## TOWN CRIER

The Town Hall is a buzz with news and new faces, and familiar folks in new roles! There has been a change in positions and a new hire.

Julia House is now Town Administrator; Tracy Wright is Tax Collector/Treasurer and Becky Hartley, who has spent the last 15 years in medial admin, is our new Town Clerk/Registrar. Becky At our elections held on November 4th we chose a new Select Board Member. Her name is Karly Perry, whom you might remember was Town Clerk a few years back. She joins Ashleigh Randall who won in a special election this summer. [See Page tktktk ] Also, our newest School Member is Kayla Hughes.

We want town residents to know that we have an emergency supply of wood for residents in need. This is just enough wood to get through a cold night or day until a long-term solution can be met.

As a reminder, all dogs must be vaccinated against rabies and lice.

*-Becky Hartley*, Town Clerk

THE MIDDLE GROUND
West Bath Historical Society
PO Box 394
Bath, Maine 04530

**MEMORIES FROM THE WEST BATH GRANGE...**As West Bath's historic Grange sadly folded its doors this fall, a long-lived community institution faded into history. However, many memories and artifacts survived, and the WBHS stepped in to preserve as much as possible. This full set of monogramed dishes, which served members of the Grange countless homemade group meals over the years, is just one of the many Grange objects we were able to salvage.

THE MIDDLE GROUND
*Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine*

Volume 27, Number 2 *** Fall/Winter 2025
published by the
***West Bath Historical Society***
PO Box 394, Bath, Maine 04530

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We publish researched historical materials, local news and events that may be of later historical interest. We don't print advertising, gossip or political opinion. To offer news items, historical photos, or documents, or for more information, contact West Bath Town Hall (443.4342).

# THE MIDDLE GROUND
## *Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine*
FALL/WINTER 2025 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY


*Photo: Kerry Nelson*

## FAREWELL WEST BATH GRANGE

This fall marked the end of an era. Our historic West Bath Grange was disbanded, after 150 glorious years of operation, and the large yellow building on New Meadows Road was sold to a private individual.
West Bath Grange No. 154 was organized in 1875. The 2-story, 66' x 24' building was completed in 1901. The new hall was dedicated on January 22, 1902, and included a large performance stage. It replaced an earlier, smaller building which stood half a mile north.
Granges (formally known as the Patrons of Husbandry) began in the 1860s as a nationwide fraternal organization supporting farmers and rural communities. Maine has historically been one of the strongest Grange states, with hundreds of local chapters at its peak in the early 20th century. While membership has declined across the country, Maine still supports many local Grange organizations, compared to other states, reflecting our rural traditions and community focus.
Membership in West Bath declined greatly after the 1950s' heydays of the Grange. About ten years ago, an effort was made to reorganize as the West Bath Seaside Grange, but for the last several years, the grange has been inactive. *Con't page 2*

## THE MIDDLE GROUND CELEBRATES A QUARTER CENTURY OF PUBLICATION!

In April of 2000, West Bath Historical Society created and printed the premier issue of a new publication dedicated to the history and events of West Bath. The original quarterly newsletter was named for the section of the New Meadows River which lies between Brunswick and West Bath, a shallow nautical ground that has been called "the middle ground" for generations of fisherman and sailors.
The founder and editor was **Robin Hansen**. The newsletter contained photographs and lively articles about West Bath history, profiles of residents, a report from the town office, a calendar of local events, and a section called "Channel Markers" which detailed weddings, births, and anniversaries. A column named "Passings" shared local obituaries. It was later renamed "Crossing the Bar".

**Kerry E. Nelson** was archivist and worked closely with Robin cutting and pasting the issues together before printing them on her business copier. **Barbara Thompson** was the events editor. The premier issue featured a story about Ida and Coutney Stover's home on New Meadows Road which was removed to make way for the highway ramp for Route 1. All that remained was an apple tree that Ida used for one end of her clothesline. The newsletter was mailed to the Society's 22 members.

*Con't page 2* *Photo left: Premier issue of Middle Ground*

The Middle Ground
Premier issue — in West Bath, Maine — April-June 2000

**Stovers' Farm long gone but apple tree lives on**

Arriving in West Bath on the northbound exit ramp from the highway, you might not notice an old apple tree down to the right of the roadway, but for Courtney and Ida Stover, it's a landmark and a tie to other times.

"It was about 20 feet north of the back of our house. Ida used to string a clothes line from it to the house and hang her laundry there," Courtney says. "Even now we use the apple tree to place just where the house used to stand."

Today, Ida and Courtney live in a gray ranch-style home across across road, but once their farm stretched from Foster's Point Road (now New Meadows Road) across the "the swamp, down a cow way — there by those bushes — to the pasture beyond the railroad tracks," Courtney said. The top

*(Continued on page 2: Stover)*

*Above:* The Trufant/Mayo/Stover farm in 1965,before it was razed to make room for the exit ramp to the highway. WBHS archive photo by C. Stover. *Left:* Today the only marker is the apple tree Ida Stover used to tie a clothes line to. Photo by *The Middle Ground*

West Bath Historical Society inaugurates *The Middle Ground*

At the start of a new century, welcome to the premiere issue of The Middle Ground, possibly the first regular publication ever devoted exclusively to West Bath. It is named after a section of the New Meadows river much like our town: it lies between Bath and Brunswick and often has challenging cross-winds.

The Middle Ground is published by the West Bath Historical Society, but will include town news and events — anything of possible historical interest in ten or fifteen years.

Each quarterly issue will carry at least one article on West Bath historical or archeological themes, historic photos, an interview with a town elder, and information from the West Bath Historical Society archives.

Although we can't pay for items, we offer a flash of local fame and your name in print for contributions. We promise to edit with a light hand. For articles and photos, historic or otherwise, contact the editor, Robin Hansen, 443-4571. With historic photos, contact Kerry Nelson,443-5118.

"Calendar" lists town events upcoming in the next three months. "Channel Markers" gives notice of recent births, deaths, marriages, and significant wedding aniversaries, etc. We welcome short obituaries of recently deceased West Bath residents. Contact Events Editor Barbara Thompson, 443-4329, before July 1 for the July issue. We can only report on what we know, so please don't be shy!

The Middle Ground does not publish gossip items or political opinion and does not accept ads. We do accept donations.

## FAREWELL WEST BATH GRANGE Con't

The West Bath Historical Society was approached during the sale process by local realtor Tracy McDonough to advise us of the sale. She introduced us to Sherry Harrison, Master/President of the Maine State Grange, who oversees all of the roughly 150 remaining Granges in the state.

They invited the Society, specifically our archivist Kerry Nelson and her husband Albert; President Leah Zartarian and Board member Jim Brophy to tour the building, which was packed full of memorabilia, from ceremonial robes and sashes to photos and furniture. On behalf of the Grange organization, Sherry then offered to donate whatever Grange artifacts we might want for historical preservation.


*Above Left: Leah Zartarian and Jim Brophy admiring some of the Grange artifacts. Note that a similar display cabinent from the same collectionn now sits in the foyer of the Old West Bath Meeting House! Above Right: The honor roll of West Bath Grange members who served in the military.*

"We were thrilled", said Kerry. "We later met with Tracy and Sherry and accepted many items for the archives, including grange manuals, minutes, financials, member information, framed photographs and certificates, banners, ribbons, dishware, and much more."

The collection was so sizeable that WBHS had to purchase an additional fireproof file to hold it all. The Grange was an important part of West Bath for many decades, and we are so grateful to Sherry and the Maine State Grange for allowing us to preserve its history and keep it in West Bath.

*We know that many of you may have fond memories from events and experiences over the years at the West Bath Grange, from dinners to dances to theatrical evenings. We invite you to share your recollections with us for the* **Middle Ground** *and we look forward to your stories!* ■

TERRY TAYLOR / THE TIMES RECORD

**ROBIN HANSEN,** left, Kerry Nelson, center and Barbara Thompson look over the premier issue of "The Middle Ground" at Hansen's house in West Bath. The newsletter serves the West Bath community.

## THE MIDDLE GROUND CELEBRATES Con't

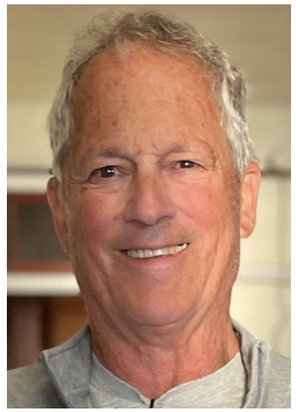
Mail subscriptions cost $5 annually. Issues were also distributed throughout town and the first printing of 150 disappeared quickly. A second printing was quickly issued!

Fast forward twenty-five years and the newsletter is still going strong. It is now published twice a year and edited by Avery Hunt using materials contributed by Society members, including a great deal from Kerry, well as town officials and residents.

Robin also recently donated town reports, local history books, photographs, oral history tapes, extra copies of early Middle Ground issues, and more. Many thank, Robin.



# CROSSING THE BAR



**Dr. Nathaniel "Nick" Weare Hyde**, 75, of West Bath died May 7. Born in Boston in 1949, Nick was the son of Benjamin D. Hyde and Mildred B. Hyde, and the brother of Cynthia Hyde (Jim Kinnealey). He was predeceased by his brother, Dwight Hyde (Pamela Veenstra).

Nick grew up in Lincoln, Mass, attended Noble and Greenough school, and graduated from the University of Vermont.

His passions were ice hockey and his lifelong friends, but it was a deeper calling that led Nick to become a surgeon. Nick's experience of being raised by a mother who lived her life from a wheelchair, having contracted polio in the epidemic of 1952, helped spark a desire to care for others. That desire only strengthened when his best friend's mother told him that he had, "missed the boat" by not deciding early enough to go to medical school– a quiet challenge Nick took to heart. He went on to earn his medical degree in 1979 from Universidad Central del Este in the Dominican Republic, mastering coursework and exams often delivered in Spanish. He then trained in general surgery at Baystate Medical Center.

Nick served for 32 years at Bath Memorial, Mid Coast Hospital and in private practice, where he was admired by patients and colleagues. Nick loved Maine from his early days as a child sailing with his father in Penobscot Bay. He boasted in his ability to catch a fish and ski all in the same day. He was a man with an understated brilliant mind -- a talented surgeon, an avid gardener and skilled woodworker. He built furniture and boats including a Herreshoff 12 ½ sailboat.

After being diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) in 2023, Nick faced the disease with quiet courage and dignity. The outpouring of love and support from friends, colleagues, and the wider community in his final years is a testament to the impact he made, as a physician, a friend, and a human being.
He is survived by Nicola Plimpton, the mother of h is children; Brittany; Jaimie (Beck Erhard) and their daughters Marlee and Emilie; and Jessie (Alex Vadney). Nick remarried in 2007 to Polly Arnoff with her two children, and 6 grandchildren.

**Heidi Fowler**, 74, of Berry's Mill Road, passed away May 19 at Mid Coast Hospital.

**Charleen Peters**, 83, of West Bath died on July 23. Among her survivors is her daughter, **Terry Collins** & her husband **Tony**, and one son, **Eric King**, of West Bath; three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

**Henry H. Baecker** 89 of Brigham's Cove, West Bath, Maine, died on March 31.

He was born in 1936 in New Jersey and started his banking career in New York at Citibank and then Chase Manhattan. He relocated to his beloved Maine in 1978, working for Canal Bank and Maine National Bank. He retired from Maine Bank & Trust in 1999 after another eight years, capping a 41 year career as a Commercial Banker. In his retirement, he still worked part time for Norway Savings Bank.

Henry's interests were varied, but his friends, family, his beloved boat, and nature were utmost to him. His daughter shared that he believed that the two most important things in life are to have GRATITUDE and to always have HOPE.

He leaves a daughter, Kristen Sparro of New York, son-in law, Christopher Sparro; a grandson and granddaughter, as well as his late former wife, Susan Baecker, and his late partner Margot Webber.

# CROSSING THE BAR

**Thomas Andrew Guth**, 57, passed away on Sept. 29, at his home in West Bath. A celebration of life was held in October at the Meadowbrook Campground in Phippsburg where stories were shared.

**William (Bill) Kevin Callahan**, 61, of West Bath, passed away peacefully on Sept 28. He was the youngest of six children born in 1963 to John "Bud" Callahan and Margaret Sabol Callahan in New Haven, Conn.

At age 9, he moved with his family to Edgecomb, Maine. Bill was bright, intelligent, had a huge heart and the best sense of humor. His intellect allowed him to travel and work in various positions which led to him meeting his dear friend and companion, **Emily DeRosier** and her children Melinda, Richard and Chris. Bill was predeceased by his parents, "Bud" and Margaret; his brothers Thomas and Matthew and his sister Marykate. In addition to his companion **Emily**, her children and their families, he is survived by his remaining two siblings, as well as his many nieces and a nephew and their children and families.

**Jane Carter Weir**, 77, of West Bath, died Sept 11 at home after a battle with ALS. She was born in 1948, to John Merill and Joyce (Ramsay) Carter. Jane went to kindergarten in Augusta, in a one-room schoolhouse. and graduated from high school in New York.

She attended the U of Maine, Orono and then transferred to North Carolina State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in History. She was a creative fiber artist who excelled as a colorist and taught fiber arts classes for many years. When she moved back to Maine after nearly 40 years in North Carolina, she organized fiber tours for Halcyon Yarn in Bath.

Jane was also an event coordinator for University of Maine Midcoast Alumni Group and an active participant in town activities in West Bath. She organized various local knitting groups to satisfy her avid knitting interest and mentor other knitters. Jane is survived by her husband Robert "Bob" Weir; her sister; sister-in-law, and four nephews.

**Heather Everett**, 67, of West Bath, passed away on March 5 at Mid Coast Hospital. She was born in 1958, a daughter of Richard and Margie Neale, and worked at Bath Memorial Hospital, Parkview Hospital, Midcoast Hospital, Maine Medical Center, and Horizons.

What brought joy to her life was helping those around her. She saved countless lives professionally, but the lives she touched in her personal life meant the most to her. She advocated tirelessly for those who couldn't advocate for themselves and was a generous spirit whose love and toughness will be felt for generations. Heather was predeceased by her parents; brother Peter and little Joseph.

She is survived by her son Richard Everett, her brother and sister, Joel Neale and Laurel and Scott Richards and their amazing kids and grandkids. She will be buried alongside her family in Waite, but her Bath area family and friends can always visit her in spirit every sunset on Popham Beach.

**Bonnie D. (Belanger) Goodenow,** 86, of West Bath, died March 6 at Hill House Assisted Living. She was born in 1938, the daughter of Leon and Pauline (Buker) Belanger.

Bonnie spent many years working at her family-owned restaurant, The Galley, and then worked for over 30 years for the Bath School Department before retiring. She was a member of the 4-H Club and the Girl Scouts for many years, and was also a member of the West Bath Seaside Grange.

Over the years, Bonnie's artistic ability shined. She filled her years with crafts, cake decorating, sewing, oil and water painting and making ceramic dolls. She was predeceased by her parents; her fiancée, A Burleigh Oxton; and a brother, Robert Belanger.

Bonnie is survived by her five children; 8 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; many cousins; nieces and nephews.

**Chandra Dee Cameron**, 45, passed away April 17, at Mid Coast Hospital, due to heart complications. She earned her BA degree in Accounting and Finance from Southern New Hampshire University in 2004, and worked at several local businesses, including Wiscasset Ford, Bill Dodge, and New England Auto Mall, where she had been employed since 2017.

Chandra is survived by her father, Terry Cameron (Jerry): her beloved sons, Zach Maney and **George Snowdon Jr**. of West Bath; a sister and a brother, and their 6 children. She was predeceased by her mother, Debra Cameron; her grandparents, Emery and Lorraine Cameron; Jane and Melvin MacKinnon.



# 18TH CENTURY LAND WARS IN MILL COVE

Imagine that you buy a piece of land in West Bath from a reputable businessman. Twenty years later you find out that the businessman never had legal title to the land, and you are now trespassing on someone else's property. Today, in the era of strict title searches, this is a very unlikely scenario. However, in the mid-1700s this is precisely what happened to several of West Bath's "founding fathers," including Joseph Berry and Christopher Mitchell, who were among the first settlers in the Mill Cove area. They are the focus of this short article.

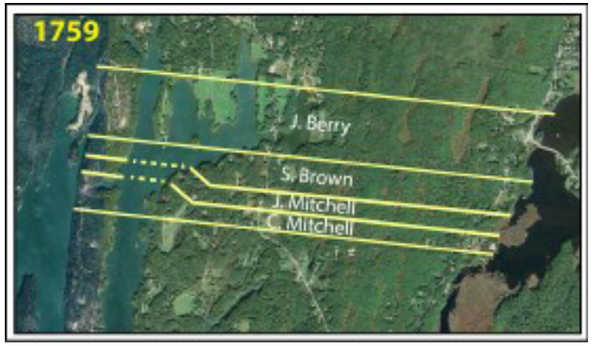
Our story starts in the early1700s when a group of Boston (and Portsmouth) businessmen formed a land speculation company that bought up large tracts of land throughout the region and then sold small parcels to newly arrived settlers. They called themselves the *Pejepscot Proprieters*, which was derived from the Abanaki name for the region around the Bath/Brunswick area. To protect themselves against any future claims against them, they were careful to only purchase land that came with a clear chain of custody that could be traced back to any one of many mid-17th century land sales from the local Abanaki. Most of their holdings were in what would become Brunswick and Topsham, but a small portion lay in the future West Bath. Apparently, they deemed the West Bath land to be particularly "choice" (and why not!) and decided to divvy it up among themselves.

The parcel that included the northern half of Mill Cove went to proprietor Stephen Minot. His property eventually passed to his son James who, in 1733, sold his entire holdings to a man named Arther Noble. Noble would go on to fame and fortune (and death) as a lieutenant colonel in the Massachusetts Bay Colony Militia. In 1739, several years prior to his untimely demise, Noble split his land into two equal parts. He sold the northern half to Joseph Berry and the southern half to brothers Christopher and Israel Mitchell and a man named John Getchell. Berry, along with a partner named James Scales, proceeded to build a tide-driven sawmill which, along with other business ventures, became one of Berry's primary sources of income. Israel Mitchell eventually sold out to his brother Christopher. In 1757, Christopher Mitchell and John Getchell sold one half of their holdings to Samuel Brown and Benjamin Ring, both important early West Bath citizens. Finally, in 1759, John Getchell sold his land to Christopher Mitchell's son Jonathan. Shortly thereafter Jonathan built the house that adorns the top of "Small's Hill" on today's Berry's Mill Road.

In 1759, the land ownership in the Mill Cove area would have looked like that shown below.

*Con't page 4*

*Image of the Mill Cove area showing the land ownership in 1759*




## WEST BATH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

*Left: Scholarship recipient Mys Snyder receiving award certificate from Board member Ann Bradbury at Morse High Awards night in June.*

West Bath student Mya Snyder was awarded the 2025 WBHS Scholarship. Here, presenting her $1500 certificate at the Morse High School Awards Night June, is Board member Ann Bradbury.

Each year we select an outstanding local senior for this scholarship honor. Mya who ranks 12th in her class, was active in sports (as captain of the girls' soccer team) , and volunteer efforts, including coaching kids' gymnastics at the Y and helping out at the local food bank. She also worked at jobs outside of school.

Mya is attending UMaine Orono, pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering. Many thanks to our Scholarship Committee. Mark Lincicome and Ann Bradbury, for organizing this important academic prize. ■

West Bath Historical Society presents its

## Annual Community Christmas Service & Carol Sing

Wednesday Dec 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM

OLD WEST BATH MEETING HOUSE

680 Berry's Mill Road, West Bath

Service led by Rev. Holly Morrison

Open to all. Donations welcome. Light refreshments.

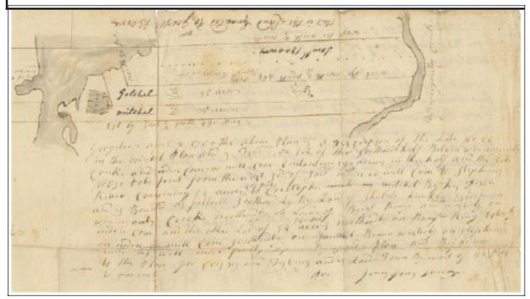
FMI 443-5907

## 18TH CENTURY LAND WARS IN MILL COVE Con't

During this time, Joseph Berry and his partners were milling away. The Mitchells and Browns were farming away. Life was good and no one thought twice about the land that they had legally purchased so many years before. But then their world was turned upside down. It turned out that in 1629 King Charles I gave a very generous land grant (or charter) to the original Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. The grant stretched north along both sides of the Kennebec River and included the entire West Bath area. In 1661 the charter was purchased by four Boston merchants who formed a land speculation company called the Kennebec Company. Early attempts to settle the region were thwarted by the local Abanaki tribe. By the early 1700s, every original settler had pulled up stakes and moved south to safer territory!

Somewhere along the line, the original charter was lost and memory of it dimmed. But miracles do occur. In 1744 a minor investor in the company by the name of Samuel Goodwin "found" a copy of the original charter down in Rhode Island. A group of descendants of the original major shareholders [then???] claimed that the original 1629 charter was still in play and [that the land belonged to them.] They named themselves the *Kennebec Proprietors* and revived the original Kennebec Company. They then steam-rolled into the area, including the future West Bath, and claimed all the land for themselves Any person who had held legal title to their land had one of three re-courses. First, they could take their grievance to the courts and hope for the best. Second, they could re-purchase their land from the Kennebec Company. Third, they could face intimidation and possible bodily harm until they decided to follow the second option. Given the size of the Kennebec holdings. The latter scenario was replayed up and down the Kennebec River valley.

Which of the three options did Berry, Mitchell and Brown take? Joseph Berry decided to cut his losses and repurchase his land. The deed shows that Berry paid 16 shillings ($150 in today's dollars) for the privilege. The Mitchells and Browns decided to take a different path. In 1760 they hired a local surveyor named Jonas Jones to put together a map which showed their individual property boundaries. Armed with the map and, presumably, an armful of land deeds dating back to Arthur Noble's time, they traveled south to York and took the Kennebec Proprietors to court. Records of the court proceedings have yet to be found. However, the absence of any deeds showing that the Mitchells and Browns re-purchased their land is strong evidence that they were victorious.



*Portion of the 1760 map commissioned by the Mitchell brothers and Samuel Brown*

Just to show that some things in this world never change, in 1742 another Pejepscot Proprietor, Adam Winthrop, sold his entire parcel of land to James Scales who was Joseph Berry's original partner in the mill business. Upon James' death the land passed to his wife Hannah. In 1759, Hannah was informed by the Kennebeck Company that she no longer owned her land. Like Joseph Berry, she bowed to the inevitable and decided to buy her land back. However, she could only afford to purchase one half of her original property for the princely sum of 58 pounds ($32,000 in today's dollars). The land that Hannah re-purchased was the same size as Joseph Berry's. In the same year that she paid $32,000, Joseph Berry paid $150. This simply adds credence to the notion that it "helps to have friends in City Hall." ■

*- By Jim Brophy*

## NEWS FROM THE PATTEN FREE LIBRARY

The West Bath Historical Society will once again be participating in the Patten Free Library's local history talks. This is the 18th winter for this popular series. On Saturday, Feb 21, '26, from 10:20 to noon, Board Member **Mark Lincicome** will give a talk on ***The Ebb and Flow of Community Development along the New Meadows River.*** Here's a hint of what he'll discuss.....

*"Popular historical accounts of Bath invariably highlight the role of the Kennebec River in determining its economic fortunes and very identity as the "City of Ships." Rarely do they mention that Bath was originally bounded on the west by "another river," the New Meadows, before citizens in that sector split off to form the town of West Bath in 1844.*

*In this presentation, I will highlight the significance of the New Meadows in the economic, social and cultural development of Bath/West Bath. Particular attention will be given to their shared history with two towns on the opposite shore: Brunswick and Harpswell. Like the twice-daily tides of the river itself, the evolution of this greater New Meadows maritime community has ebbed and flowed over the past 400 years."*

For more information on all these events, go to:
*www.patten-lib.libcal.com/calendar*



## MEET OUR NEW SELECTPEOPLE...

*Ashleigh Randall, who won a special election this past summer. In her own words....*

I have been proud to call West Bath home since 2007. I was born and raised in central Maine, and today I am 37 years old, married to my husband, Nick, and raising our two daughters, Addyson and Alayna, here in the community we love. West Bath has become the place where my family has truly put down roots, and I am grateful for the strong sense of history, service, and tradition that defines this town. A fun historical connection I recently discovered, and especially enjoy, is that although I grew up in central Maine, my great-great-aunt married the Carter family of Days Ferry in 1926 and raised her family in one of the historical homes of the area.

Professionally, I work in the pest control industry, but much of my time outside of work is dedicated to community involvement. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving on the West Bath School Administrative Unit Board of Directors, the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and the Board of Appeals. I am also a longtime supporter of our local fire department. In addition, I enjoy helping in more personal ways — supporting my daughters' sports teams and activities, donating baked goods and food items for community events, hosting the annual military appreciation night dinner for the Morse High School football game, and writing letters to veterans through the House in the Woods organization.

I chose to run for the Select Board because I truly enjoy serving this community and believe it is important for my generation to step forward, help bridge the gap, and carry on the momentum built by those who came before us. It is an honor to follow in the tradition of civic involvement that has long been a part of West Bath's story, and I look forward to continuing to serve.

*And here is a personal greeting from our newest elected selectperson, Karly Perry, who is already familiar to all of you! Again, in her own words...*

Greetings West Bath Residents! First, let me take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve the town as a member of the Select Board.

I grew up in West Bath and fondly remember my days at West Bath Elementary - back when we were the West Bath Warriors and our gym was carpeted! I graduated from Morse High School (Class of '97) and eventually parted ways with our small town to take on life as an Army wife traveling to Japan, Alabama, and Germany. But as Dorothy always said: "There's no place like home!" and I eventually returned to the mid coast.

As luck would have it, I stumbled upon a classified for the position of Town Clerk and landed the gig! For almost a decade I had the privilege of serving my hometown and I loved sharing in so many milestones, from birth certificates to registering new voters, marriage licenses to registering your first brand new car. It gave me so much appreciation to see the excitement of a new resident learning all about our special little town.

Having spent so much of my time getting to know the residents I have heard so many of your concerns over the years. Whether it is maintaining a tax rate that allows lifelong residents to remain in town or preserving the services that you hold dear, I seek to be a voice for all residents. To serve on the Select Board is my opportunity to give back to the town that has given me so much.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly at kperry@westbathmaine.gov with any concerns you might have or suggestions on how to improve this wonderful town we call home!

## COOK'S KORNER

*Fresh cranberries are a superfood, packed with vitamins and nutrients and a perfect addition to holiday meals. These tiny little tart red berries pack a powerful antioxidant punch; support the immune system and are essential for heart, bone and skin health; blood-clotting, and are known for helping prevent urinary tract infections, to name just a few of their benefits. Though bitter to the taste, a bit of sugar helps make them tasty.*

*Here are two recipes – one cooked and the other raw - to include in your holiday plans, (and any time of year, as they freeze very well).*

### CRANBERRY RELISH

Pour one package of fresh cranberries into a Cuisinart, and add one fresh orange, well cut up, including most of the skin. Pour in about ¾ cup (or more if you like it sweeter) white sugar and blend well. Add ½ cup optional walnuts, if you like, and blend again to chop them up. Serve as a side dish, with turkey, a roast or just a simple casserole. Will stay fresh in the fridge for at least 3 weeks.

### CRANBERRY TART

Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees. In a 10" glass buttered pie dish, mix 2 cups fresh cranberries, ½ cup sugar and ½ cup coarsely chopped pecans.

In a separate bowl beat two eggs and gradually add 1 cup sugar. Then mix in 1 cup flour and ¾ cup melted butter (or a mix of butter and margarine).

Pour over cranberries and bake one hour. Note: does not get overly brown; just make sure the crust is firm. Serve with ice cream or ginger-flavored whipped cream.

Freezes well. Serves 10.