Place your biodegradable leaf bags curbside on your normal trash/recycling pickup day during the month of November & City crews will take care of the rest!

2016

Curbside Leaf Pickup

Beginning - Monday, October 24th 2016

Ending - Friday, November 18th 2016

Portland, Maine | Yes. Autumn's good here.



www.portlandbuylocal.org

Bayside, Home to the Cold Water Business

By Hon. Herb Adams

On a sizzling summer day, a drink of cool, clean water is just what the doctor ordered.

One hundred years ago, the doctor could have ordered it right in Bayside, from one of our most fascinating, but forgotten, bits of Bayside's scientific history and heritage.

In 1916 the testing labs for the Portland Water District—complete with retorts, bubbling vials, and strange apparatus attended by stern lab-coated scientists—served over 120,000 southern Mainers from a laboratory tucked quietly on



Above, author and historian Herb Adams

In 1912 a typhoid fever outbreak swept the city, and in direct response the Portland Water District rushed to build a state-of-the-art bacteriological lab facility in the brand-new City Hall, the same building that stands on Congress St. today—and got turned down flat by the city fathers.

“It is not generally known, but is nevertheless true,” the *Evening Express* rather pointedly noted in a 1913 article, “that the plans for the new City building included a bacteriological laboratory, and the room for such exists in the building but is not occupied. ... The [PWD] trustees offered to equip the laboratory for the City but the offer was refused.”

Water Bayside Bound

Miffed, in 1913 the PWD built instead a wooden three-story office headquarters, garages, and lab on Kennebec St. in Bayside, on land reclaimed from Back Cove. In 1915 the main offices and lab moved to 16 Casco St., the brick building which still stands today. The PWD multi-truck fleet operated out of 183-185 Kennebec St., carrying pipe

and personnel out to the hinterlands.

Up at Sebago Lake, the PWD erected emergency steam pumps and silo-like “Hypochlorite Chemical plants” to purify Hinckley Brook and Sebago Village Brook tributaries, and on Casco St. erected 24-hour testing labs under the watchful eye of Prof. A. N. Caird, formerly of the Biddeford and Bangor water works.

The press loved the solemn-looking Caird and his bubbling lab full of mysterious machinery, lavishing long stories upon the superscientific-looking home to Progressive-Era efficiency.

“The natural, untreated water of Sebago Lake, that wonderful source of Portland's water supply, is as pure as any source of water in the entire Country, but the water district does Nature ‘one better’ by treating the water chemically, making it as nearly pure as science is able to do,” boasted the *Evening Express* in 1916.

Most Portlanders had no idea about the round-the-clock technical men—and women, too, as recorded in photos—earnestly plug-



Historical Photo: lab worker in PWD building on Casco St. Photo courtesy of Portland Water District.



Historical Photo: The former PWD building at 16 Casco St. in West Bayside. Photo courtesy of Portland Water District

the second floor of 16 Casco St., home to the largest water company in Maine. And it all began because of typhoid fever and a tragic fire.

How It All Started

Before the “Great Fire” of July 4, 1866, which leveled a third of the city and left over 10,000 homeless, Portland had no underground water pipe system at all. Fire fighters and citizens depended on wells and city water cisterns filled by rain, all of which failed spectacularly on that tragic night.

From the ruins, citizens formed the Portland Water Company, with the audacious idea of piping fresh water some seventeen miles from Sebago Lake, through multiple municipalities, and directly into the Forest City. The trenching and construction was the largest civil engineering project in the Maine of its day, and service was turned on officially on Thanksgiving Day, 1869.

In 1907, the city obtained the charter of the Portland Water Company and created the Portland Water District to serve seven neighboring towns and five Casco Bay islands.



Historical Photo: The PWD's new digs on Douglass St. opened in 1926. Photo courtesy of Portland Water District

ging away 24/7 behind the quiet brick front just off bustling Congress St.

New John Calvin Stevens Digs

So they labored until the 1930s, when the PWD labs moved to the magnificent new 1929 Portland Water District headquarters at 225 Douglass St., featuring an auditorium and classic tower rising above the nearby railroad tracks. (The headquarters remained on Casco St. until 1964, when an extension to house it was built onto the Douglass St. building.) By 1936 the PWD garages on Kennebec St. were home to the Maine Casket Company.

The classic brick-and-granite Douglass St. structure is still home to the Portland Water District.

Today on Kennebec St., the single-level, gray-concrete-block former PWD garage

still stands, by the railroad tracks off Forest Ave. behind the Portland Post Office. At 16 Casco St., the former PWD headquarters can still be seen, a Bayside landmark where once no bacterium ever dared to tread.

And Sebago Lake, the second largest lake Down East, still holds almost 1,000 billion gallons of pure Maine water and serves it daily to almost 15 percent of the entire state population in the greater Portland region.

So tonight, lift a glass to Bayside and to the good PWD—filled with cold water, of course.

On October 26 at 5:30 p.m., Paul Hunt, Environmental Manager at the Portland Water District, will give a talk entitled *Trees, Not Treatment: Conserving Forests Is a Natural Method of Water Treatment at the Portland Public Library.*



Historical Photo: The PWD garages on Kennebec Street. Photo courtesy of Portland Water District

—press release—

CITY CLERK HONORED WITH AWARD AT SECRETARY OF STATE'S STATE ELECTIONS CONFERENCE

Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap presented Portland City Clerk Kathy Jones with the prestigious Lorraine M. Fleury Award at the beginning of the second day of the Maine State Elections Administration Conference at the Sunday River complex in Newry on September 22.

Each year, the Secretary of State solicits nominations for the award, named for long-time state Director of Elections Lorraine M. Fleury. The department presents the award to recognize and honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the election process and who

exemplifies the qualities of fairness, experience, knowledge and service.

“The integrity and efficiency of the election process depends almost entirely on the devoted service of municipal elections officials,” said Dunlap. “It’s always a challenge to single any one of them out, but the acknowledgement and praise from co-workers, neighbors, colleagues, and the elected officials who also serve our communities makes this an incredibly gratifying process.”

Jones serves as the city clerk for Maine’s largest city. This in itself presents unique challenges, but her nominations described

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Bayside Community Gardeners Susan McCloskey and John Van Hoewyk fill garden beds with "the good earth" from We Compost It! Credit: Deborah Van Hoewyk

Bayside Community Garden Develops Partnership

to Launch "Unity-Pearls" Garden for Families and Kids

By Deborah Van Hoewyk

A new garden has emerged in Bayside. Ten beds, a pollinator garden, a pollinator seed-starter bed, a water tank, and a tool locker have sprung up on the empty strip of grass between the Chestnut Street Garage and Pearl Place I and II on Pearl St. It might sound simple, like mushrooms emerging after a rainy spell, but making such arrangements is always complicated.

The need for the garden arose through a Bayside Community Garden project with the Summer Lunch program, which uses U.S. Department of Agriculture funding to ensure that no kids miss lunch when school is out of session in the summer. For two years, the Community Garden

on Chestnut St. helped kids in the lunch program grow vegetables; however, the program—and participation—changed between the first and second years. Under Mayor Brennan, the "enrichment" component of the lunch program received a lot of support from the City, but in the transition to the Strimling administration, some of the emphasis on programming was lost.

"It seemed to us," said Garden co-coordinator Deborah Van Hoewyk, "that the kids' awareness of the schedule for garden programming had slipped, and the ones who had to attend summer school really missed out." Putting the kids' garden beds closer to where they live—in the "Pearls" I and II and Unity Village—and involving their families seemed a logical way to raise awareness of the garden, increase the number of people using the garden, and make it available on permanent, 24/7 basis. And there was that empty strip of grass right beside Pearl Place and visible from the playground just across the street from Unity Village.

So ... the Bayside Neighborhood Association sought and received funding from the New England Grass Roots Environment Fund to add to what was left of the funding it had already received from the Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation's Healthy Food Fund to relocate

the program and start the new garden. But while money makes things possible, it's not everything.

The Bayside Neighborhood Association had to establish the nature of the property—part of it is owned by the company that owns and operates the Chestnut Street Garage, A&M Partners, Inc. The other part of the property is owned by Avesta Housing. The City of Portland has an easement on the entire strip, since the City's sewer system runs north from Oxford to Lancaster underneath the grass. The BNA had to work with all of these partners to establish the feasibility of putting a garden there and to adjust garden plans to be consistent with the way the property is used now.

All three partners stepped up, and the garden got the go-ahead. In addition to paying for the new beds with grant money, the BNA worked with City arborist Jeff Tarling on location and on the possibility

get it in working order. Lou Wood, head of A&M Partners, has stepped up with re-fill water until a more permanent arrangement is developed. The BNA/Community Garden has also collaborated with the Portland Pollinator Partnership to build a small pollinator garden to be planted with native perennials this fall and to build a seed-starter bed to grow other perennials for planting next spring.

It took most of the summer to get all this done, which—all things considered—turns out to be pretty quick. The beds, built and installed by Garden co-coordinator John Van Hoewyk, arrived just as Congresswoman Chellie Pingree showed up to visit the Summer Lunch program—what timing!

But the best part happened on Thursday, September 15, when all 10 beds were taken by families from the Pearls and Unity Village. With major contributions from Avesta's Tessa McGow, residential servic-



of planting fruit trees and shrubs in the future, and with We Compost It!, a local Portland business that collects organic scraps and returns compost, to achieve a substantial discount on the compost/loam mixture to fill the beds. Tarling and several City departments located and moved a "water buffalo" (big tank) to the site, filled it halfway, and are locating parts to

es coordinator, and Manuel Urgiles, property manager, there was a great turnout to plant fall seeds and eat some healthy snacks. "Well," said BNA Steve Hirshon, surveying the scene, "This worked out incredibly well!"

—press release—

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the energy and devotion that she has shown in constantly implementing better ways to serve the public, and looking for new ideas through her wide and varied service on a number of Clerk's Associations and on the Elections Working Group. In April of 2015, Jones attended the United States Elections Assistance Commission meeting, joining Deputy Secretary of State Julie Flynn in representing the State of Maine.

One of Kathy's many accomplishments as city clerk is her commitment to researching, learning and successfully facilitating Portland's first-ever Ranked Choice Voting system for the mayoral election in 2011. She has expertly implemented plans for redistricting, polling place relocation, local citizen initiatives, and assisting candidates, as well as directing and training a workforce of more than 200 election workers and office staff. During election seasons, her application of split shifts with office staff, facilitating

improvements for processing absentee ballots, and the creation and implementation of a detailed training manual for elections has maximized the success and minimized the stress of the process.

Jones has fluently conducted Portland's election processes while also performing all of the other duties assigned to a city clerk, and has done so "with ultimate professionalism while always being able to keep her great sense of humor," according to one of her nominators.

"Kathy Jones runs Maine's largest and busiest city clerk's office, and does it extremely well," said Dunlap as he presented the award. "It's a testament to her devotion to the democratic process that Portland's elections run so smoothly. That doesn't happen by accident. Without the commitment of town and city clerks like Kathy Jones, we'd be in a very tough spot, for sure."

Members of the Maine Charitable Mechanics Association parade trade banners along Congress St. during a recent First Friday Art Walk. Credit: Carolyn Blackburn





Above, photo of Carol Hutchins by Alicia Harding.

Meet Your Neighbor—Carol Hutchins

By Alicia Harding

The Roman general and politician Cincinnatus has long been a role model for those who take civic responsibility seriously. Carol Hutchins, whom I first met on a visit to the Neal Dow House, is just such a person. She is dedicated to social and economic improvement in the City of Portland. To mention a few of her activities, she is a trustee on the Deering Oaks Parks Commission, a volunteer at the Sacred Heart food pantry, and curator of the Neal Dow House Museum. On a more informal basis, she is involved with improving her neighborhood by forming liaisons with local business owners and working to renovate her own house to its original 19th century architecture.

Carol grew up in Eliot but moved to Connecticut, where she graduated with a degree in marketing from Central Connecticut University. Carol chose to work in the medical field as a home-nursing professional. Fourteen years ago she moved back to Maine to help take care of her ailing father. She decided to live in Portland, knowing she would enjoy the arts and culture the city offers, such as performances at Portland Stage and the Portland Symphony.

Carol began taking the Docent Training Course offered by Portland Landmarks as a way to meet people and to get to know the city. Upon completion of the program she volunteered as a docent at Victoria Man-

sion. She then joined the staff at the Neal Dow House. As curator of its museum she is constantly researching the house's history. Neal Dow, the original owner, was actively engaged in the Temperance Movement in the United States, and as mayor he was instrumental in banning the sale of alcohol in Portland. The house, owned by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, is open to the public.

Although Carol was the first in her family to graduate from college, her family has always valued education, as evidenced by her mother, who at age 79 fulfilled a lifelong dream and learned to read. Carol's mother still lives in Eliot, where the town, recognizing her achievement, recently invited her to speak at the high school graduation. Carol also has two grown children and a younger sister.

As well as participating in Portland's cultural life, Carol enjoys reading a good mystery, working in the garden, and traveling. She prefers to visit the warmer Latin American climates of Costa Rica and Guatemala. She has even "crewed" on hot air balloons when visiting Albuquerque.

Renovating an old house, Portland's cultural scene, how to help those in need, the history of Portland, or sharing the title of new mystery--all of these could be topics of conversation with Carol Hutchins, your neighbor in Bayside.



West Bayside History Tour, coming soon!

Starting here, at the Maine Charitable Mechanics building at 519 Congress St., historian Herb Adams will lead a tour of West Bayside highlighting its history as the home of the artisans and enterprises that built Portland. Stay tuned—time and date to be announced soon!



Keep your eyes on this space on Casco St., where, during the month of October, artist and MECA graduate Asherah Cinnamon will be constructing a *sukkah* out of twigs and sticks. According to her website, "A *Sukkah* is by definition a temporary shelter. It is designed to remind us that in our vulnerability it is community, tradition, and faith in something larger than ourselves that together create our real safety, not material possessions or fancy homes." Find out more at <http://www.asherahcinnamon.com/public-art-dwelling-place.html>



"I saw old Autumn in the misty morn stand shadowless like silence, listening to silence."—THOMAS HOOD



BAYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

date _____

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 _____

At right, BNA President Steve Hirshon with some of the young students attending a back-to-school party hosted by the BNA at Unity Village.
Credit: Alicia Harding



Please join us
For Cider & Donuts
at the Unity Village community room,
24 Stone St.
Saturday, October 22,
from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
as we welcome in the fall season!
ALL ARE WELCOME



Above, former BNA vice-chair Annie Wadleigh and volunteers from the Maine Girls' Academy take a break from planting endangered New England cottontail habitat in Cape Elizabeth, an effort led by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**BE THERE
OR BE SQUARE**
—you are invited—
At 1 p.m. on Sunday,
October 23
the Bayside Neighborhood Association will
host its annual DINNER and ELECTION of
Board members in the Avesta building at
409 Cumberland.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

Endorsed By

- ✓ **Justin Alfond**
State Senator (D-Portland)
- ✓ **Michael Brennan**
Portland Mayor 2011-2015
- ✓ **Belinda Ray**
Portland City Council, District 1
- ✓ **Maine Education Association**
- ✓ **Planned Parenthood**
- ✓ **Maine AFL-CIO**
- ✓ **Maine People's Alliance**
- ✓ **Sierra Club - Maine Chapter**
- ✓ **Maine Credit Union League**

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Chipman
State Senate**