



SOUTH BERWICK JOURNAL

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Special points of interest:

Property tax payments are due by March 31st.

Reminder notices were mailed to residents the third week in February.

There is a blue drop box in the Town Hall entry. Mailed payments will go by postmark dates.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather at (207) 384-3036.



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From the Desk of the Assistant Town Manager

Jennifer Janelle

Hello Friends and Citizens of South Berwick!

We would like to remind everyone in town to be patient and mindful when it comes to the storm clean up process.

The town experienced a record amount of damage and the Public Works crew has been doing a great job cleaning up, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

The crew has been working on the high hanging branches first and working their way down, so you will see them multiple times in their rotation.

The Public Works crew is working hard everyday to make our roads safe and with 70 miles of roads and both sides of the roads needing work, it's a big job.

Please keep in mind that if we get anymore storms this will set them back and prolong the process. If residents are able to help by cleaning up in front of their house or helping a neighbor, it would be much appreciated.

THANK YOU!

From the Desk of the Executive Assistant

Dawn Moreau

The administrative office has been busy making changes to a few of the office locations here in the Town Hall in order to create a more cohesive and organized work environment.

The **General Assistance** office is still located by the elevators and the **Executive Assistant** is now located in the office next to the Town Manager.

The **Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director** is now located in the last office on the right along with the **Human Resources/Tax Collector** and the **Finance Assistant**.

The **Town Assessor** is now located across from the Code/Planning office.

The changes have been great for the staff and we look forward to serving you!

South Berwick History

Cummings Shoe Factory was built in South Berwick in 1872 by David Cummings.

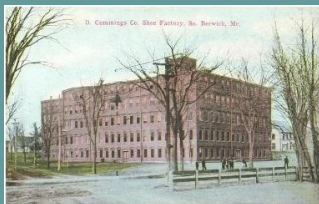
This factory employed approximately 350 workers and produced 5,000 pairs of shoes per day.

The factory was actively producing shoes until it closed its doors in 1990.



(Photo courtesy of Old Berwick Historical Society.)

A photo postcard from 1910.



(photo courtesy of Phoenix Management Company)

Cummings Mill Apartments were developed in an effort to preserve this historic building and is now listed in the Register of Historic Places.



(photo courtesy of Phoenix Management Company)

TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK

180 MAIN STREET

207-384-3300

southberwickmaine.org

Departmental Information

Safety Corner

Ray Delcourt

At the end of 2022 the Town Manager challenged all of the town department's to form a unified Safety Committee. The committee was formed in early January of 2023 and consists of a diverse team of Town employees. The initial meeting was held on the 10th of January with consecutive meetings being held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

The committee is charged with creating a culture where employees feel empowered and encouraged to openly identify health and safety risks, actively collaborate with affected stakeholders on a corrective action, and celebrate team success upon objective implementation.

Currently, the committee is working to close the gap on identified shortfalls from a recent health and safety audit. This audit was proactively initiated by the Town and conducted by a Health and Safety Consultant. By aggressively working to close these identified opportunities and by sustaining these efforts, the Town employees will continuously improve on a healthy and safe work environment.

Assessing

Verna Sharpe

Renewable Energy Equipment Exemption

Effective April 1, 2023, the Town of South Berwick will be assessing solar energy equipment as part of the real estate. Taxpayers are welcome to apply for the Renewable Energy Equipment Exemption. The exemption applies to:

- Solar arrays receiving a net metering credit or generating energy for use onsite, and
- Solar farms with a nameplate capacity of less than 5 MW that are receiving a net metering credit.

Applications can be picked up at the Town Office or downloaded from the Assessing page on the town website. If approved, the equipment will be exempt from taxation. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2023, for exemption on the FY2024 tax billing.

Please contact Assessing Agent, Verna Sharpe, with any questions: [207-384-3010](tel:207-384-3010).



Lee Shaw

Lee Shaw has been our Library Director since October 2021 and he has enjoyed the variety of different challenges and opportunities that he faces each day. A lot of you would be surprised to find out that the library has hundreds of different style cake pans and a few ukuleles that get checked out frequently.

In Lee's free time he practices yoga, enjoys cooking and making music. When I asked him if he had to eat one meal every day for the rest of his life, what would it be? He replied "Sushi". I

can't say I blame him, as I would choose that too!

The thing he likes most about living in Maine is the friendly laid-back culture. Fall is his favorite season as he enjoys pumpkin spice coffee, like a lot of us do.

Something that most of us do not know about Lee is that he was born in Hawaii and in middle school he had eclectic musical taste with his first concert being Phish.

If you would like to know the last book he has read he invites you to the library as he would love to tell you

about it.

As part of Lee's travel bucket list he would love to visit Honduras as part of a team working to establish libraries in a rural part of the country. What a great thing to be a part of!

