

FILE PHOTO

**LARRY WAHL** last year replaces plywood covering a window at Wilson Hall with a temporary plastic panel to let sunshine in. The panels first were used at the Buck Memorial Library. With Wahl is **Jeffrey Hammond**, the town's code enforcement officer.

## Local real estate investor seeks town cash to bolster deal

*Councilors back Wilson Hall sale*

BUCKSPORT — The owner of Wahl's Dairy Port and several rental properties in this area last Thursday (1/10) afternoon made a last-minute offer to buy Wilson Hall for \$1., provided the town puts \$65,000 into his private venture.

The money, in the form of a no-interest, forgivable loan, will be used to secure the building, spiff up the facade and grounds, and do the essential tasks within the structure to preserve it.

Wahl, who said he will self-finance his plan, said the major interior finish work is not part of his proposal, but will be done once he decides what to do with the building.

There was no mention of what would occur should he later sell the landmark before completing all of the refurbishments.

Last Thursday, most of the town councilors seemed to back the idea, and authorized Town Manager Susan S. Lessard to draw up the paperwork for a buy/sell agreement.

Wahl told the councilors he was working with a real estate developer, but he declined to name him. That developer was state Rep. Richard Campbell, R-Orrington, who for \$1. was given a year to buy and repair Wilson Hall. That project died without a definitive proposal.

Campbell confirmed to *The Bucksport Enterprise* on Friday (1/11) that he was working with Wahl to prepare cost estimates.

He detailed the portions of the Wahl proposal, listing them in the same order in which Wahl had written in the offer he delivered to the town manager last week.

Minutes later, Campbell called back to report Wahl had just telephoned him to say his services were no longer needed.

Wahl confirmed that soon after in a call from the *Enterprise*. Wahl said he'd decided to be his own general contractor on the Wilson Hall project and had hired a local carpenter.

The latest deal with Wahl is likely to be concluded at the first council meeting in February. At first, the transaction was to be on the agenda for next Thursday (1/24).

One councilor reported after the meeting the postponement was to assure there'd be sufficient votes to approve the deal, and Kee would not be available next Thursday.

The town's cash is needed to "help defray the significant cost of restoration," according to Wahl's one-page, hand-written offer.

Several residents protested the forgivable loan, terming it risky and not a good way to use the public's money. The councilor listened to the concerns but didn't respond.

Instead, one councilor told Wahl, "this looks like the proposal we've been waiting for" to get Wilson Hall back into private hands.

The sales agreement may set deadlines for parts of the project with the town's money metered out to Wahl as the project progresses.

## Mayor resigns abruptly

### Stewart gets top spot; Eastman's bid falters

BUCKSPORT — In a move that surprised many, Mayor David W. Keene resigned "effective immediately" on Jan. 9, the day before he was expected to be re-elected by his colleagues to yet another term.

Keene submitted a two-sentence resignation notice, observing, "This was not an easy decision to make, and I appreciate the opportunity to have served the Town of Bucksport's citizens for the past 23 years."

Keene declined to discuss his decision further, except to say, "I have my reasons."

In recent months Keene has been experiencing increasing frustration over what he considers the failure of some of the town's leaders to, in his view, adequately respond to some issues. Those matters included issues that brought to the council by other councilors, including himself, and by the public. At a Planning Board meeting early last week, he also publicly questioned the actions of one town employee: Jeffrey Hammond, the code enforcement officer.

Keene has been viewed as a moderating force on the council, a person who generally has fostered consensus and harmony within the council. Because of his long-time devotion to serving his hometown, his sudden departure has yielded widespread confusion throughout Bucksport.

At their annual beginning-of-the-year organizational meeting last Thursday (1/19), the councilors elected Peter L. Stewart to succeed Keene.

The usually perfunctory vote, however, only came after Mark B. Eastman nominated himself for the primarily ceremonial post. While there was a brief moment when that bid seemed to falter for lack of a second, Paul A. Bissonnette, in his first formal action after being sworn in as a councilor, provided the second. In the end, Bissonnette and everyone else backed Stewart, leaving Eastman to

withdraw his challenge.

The council moved on to immediately fill the one-year vacancy resulting from Keene's resignation. Town Manager Susan M. Lessard first briefed the panel on a practice they had used in recent years: filling vacancies with former council colleagues who agreed not to run for re-election.

With that in mind, Lessard said she asked former councilors Paul F. Rabs and Paul R. Gauvin if they would serve, and she said each had agreed to do so.

That sparked a brief discussion with councilors agreeing the vacancy should be filled quickly because the municipal budgeting season is looming.

Stewart said he favored Gauvin because Rabs had shown his commitment to work for the fire department as an on-call ambulance driver. Rabs' occasional part-time duty as an ambulance driver lead to confusion late last year with the councilors initially split over whether Rabs could legally serve on the board while working as a driver. While the councilors ultimately decided there was no conflict, by that time Rabs had withdrawn from seeking re-election. It was too late to re-gain a spot on the ballot.

The council then voted to give the council seat to Gauvin. His term will run until January, 2020.

After the meeting, James Morrison, who finished fourth in the six-person council race in November to fill three council slots, questioned Lessard's interpretation of how vacancies should be filled. He said he doesn't believe Lessard's interpretation is supported by the Town Charter.

The charter says, "a vacancy in any elected office shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, at the next regular election following not less than sixty (60) days upon the occurrence of the vacancy, but the Council by a majority vote of its members shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term takes office."

## IN THE WORKS . . .

### Weekly tidbits about things yet to come

**HONORED** — The town's new mayor, Peter L. Stewart, last week praised the former mayor, David G. Keene for, "the great job he has done." Keene was on the council for 23 years.

The town manager said, "there will be a time to thank David for his service." The date for that has not been set.

**APRIL 1** — is "the drop-dead date" for the Fiberright trash-to-energy plant in Hampden to begin processing Bucksport's trash, according to Town Manager Susan M. Lessard. If the long-delayed operation is not ready by then, Lessard plans to "recommend the town look at other options".

The town's rubbish now is being taken to a conventional landfill for disposal. Lessard said she is reluctant to cut back on recycling efforts here, something some other communities have done because the markets for many recyclable materials have collapsed. Even many recyclable containers are being buried in landfills in Maine once they are turned in at redemption centers.

**PASSING THE HAT!** — The Bucksport Bay Area Chamber of Commerce previewed its plans to buy and renovate the building at 54 Main Street that houses its office. The

project will require raising \$110,000, \$90,000 to buy the former Verona Grange hall and \$20,000 to renovate it.

Two conceptual layouts were previewed by Lewis + Malm Architects of Bucksport, under the guidance of Larry Wahl, the president of the chamber.

**REPORT CARD** — RSU 25 officials are working to remedy the deficiencies in its math program recently cited by the Maine Department of Education. Miles Lane's test scores have placed it on the states list of school needing improvement. Christina M. Ellis, the school's principal this week listed some of the steps being taken.

Those changes include beefing up an after-school program, adding two tutors and introducing materials "for students who are struggling with basic math concepts and problem-solving". The school also is extending the curriculum and the testing schedule because some of the questions on the state test were based on ideas that were not taught here until after the state tests were taken.

**SALMON TALK** — Whole Oceans LLC has filed its response to a Belfast woman's appeal of the salmon farm's discharge permit - which is vital to opening the business off River Road. The woman has suggested the discharges from the pro-

posed on-shore fish farm will harm the Penobscot River water.

The company insists it will filter out the fish droppings from the fluids to be piped into the river. The material that's removed will be disposed of at a regulated landfill, company officials said.

**PLANNERS PLAN** — Bucksport has yet another new committee: the A.D.A.P.T. Implementation Committee. The goal: Figure out what to do next with the plan written by Saratoga, NY-based consultants to guide future economic growth.

The group at its first meeting last week, started prioritizing the actions needed to turn the ideas.

**ON CAMERA** — The town manager and the economic development director last week were interviewed as part of a Bangor television station's report to air late next month on how former milltowns are faring.

Town Manager Susan M. Lessard said the program is, "more positive press for Bucksport."

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**New Listing!**



**Ellsworth**—Commercial property in a great downtown Ellsworth location. Most recently a counseling office, the first floor can be adapted to a variety of office uses and the second floor can be additional offices or possibly finished for a separate living unit. Charming interior touches include some wide pine floors curved walls and nooks. Public water and sewer, many replacement windows and paved driveway. Previous seller indicated they removed asbestos and the exterior has had old siding removed so it is ready for painting or new siding. Creative possibilities!  
Call Kathy Coogan 469-9930 **\$79,900**

**Already Under Contract!**



**Ellsworth**—Commercial property in a great downtown Ellsworth location. Most recently a counseling office, the first floor can be adapted to a variety of office uses and the second floor can be additional offices or possibly finished for a separate living unit. Charming interior touches include some wide pine floors curved walls and nooks. Public water and sewer, many replacement windows and paved driveway. Previous seller indicated they removed asbestos and the exterior has had old siding removed so it is ready for painting or new siding. Creative possibilities!  
Call Kathy Coogan 469-9930 **\$79,900**

**Prime Commercial Location!**



**Verona Island**—Prime commercial location! Located right on US 1 for high traffic visibility, property includes .5 acres, retail building with fixtures, well and septic. Previously a well-known convenience store that served the community for many years, this property offers many retail or other development possibilities. This area is the Gateway to Downeast, close to historic Fort Knox and the Penobscot Bridge and Observatory, Bucksport's downtown and Riverwalk and 45 minutes to Acadia National Park.  
Agent: Kathy Coogan 469-9930 **\$144,900**

**5 AC Private**



**Prospect**—Well kept home on a private and wooded 5 acre lot. 16X72 Burlington home offers an open layout with large eat-in kitchen equipped w/ plenty of cabinet space & master suite with walk-in closet. Enjoy the large deck overlooking the backyard and single car garage. Come take a look!  
Call Dan Burpee 735-5337 **\$74,900**

**Waterfront**




**Bucksport**—Easy access 1.3 acre lot with frontage on Long Pond Stream. Enjoy the sound of the babbling water over the rocks along with woods for privacy. Power pole at road and gravel drive in place. Convenient access to Bucksport, Bangor, Ellsworth. Make this your special place!  
Call Kathy Coogan 469-9930 **\$29,900**

**29 Acres Hardwood Timber**



**Prospect**—Stunning views from this 29 acre elevated parcel. The land is dominated by large hardwood stands which were extensively reviewed by forestry professionals in 2016. Valuable hardwood timber such as red oak, white ash, red maple as well as Birch & Beech can be found on the property with an estimated stand value in excess of \$50,000! Large rock ledges can be found near the highest elevations approx. 300' atop "Smith Hill" overlooking miles of country side, come take a look!  
Call Dan Burpee 735-5337 **\$68,900**

**Waterfront**



**Orland**—Nicely located land with 2.5 acres, and 400 feet of waterfront on Narragansett river. Heavily wooded, great chance to build your dream home with possible views of river.  
Call Damon Holmes 460-1600 **\$25,000**

**Building Lot**




**Orland**—Build your new home at Winkampana Crossing! Conveniently located for easy access to Ellsworth, Bangor, Bucksport, Orland this subdivision includes 7 wooded lots ranging from 2.91 to 1.18 acres. Or buy all 14+/- acres. All lots have been surveyed and subdivided. To protect your investment and value, covenants require minimum 1000 sq ft single family homes. Only 4 miles to Branch Lake public beach and boat launch and close to Great Pond Mountain Wildlands for hiking, snowshoeing and canoeing. Less than an hour from Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park!  
Call Kathy Coogan 469-9930 **\$15,900**

**Private**




**Bucksport**—This charming 3 BR 2 BA home on 1.9 acres is an excellent equestrian property or a private Maine residence. Horse barn has 7 stalls, direct pasture access, tack room, grain room, garage door & loft storage for 500 bales. House has a master BR suite on lower level w/ cedar walk in closet, living room, dining room, heat pump for heating & cooling, cozy wood stove, deck & a wonderful gazebo on a small pond.  
Call Kathy Coogan 469-9930 **\$195,000**




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Mark Eastman, Wendy Carpenter, Daniel See & David Grant



**SOLD**




**BUCKSPORT**—All the work has been done! This 3 to 4 Bedroom 2 Bath home was completely remodeled in 2015 from top to bottom. Enjoy a new kitchen with SS appliances, 1st floor Master Bedroom with attached bath and wide pine floors in much of the home. The detached garage could provide additional living space or a small apartment. Convenient location just a short walk to the waterfront and all town amenities. Come take a look!  
Listing Agent: Mark Eastman **\$159,000**

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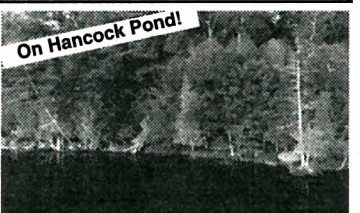
Call Today for an  
analysis of your home's  
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**Waterviews!**




**BUCKSPORT**—A lot with a view. This .77 acre lot is located within walking distance of the village of Bucksport. Public utilities are already on site. An old garage exists on the lot as well. Great southern exposure and potential for a walk-out basement. Commercial possibilities!  
Listing Agent: Mark Eastman **\$99,900**

**On Hancock Pond!**




**BUCKSPORT**—Interesting find! This 13ac parcel has approximately 1000' of frontage on spring fed Hancock Pond. Bring your development plans or enjoy the privacy of this large waterfront lot. No long camp road or costly infrastructure costs here. Located a short ride from the village of Bucksport. Come take a look!  
Listing Agent: Mark Eastman **\$149,000**

**29 Acres!**



**BUCKSPORT**—Get away from it all yet only minutes to the village of Bucksport. This 29 acre parcel is wooded, has a decent seasonal road into the property. Great area for hunting or just getting back to nature. Priced to sell!  
Listing Agent: Mark Eastman **\$27,000**

**Waterviews!**



**Ellsworth**—Build a room(s) with a view! This 5 acre lot is located in an area with lots of recreational opportunities. From fishing the nearby streams with native brook trout, hiking in the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust or exploring Branch lake. This area has a lot to offer. Did I mention the Happytown Farm (organic) down the road? A great area that is convenient to Bangor, Ellsworth, Blue Hill or Bucksport. Lovely view of the lake. Calling those who love the sun! Come take a look!  
Listing Agent: Mark Eastman **\$49,000**

## Legal firm adds partner

BUCKSPORT — The Fellows, Kee, Tymoczko & Pierson law firm has become Fellows, Kee, Tymoczko & Lewis, reflecting the addition of Christy Lewis to the partners. The change of the firm's name took effect at the beginning of this month.



and has worked with the Bucksport-based law practice since May, of 2015. She specializes in residential and commercial real estate, landlord-tenant law and the formation of new businesses.

Lewis is from Belfast, Christy Lewis

## Rabies clinic offered here Saturday

BUCKSPORT — A veterinarian will be at the Bucksport Fire Department on Saturday from 10 to noon, offering rabies shots. The cost is \$15 per shot.



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**\$239,900**



**Carmel:** Meticulously maintained mobile home with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, all situated on 5 acre lot. Potential to subdivide lots. New metal roof in 2016, new skirting, new water tank, all new solid steel exterior doors. New addition with 16x15 room to make your family room or bedroom. 4 car garage built 2011 with storage above. Beautifully landscaped yard. You must see this one. Call today!  
**\$144,900**



**Carmel:** Spacious cape situated on 1 acre lot with private back yard. 4 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, large formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, den with bay windows, large family room for all your entertaining with wood stove, large deck overlooking your beautifully landscaped yard! Call to see today...it won't last long!  
**\$221,000**



**Surry:** Well maintained cape with 3-4 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, large dining room with propane stove. 24x14 living room with built-in shelving, heat pump and access to 3-season sun room. Spacious kitchen with granite countertops! 2-car garage with storage above. A must see! Call today!  
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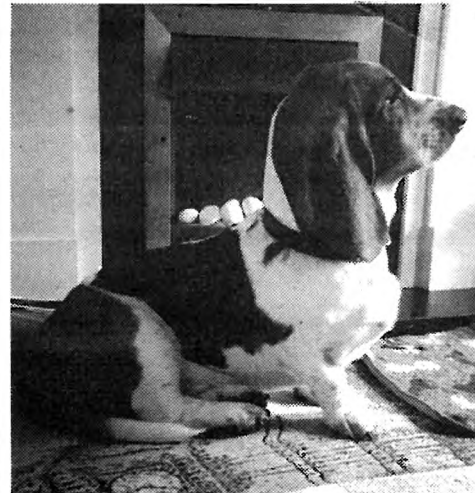
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## Friends & Family

**ATOP THE MOUNTAIN —**  
**Christopher A. Johnson** of North Bucksport has been elected the interim president of the **Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust**.

A member of the board for three years, Johnson will serve until the non-for-profit group holds its annual meeting August, when the position will be ratified by a vote of the membership.

Johnson succeeds **Emily Hawkins**, who stepped down at the end of 2018 after serving as president for four years. A 10-year member of the board, she now serves as the group's treasurer.

Johnson grew up in Bucksport and graduated from Bucksport High School and the University of Maine. He retired after 31 years in support management at the Eastern Maine Medical Center.

He served on the Bucksport Planning Board and has been a leader with the Bucksport Heart & Soul community

development effort. He also is a member of the Maine Woodland Owners Association, the Bucksport Historical Society and the Penobscot County Genealogical Society.

**APPOINTED —** State Rep. **Richard H. Campbell**, R-Orrington, has been appointed to the 129th Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and he now will be the ranking Republican on that panel.

The committee oversees natural resource protection and environmental policy, including the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

In November, Campbell was re-elected to his "second fourth term", representing Bucksport and Orrington.

**THE WINNERS —** The first prize award - a \$100 gift card - in the holiday decorating contest for area businesses went to First

Friends Daycare on State Route 46.

The second prize, a \$50 gift card, was awarded to The Local Variety shop on Main Street.

**IN THE SCHOOLS —** The **RSU 25 School Board** this week ratified these personnel matters:

- **Lori D. Frost's** retirement, effective in June. She's been a teacher and coach here for the past 17 years.

- The hiring of **Terry Stover** in the food service department at Bucksport High School; **Michelle Nutter** at the G.H. Jewett School; and Debbie Moore as an education technician in the special education department.

- The approval of **Shawn Costigan** and **Robbie Perkins** as volunteers to support the middle school wrestling program.

**JOB OPENINGS —** According to the **RSU 25** website the school system

"still has some amazing opportunities to be part of our team."

The openings include education technicians, food services, substitute teachers and substitute custodians.

Applications are on-line, and can be returned to [jmarston@rsu25.org](mailto:jmarston@rsu25.org) or deliver to the RSU 25 Central Office at 62 Mechanic Street between 8 and 5 on weekdays.

**BUCK-A-BAG —** The **Bucksport Area Veterans Memorial**, a not-for-profit that honors all who have served in the military, is the February recipient of the Hannaford Helps reusable bag program. The Bucksport area group will receive \$1 for each bag sold at the supermarket.

**MAN (WOMAN?) YOUR SHOVELS! —** **Nick Tymoczko** of the local YMCA needs some volunteer shovelers to be available to clear the municipal ice rink after storms.

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# Let's make a deal ... out in the open!

The good news is Wilson Hall - a landmark here since 1851 and the source of endless conversation but little action for over a decade, appears headed for rescue and a productive new life.

The surprise surfacing of a proposal by Bucksport businessman Larry Wahl last Thursday (11/10) afternoon appeared to be on the fast track when the town councilors met a few hours later. They indicated the town would provide Wahl with the full \$65,000 no-interest and forgivable loan he's seeking. In

**EDITORIAL** return, Wahl has promised to secure the building against the weather, spruce up the exterior and do some basic interior repairs while he decides what to do with the structure. (He's leaning toward making it into apartments, he said.)

A long-time backer of the effort to save Wilson Hall this newspaper views Wahl's proposal as proof of what we've suggested all along: Why bulldoze into oblivion a structure that can - and will - be brought back to viable life. Wilson Hall will make money for the buyer and for any subsequent owners - if they maintain it.

In the process, Wilson Hall, an irreplaceable, nationally recognized vestige of this area's history, will survive.

That said, and casting no aspersions on the local real estate investor who will make this happen, we would be remiss not to question the Town Council's long history of employing less-than-transparent ways to dispose of major town assets or the town's dabbling in real estate.

### The council's deal-making

Here's a few examples:

• **DEAL # 1** — A few years back, the town provided a \$200,000 forgivable loan to a Calais couple to take on the myriad tasks of bringing the old Jed Prouty

Inn back to life. The council kicked in an additional \$10,000 very low interest loan to further sweeten the deal. Most importantly, the councilors allowed the town's financing to be secondary to other financial backing the couple might obtain. That support made it a slam-dunk for a lender to support the project; it instantly meant the town would take the loss, not the bankers, if the project failed. The project has worked, and most of the money the town put into the deal in the now belongs to the owners of the Jed Prouty.

*The public never saw most of the details until the financing was a done deal. There was no advance word to anyone else that the town was prepared to play such a generous "banker."*

• **DEAL # 2** — Town officials did hand-stands to lure the Union River Boat Co. from Ellsworth to Bucksport's industrial park. They offered the usual free lot - valued at some \$65,000 - the town gives to any viable operation entering the park. The surprise came on the night the deal was done when one councilor stated flatly the boat company would be so successful it would be back for another free lot adjacent to the first. That's when council took up an item not on its agenda, and threw in the second free lot that very night.

The company eventually went belly-up, and the \$130,000 worth of town lots were just another asset to be liquidated by the bank that provided the primary loan. Again, the town had a secondary position and when it came to divvying up the assets, there wasn't even a penny to be recouped by the town.

*Again, the public was kept in the dark until the deal was done.*

• **DEAL # 3** - The Town Council apparently feared that when several Main Street properties were being sold by the Feldman estate they all might become low-income housing. The buildings, with multiple code violations and one which was heavily gutted in a fire, were offered as a package. The councilors paid \$180,000 for them while forgiving an additional \$20,000-or-so in unpaid taxes and sewer fees. The town then paid to demolish all of the Main Street buildings, including the burned-out one the estate already had been paid by its insurer to take down.

For weeks the town crew removed and trucked iron-and-glass-tainted fill from the site, depositing it here and there for those who were told the fill was available. Some was dumped in a town-owned conservation area after some others balked when they saw the quality of the fill. A buried service line to an abutting property was uncovered during the removal of the fill, and it was replaced at the town's expense. The town

had bought everything based on an "as-is/where is" contract.

The council had expected to recoup up to \$200,000 from the sale of a building on Franklin Street that also was part of the package. However, nobody went inside the one-time showplace before the purchase was made. When someone did, they found the building had been used hard by previous owners and tenants. The asking price soon fell to \$100,000, but there were no takers.

Wahl came to the rescue, offering to take it off the town's hands, and either restore it or raze it. His bid: about \$8,000. The council jumped on the previously

unpublicized deal because nobody had bid when the price the council was thought to be seeking was closer to \$100,000.

The council kept within the \$250,000 it could spend without asking for voter approval, but when all the expenses are totaled, the town got an empty lot for \$300,000, give or take a few dollars.

Years later, the Main Street lot remains barren and for sale. Nobody, then or now, seems to have a clear idea of what to do with a very visible, non-taxpaying space.

Wahl now has decided he can't save the Franklin Street building, so he will demolish it later this year. The result: an in-town building lot.

*Again, the public was left in the dark until each of the deals was done.*

• **MORE DEALS** - Bucksport has had to cope with a number of tax-taken parcels, some with buildings on them. However, in recent years, under two "interim" managers, the town has failed to act promptly on restoring these assets to the tax rolls. Like Wilson Hall, the delays resulted in severely deteriorated properties while they were under the town's stewardship.

This results in neighborhood blight, a precursor to deteriorating property values.

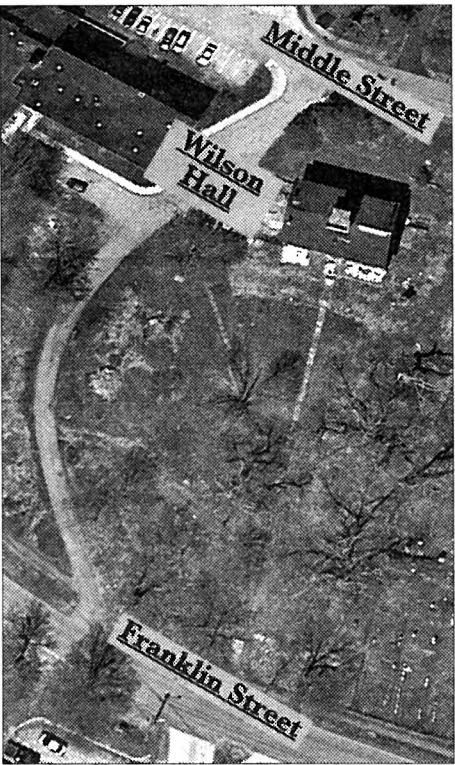
The old town office is another example, a building where unresolved mildew, mold and roof issues required selling it at a bargain basement price. The same now is true of Wilson Hall.

To their credit the current town manager and council are taking a more aggressive stance to put properties in private, tax-paying hands.

Still, taking action does not diminish the need for transparency. Public assets are just that: public. Buying and selling real estate should be like used highway equipment.

Let everyone have at it in a publicly posted sale, and whether a property draws one bid or many, the town's business will have been done in a fair and wide open way.

Nobody later will have to defend how a public real estate deal got done in Bucksport.



## LETTERS ... to the editor

Mayor Keene says,  
'Thank you, Bucksport!'

To the Editor,  
I'd like to thank the citizens of Bucksport for the opportunity I had to serve you for 23 years as a town councilor and mayor.

It has been a privilege, and I believe Bucksport has a bright future.

The town's foundation is strong because the people here have "staying power", and will keep it moving forward.

Stay strong and believe!  
David Keene  
Bucksport

### Taxpayers need to be protected on Wilson Hall

To the Editor,  
I attended last Thursday's (1/10) Town Council meeting in which the town council appeared ready to accept a last-minute, vaguely written proposal by Larry Wahl to purchase the Wilson Hall property for \$1 and extend him a \$65,000 interest-free, forgivable loan to stabilize the property.

While Larry's proposal seemed like the lifeboat the coun-

cil was waiting for, there are details that were not discussed.

Larry's request for taxpayer money was based on the premise that a \$65,000 loan was equivalent to the cost required to demolish the building. While it seemed everyone at the meeting had a different opinion on what the demolition would cost, the consensus seemed to be that the actual estimate given to the council was more like \$35,000. If that is the case, the town is giving Larry \$30,000 of taxpayer money to pursue his venture above and beyond what would have been spent to tear the building down.

It would be nice if we dealt with actual numbers before making a decision like this.

I am generally against using taxpayer money to fund a private venture; however, it can be argued that the taxpayer investment is worthwhile to save this historic building and create a valuable property that eventually will contribute to the tax base.

There were no specifics discussed at the meeting about what the conditions of the "loan" would be; however, I believe if this "loan" is granted, the town needs some guarantees that the property will be devel-

oped as promised. What is to keep the \$65,000 from being spent to stabilize the property, and another 10 to 15 years pass without further improvements being made.

It will take a long time to recover \$65,000 in tax revenue on the property in its current state. What are the guarantees that the building won't eventually be torn down at some point if the numbers don't make sense or the land sold for other purposes.

The loan should include milestones and a timeline for improvements past the initial stabilization. Perhaps the town should request a bond to insure that the improvements will be made in a timely manner.

I understand that there is always risk associated with a venture like this, but I would hope that the town will take the steps necessary to protect taxpayer money that any private investor would.

It seems that if redeveloping Wilson Hall was a commercially viable option, it would be possible without taxpayer involvement.

Scott Bohlen  
Bucksport



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Don Houghton  
Editor & Publisher

Sandy Holmes  
General Manager



# PLACES TO GO

## PUBLIC EVENTS

### Saturday, January 19

**FISH FRY** — Council #5756 of the Knights of Colubus will host a fish fry dinner, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall of the St. Vincent de Paul Church at Franklin and Central streets. Adults dine for \$9, children for \$4.

**ATTN: BOOKIES!** The Friends of the Ellsworth Public Library will hold a book sale on the main floor of the Ellsworth Public Library from 9 to 1. Youth and adult fiction, as well as some non-fiction and craft books will be available. Most are \$1 or less. In case the library is closed by inclement weather, the sale will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26.

### Sunday, January 20

**BACK TO THE PAST** — The Orrington-based 19th century Curran Homestead Village's annual meeting and luncheon will feature television chronicler Bill Green of "Bill Green's Maine" fame. The event will be at Jeff's Catering in the East-West Industrial Park, 15 Littlefield Road, Brewer. The fund-raiser dinner is free to 2019 members, and \$20 for others. (Under 12: \$10) for non-members. The public is invited. Reservations are required by calling Irv at 745-4425 or Bob at 205-4849 before Jan. 15. Music will be by Jim Leighton and Friends, starting at noon. The lunch is at 12:15, and Green will speak at 12:45. There'll be a silent auction at 2, and a 50/50 drawing at 2:15. [www.curranhomestead.org](http://www.curranhomestead.org)

## FOR YOUNGSTERS

### Friday, January 18

**NO NEED TO SPELL THIS ONE OUT!** — The Blue Hill Public Library will host the annual

National Geographic Bee for fourth through eighth grade homeschoolers from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Every year thousands of schools participate in the contest to increase public awareness and student interest in geography and to encourage teachers to include the subject in their curricula. The event is free but registration is required. Contestants can register at [www.bhpl.net](http://www.bhpl.net) or by calling Claire at 374-5515. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/bee>.

## ON DISPLAY

### Through March

**ALL ON PAPER** — *Paper and Light*, an exhibit featuring lampshades by Brooklin papermaker Gigi Sarsfield, with lamps made by several local artists, is on display in the Blue Hill Public Library's glass cases. 374-5515.

## HELP OFFERED

### Mondays

**CANCER** — The Cancer Support Group for anyone living with cancer: the patient, survivor, family members, caregiver, friend, or others touched by the disease, meets on the second Monday of each month at the Bucksport Regional Health Center from noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring a lunch if you like. *Cancer Support Center of Maine* at 322-0960.

### Tuesdays

**CO-DEPENDENCE ANONYMOUS** meetings are held each Tuesdays at 4 p.m. at the Bucksport Regional Health Center at 110 Broadway.

### Wednesdays

**AL-ANON** — This group offering help and hope to families and friends of alcoholics meets each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Elm Street Congregational Church in Bucksport.

## BRHC expands 'Walk-in Care' hours, services

**BUCKSPORT** — The Bucksport Regional Health Center (BRHC) is expanding its "Walk-In Care" hours here.

Starting Feb. 4, the center at 110 Broadway, which already offers walk-in hours on Saturdays, will begin offering the same service from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. each weekday.

"There is a need in the community for this type of service," said Carol Carew, the chief executive of the center. "Our Saturday hours, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. have been very successful. Expanding is another way we want to serve the community."

Anyone can access the Walk-In Care service, and a person need not be a current Bucksport Regional Health Center patient.

"We didn't want to restrict this service because if people are sick and need treatment, it is our mission to serve them, whether they are our patient or not," Carew said. "The most important thing is that they get the help they need."

The types of conditions suitable for treatment at walk-in care include, but are not limited to: allergies, colds, coughs, infections, fever or flu, ear aches, sore or strep throat, strains or sprains and rashes. [bucksportrhc.org](http://bucksportrhc.org).

## Death notices

### John H. Chenard

John H. Chenard, 80, who came to live in Bucksport at 4 years old with his uncle and aunt, Donald and Angilina Stewart and cousin, Malcolm Stewart, on the River Road died on Dec. 1, 2018 at his home in Oakton, VA. Chenard spent much of his career with the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Bucksport High School, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

### James G. Kennedy

James G. Kennedy, 50, of Carmel, passed away on January 12, 2019 in Belfast. Kennedy grew up in Bucksport with his adoptive parents, Chester D. and Beth (Dorr) Kennedy.

**get well soon!**

Visit Bucksport Regional Health Center  
Expanded Walk-In Care!  
Beginning February 4th

**Monday - Friday:**

**7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

**Saturday:**

**8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**110 Broadway, Bucksport**

**469-7371**

You do not have to be a BRHC patient  
for walk-in care.



**All are welcome!**  
[bucksportrhc.org](http://bucksportrhc.org)

## Foster to lead RSU 25 School Board

**BUCKSPORT** — Thomas Foster of North Bucksport this week became the new chair of the RSU 25 School Board.

He succeeds David Burgess of Orland, who now has become the vice-chair of the eight-member panel representing Bucksport, Orland, Prospect and Verona Island.

The board also completed its review of the performance of Supt. of Schools James Boothby, and ratified the previously announced one-year extension of his contract.

The board also endorsed an escorted trip by six Bucksport High School juniors and seniors to Washington, DC. on April 23-26.

The trip will be led by two members of the school's staff.

In other business:

• **COMPUTER USE** —

The RSU's information technol-

gy director briefed the board on new measures aimed at detecting student misuse of school computers, including using them to reach inappropriate sites on the internet.

A common problem in schools, a student's inappropriate use of his computer resulted in his transgression being detected and promptly dealt with by the staff.

The RSU long has had a policy that those who use school computers should have no expectation of privacy and all data on them is subject to review by administrators.

• **MARKETING** — To recruit students for Bucksport High School, the school is hosting a "Step-Up Night" open house on Jan. 30 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. School administrators also will be visiting schools throughout the region to talk about the programming available here.



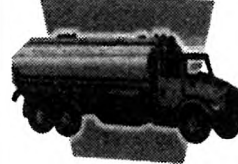
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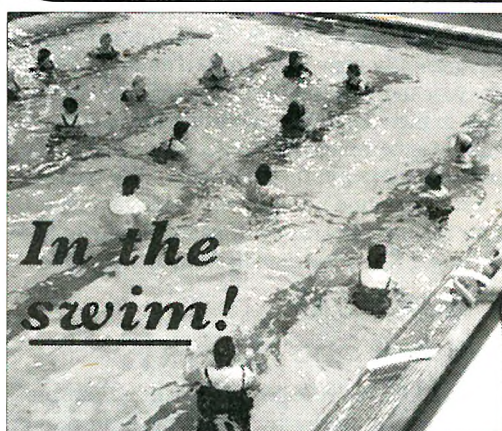


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Council #5756 Bucksport

## A LITTLE OLDER, A LITTLE WISER



*In the swim!*

• **NEWS SPLASH!** The free senior swim period and aqua aerobics class at the Down East Family YMCA in Ellsworth is catching on among Bucksport-area residents.

About ten Bucksport residents are finding the class filled with laughter, conversation and aerobic activity.

Anyone interested in meeting

at the YMCA in Ellsworth is welcome on Thursday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. through Feb. 21.

There may not be room in the van but we have plenty of room in the pool. 469-3518.

• **HE'S BACK!** Scott Grindle, the pianist, will entertain at the Senior Center tomorrow (1/18) about 10:30.

• **AT THE CENTER** — The Bucksport Senior Center calendar has not changed from previous weeks.

**Lunch menus**

**BUCKSPORT** — Here are the luncheon menus at the Bucksport Senior Center on

— **Everyone grows older; some grow smarter!** —

Outer Broadway:

• **Friday, Jan. 18** - Baked ham, baked potato, corn and chocolate cream pie.

• **Monday, Jan. 21** - Martin Luther King Day. No luncheon served.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 23** - Pot roast, baked potato, peas and carrots and pudding.

• **Friday, Jan. 25** - Baked haddock, rice pilaf, garden salad, cake.

• **Monday, Jan. 28** - Seafood casserole with haddock seafood blend, green beans and ice cream.

• **Wednesday, Jan. 30** - American chop suey, garden salad and a cookie.

**Luncheon reservations**

Call 469-3632 no later than 9 a.m. on the day of the meal at the Bucksport Senior Center to reserve your spot. Take-out meals also are available for \$5.

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### Attn: Cat people

**BUCKSPORT** — There's a nice selection of cats available at the municipal animal shelter.

Call Dan Joy at 469-7951 for details on adoptions.

### Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude to friends and family for their compassion, thoughtfulness and generosity during the recent loss of our beloved Ken. Also a special thanks to Pastor Remick and Mitchell-Tweedie for their kindness and services.

Sincerely,  
The Family of  
Kenneth Bridges

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**STEPHEN McARTHUR & CO.** now is hiring carpenters' helpers/laborers. Good character a must. Year-round work with friendly and professional outfit. Call 326-9612, and leave a clear message and a callback number. 1/17

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**BACK ISSUES** — Yes, we've got some back issues of *The Bucksport Enterprise*. While we don't have 'em all, we have a few for \$1 each. Drop in or give us a call at 469-6722. \$1-a-copy. ufn

## GIFTS

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### Please Note!

Brother Donald, our brewer of fine beer and gourmet cooking, has had a setback. He is in the Cardiac Unit of EMMC awaiting a triple bypass surgery. Therefore, our taproom IS CLOSED until he is strong enough to resume his duties. Please bear with us and your prayers would be gratefully appreciated.



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# PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS

## Woman charged with knife attack

**BUCKSPORT** — Nicole Amanda Thomas, 35, of 23 Harriman Cove Road in Bucksport, was arrested Tuesday for allegedly throwing a knife at their home that struck the back of her domestic partner last Thursday (1/10).

The man was taken to Bangor for hospital treatment of a non-life threatening wound.

Thomas was arrested mid-afternoon on Tuesday, and charged with aggravated assault and engaging in reckless conduct. She was taken to the county jail in Ellsworth.

## Booked at jail

**ELLSWORTH** — Here's a list of Bucksport-area residents or incidents that resulted in bookings into the Hancock County jail here:

• David Lawrence Appleby, 49, of 1738 River Road, Bucksport on Monday morning was sentenced in Ellsworth to 120 days in jail after being charged with theft by unauthorized taking of transfer and forgery.

• Donald Alphonse Smith, 43, of 954 Castine Road, Orland was booked at the jail about 9:15 p.m. last Thursday (1/19) after being arrested for allegedly driving while under the influence in that town. He posted bail and was released.

• Eric J. Worthing, 33, of Ridge Road in Windsor, was arrested late Saturday for allegedly violating the conditions of his release in an earlier case and driving after a license suspension or revocation.

A passenger in a vehicle stopped by a Bucksport police officer, Worthing was booked at the jail just before 1 a.m. on Sunday. At that time, he listed an address in South China.

## Other arrests

**BUCKSPORT** — These other arrests were listed by Bucksport police:

• Meredith Greene, 38, of Bucksport was arrested at a

River Road home early Saturday evening as the result of a warrant alleging she had not been in court to respond to an earlier charge. She posted bail.

• Jenna Maddocks, 25, of Bucksport was arrested early Sunday afternoon for allegedly possessing heroin. She posted bail.

• Lorraine Leach, 33, of Orland was stopped on U.S. Route 1 last Thursday (1/10) morning, and then was arrested on a warrant claiming she was driving after her license either was suspended or revoked. She posted bail.

## Anti-harassment order issued

**SULLIVAN** — Last Friday (1/11) a 33-year-old Sullivan man was served a protection from harassment order on behalf of a 31-year-old Bucksport woman and her child. The order was delivered by a Hancock County sheriff's deputy.

## The deer report

**BUCKSPORT** — Here's the latest list of deer encounters:

• Jennifer Davenport, 44, of Bucksport hit a deer on Central Street about 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 7.

• Brianna Soucy, 26, of Fort Kent hit one on the Mast Hill Road about 6:30 a.m. last Thursday (1/10).

## Accidents tallied

**BUCKSPORT** — These accidents were reported to police:

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## TOWN OF VERONA ISLAND

**16 School Street, PO Box 1940, Bucksport, ME 04416**

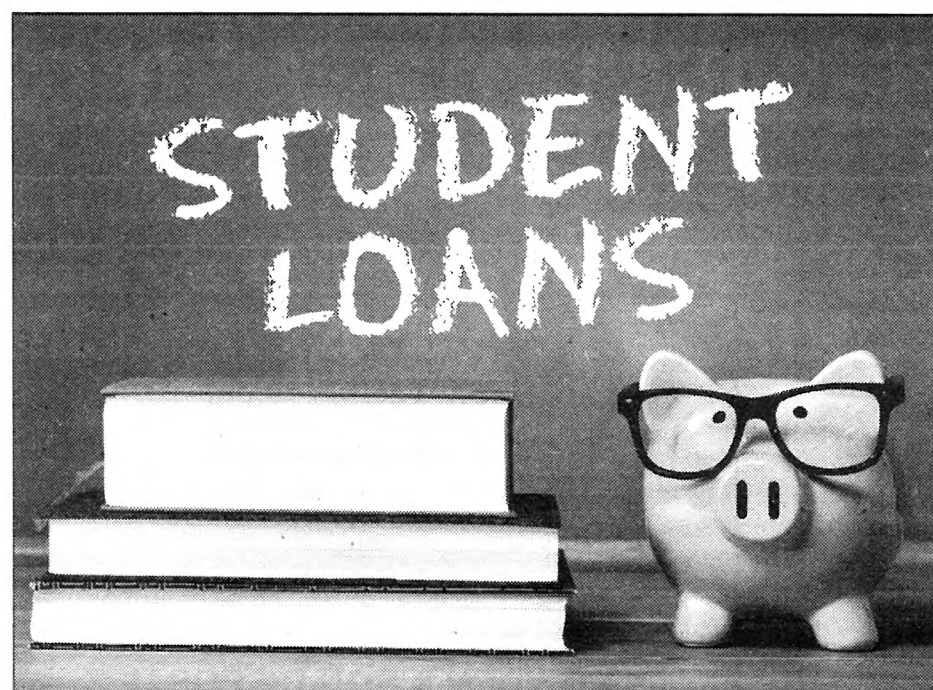
The Verona Island Budget Meeting will be held at The Verona Island Town Hall at 7 p.m. on January 31, 2019.

All dogs need to be licensed by January 31, to avoid a \$25 per dog fine.

Marlene Smith, Town Clerk

01/17/19






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## SPORTS NEWS

### Breaking out the Bucks' track record books . . .

ORONO — A lot has happened three meets into the indoor track season for the Golden Bucks. In addition to all of the members of the team achieving at least one personal best, four Bucksport High School records have been broken: the boys' and girls' 55-meter dash, the girls' 400-meter dash and the girls 4x200 meter relay.

In the first meet, Johanna Stiles ran the 55 meters in a solid time of 8.24 seconds, putting her behind teammates Britney Bussey, 8.02 seconds, Addie Morrison, 8.20 seconds, and Victoria Watkins, 8.21 seconds. For a freshman new to the sport it was an encouraging sign that showed her potential so when Johanna shaved .34 seconds off that time at the next meet - enough to break Meagan Goodine's Bucksport High's record by .09 seconds - her teammates were in awe. Her coach and Stiles were, too.

On running so fast so early in her career, Stiles said, "I felt proud of myself for breaking the record as a freshman."

Joining in setting records was sophomore Addie Morrison, who broke another Goodine's records in the 400-meter dash. Goodine, who graduated from last year and ran with Morrison was happy her former

teammate was the one to break her record.

In fact, Goodine awas at the University of Maine fieldhouse meet to support her. When Morrison crossed the finish line in 1:03.95, besting Goodine's record of

**'Strive for your personal best, regardless of records.'**



1:05.73, Goodine couldn't have been happier for her. Said Morrison, "I was excited to have shaved that much off my best time from last year of 1:06.50. I'm hoping to keep improving."

Not to be outdone, senior Carter Tolmasoff, hoping to build on a successful outdoor season last spring, ran the 55-meters in 6.78 seconds, simultaneously catapulting him into the top spot in Maine in Class B and breaking Vincent Tymoczko's 2010 school record of 6.81.

Although breaking the record was gratifying, Tolmasoff said, "I'm never satisfied. It doesn't matter how fast I run, I'll always want faster. I'm just going to stay motivated

and keep working to get better."

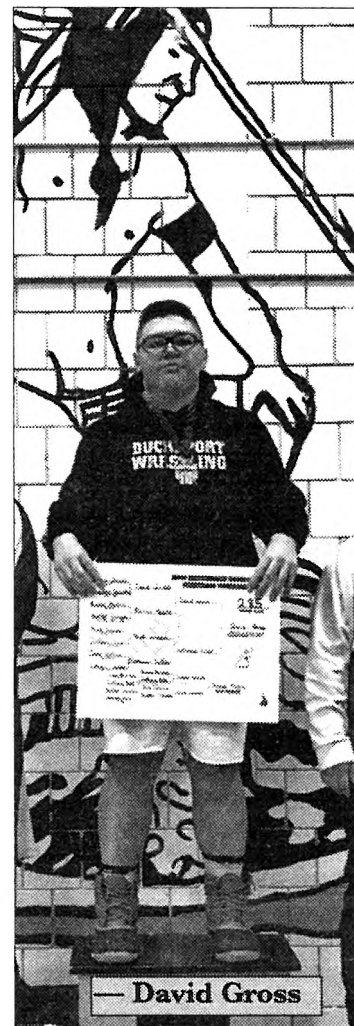
The fourth record to fall was the girls 4x200 meter relay. With a time of 1:57.13, the team -sophomores Bussey and Morrison and freshmen Watkins and Stiles - broke the previous record of 2:01.62 set by Kelly Bourgon, Kate Bridges, Nelly Winship, and Molly Hunt in 2010.

Excited about the prospect of being one of the youngest and top teams in Class B, the group is determined to improve on their already impressive mark.

Bussey, the team's anchor, relishes the challenge and opportunity that comes with that role. "I love the extra adrenaline that comes with being the anchor, being able to help my team close out the race," said Bussey.

The beginning of any season brings with it the potential to achieve great things. While some members of the Bucksport indoor track team already have achieved noteworthy results, all of the Golden Bucks continue to work toward achieving what track and field is really about: the satisfaction that comes with continuing to strive for your personal best, regardless of records.

— COACH MATT MORRISON



### Gross takes first at Skowhegan wrestling meet

SHOWHEGAN — The Golden Bucks wrestling team was here on Saturday, and the team finished tenth.

The team was short as some members were sidelined by injury or were not meeting their weight class requirement.

Still, David Gross placed first in his events while Kaleb Nightingale and Hunter Robichaud placed fourth.

The Bucks will be at Morse High School in Bath on Saturday, and they'll be competing on their home mats on Jan. 26.



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