



Biddeford Pool Community Center

President's Letter

The 2025-2026 fiscal year (July 1–June 30) has started with new volunteers leading major events, updated Joan Beaudry fund guidelines, two new board of trustee members (BOT), three trustees transitioning to officer roles, and our website now fully operational for its first year.

Meghan Friel, with help from Bailey Heffernan and her father (Santa), organized this year's Christmas party. Her family, including Grandmother Doris Henneidy and parents Liz and Chris Friel, have a legacy of involvement. Thanks to Meghan and Bailey for a successful event. Word has it that Megan and Bailey will organize the next year's Christmas party. Thank you!

Tracy Callahan and Cathleen Joyce will co-chair the 2026 4th of July parade, succeeding Eve McPheeters, who after years as organizer and with the help of 27 volunteers in 2025, is stepping down. Thanks to Eve for her dedication in leading the parade each year.

The Joan Beaudry Fund received significant donations from members this year, resulting in updated eligibility criteria and eight new applicants. Applicants are still required to have sponsorship from a member in good standing, but children, grandchildren, and individuals aged 27 and younger who work within the BPCC coastal area—defined in our bylaws—are now eligible to apply. All applicants must possess a high school diploma and be accepted or enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college, graduate program, or vocational/technical school. Notably, Tracy Callahan has consistently contributed her summer exercise class profits (\$4,400 this year), and a family wishing to remain anonymous generously donated \$10,000 for a total of \$14,400 going to the Joan Beaudry awards.

New Board of Trustee members are Jennifer Brown Strabley and Cary Plumer Frye. Jennifer has been volunteering at the library since she moved to the area, and Cary organizes the Seaside Fair. With the help of 29 volunteers, Cary raised a net profit of \$3,869.10 for BPCC. Additionally, Cary volunteers at the Biddeford Food Pantry and, during the December board meeting, requested that \$1,000 of the profits be donated to the Food Pantry; the board increased this amount to \$1,500.

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Transitioning BOT members are Janet Gerding who is now vice president and will continue managing the BPCC website. Carol Weldin has become secretary and will continue handling mail blasts and the newsletter. Chris Fontein, after a year on the board, is now treasurer and has already brought a new level of oversight into our financial record keeping, while Ben Pratt, treasurer for the last six years, returns to a trustee role where he will continue to share his knowledge concerning legal and business issues.

Our website has been live for a little over a year. It's easier than ever to RSVP for events, pay dues, and make donations. Accessing membership and financial information can also be done quickly and easily. Here are some statistics.

As of December 18, 2025, our organization recorded 265 active dues-paying memberships, comprising 69 single memberships and 199 family memberships. While the total of these categories amounts to 268, it is important to note that three memberships are currently past due.

The most recent newsletter was distributed to 358 members via email, and an additional 15 copies were mailed through USPS to individuals without an email address. If you know of anyone who is NOT receiving the newsletters and/or reminders electronically, please reach out to Membershipteam@biddefordpoolcommunitycenter.org.

As of June 30, 2025, total income was \$50,645.77, with dues, donations, events, facility use, and interest contributing to the sum. Expenses, including utilities, insurance, scholarships, and charitable donations, amounted to \$43,660.62, resulting in net operating income of \$6,965.15.

According to BPCC bylaws, a President may serve two terms of two years each. I have finished my first term and begun my second, which ends in October 2027. I'm still smiling and very grateful for the dedication my board and committee chairs bring to this organization.

As a reminder, BPCC's directive is to promote "...the social and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Biddeford Pool area in Biddeford, Maine, while fostering assistance (educational and /or charitable) to persons in need."

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank all who have supported the Center with their time, talents and donations and wish everyone a safe, healthy, happy new year.

Sincerely,

Jim Oleson
BPCC President

Happy New Year!

jimoleson57@gmail.com ~ www.biddefordpoolcommunitycenter.org ~

Thank You All

FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS



Biddeford Pool Community Center (BPCC) and Hills Beach Association (HBA) joined forces to collect toys, clothes for children and adults again this year.

Adult coats and clothing were dropped off at:

Seeds of Hope
Bon Appetit Meal Program
Biddeford Food Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul

Representatives from BPCC and HBA deliver toys and coats at Biddeford Primary School. Coats and toys for older students were delivered to the Biddeford Intermediate School.

Thank you to Diane Noble for spearheading the BPCC Donation drive.



We were able to provide a check to Seeds of Hope for \$1,500 from our annual "Cookies to Go" fundraiser. Thank you to the nineteen members who baked five dozen cookies each. In addition, members helped assemble, fill, and tie ribbon around the boxes. *THANK YOU* to all who ordered cookies as well.

NOTE: In addition to the above, BPCC has provided more donations this year which are identified on the BPCC Mission section of our website [HERE](#). Pictures from various events for this year are on the home page of our website in the section called **2025 Event Highlights**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Pizza and Trivia

Friday

January 16, 5:30pm.

Snow date Friday, January 23rd

Price with Pizza - \$17.00

Price for Ice Cream only - \$1.00

[RSVP HERE](#)

Oleson Cookoff

Friday, February 20

Snow Date: Saturday, February 21

Details will be provided
in a subsequent email.



Enjoy Soup and a Sandwich at BINGO

Friday, February 6 at 5:30 pm

Prizes will be given!

Snow Date is Friday, February 13.



[RSVP HERE](#)



Gather Here with Pat Burke

The Community Center welcome's anyone who would like to come and sit for a cup of coffee or bring something to work on to make, sort, mend, or just chat...in good company on Mondays, **January 26** and **February 23** from **10:00am to 12:00pm** in the **Library**.

Please **RSVP** so we can reach you in case the weather is inclement and we need to cancel.

Email Pat Burke at
PatBB@biddefordpoolcommunitycenter.org
with any questions.

[RSVP HERE](#) for January 26

[RSVP HERE](#) for February 23

Figure Drawing with Linda Sullivan

This is a drawing/painting open studio with a live model and will not include instructions. All levels and mediums are welcome. Come join our community and meet your neighborhood of artists.



Tuesdays - 12:30pm - 3:30pm, 2nd floor BPCC

Dates: 1/6, 1/20, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24. Walk-ins welcome based on space.

Cost: \$15/session to cover expenses.

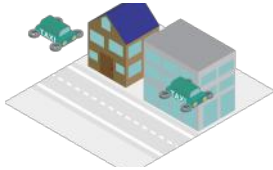
Contact Linda Sullivan at **860-377-1725** for further details.

Please **RSVP HERE**

Pick the date or dates you would like to attend.

Urban Sketchers

with Diane Noble



Fridays 10:00am – 12pm

January 16, 30

February 13, 27

If you love to draw or just want to try it out, join our group that will meet at different locations in downtown Biddeford or Saco.

Contact **Diane Noble** direct at:

dbmn27@maine.rr.com to be put on the list. Diane will send out the meeting places every other week. Classes are **FREE**.

Drawing/Painting

with Diane Noble



Thursdays 10:00am – 12pm

January 8 & 22

February 5 & 19

Bring whatever drawing/painting materials you like. We will work from different set ups of objects.

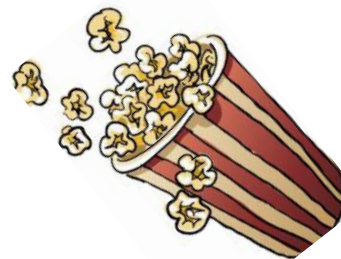
\$10 donation per session will be split between BPCC & HBA
(Please bring cash.)

Please **RSVP HERE**

Pick the date or dates you would like to attend.



BPCC Movies
\$5.00 donation
Popcorn available
2nd floor BPCC



January 4 - 3:30pm

"The Martian"

An epic science fiction/
adventure film
Directed by Ridley Scott
Starring Matt Damon.



[RSVP HERE](#)

February 15 - 4:00 pm
"All the President's Men"

A 1976 American political
thriller film about the
Watergate scandal directed
by Alan J. Pakula starring
Robert Redford and Dustin
Hoffman.



[RSVP HERE](#)

FYI: Currently, these dates do not conflict with football play offs or Superbowl.

BPCC Library News

Happy New Year everyone!

Now that we've enjoyed the holidays, we can get down to reading some good books! Several new titles have been added since the last list appeared here. I hope you will stop in on Thursday mornings and look over our selection. This would also be a good time to leave any book suggestions to include in our inventory.

Thank you for your support of our library and your participation with all the BPCC program opportunities throughout the year.

Reminder: Please return all borrowed books as soon as you've finished enjoying them. No late fees here! Thanks, Sue M

BPCC Book Club

The BPCC Book Club meetings are held at the
BPCC Library, 1st Floor at 4:00 pm.

The **January 21** Book Club book is
A Different Kind of Power by
Jacinda Ardern, former
New Zealand Prime
Minister

[RSVP HERE](#)



Note: This book is the book from the November meeting - which was cancelled.



Bridge Options at BPCC

Monday Drop in Bridge 1:00pm – 4:00pm

with Debbie Melican

We look forward to another season of Bridge!
Let the games begin.

Reminder: \$1 donation is appreciated and all levels are welcome. Players rotate partners, giving you a chance to play with different people.

While Monday is drop-in style, it is helpful to know if we have complete tables. To be added to the Sunday email reminder list, please contact Debbie Melican - burnsmelican@gmail.com.

Please **RSVP HERE**.

Pick the date or dates you would like to attend.

Bridge & Mah Jongg played on 1st Floor

Friday is Duplicate Bridge *with Carol Bassett*
1:00pm – 4:00pm

(or whenever all the cards are played)

Advanced sign-up is required so that we have full tables. **Note:** *this is fun duplicate, not a sanctioned game, no Master points awarded! We'd love to have you play bridge with us!*

Contact Carol Bassett at cjobmaine@gmail.com to play.



Mah Jongg at BPCC

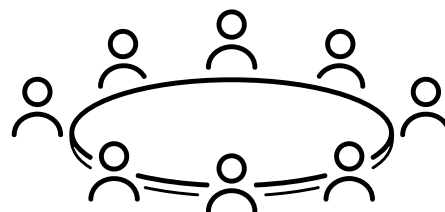
with Lynne Cox

Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm

Delighted to say that two new players joined our group recently! We welcome new players or observers who may be interested in seeing how Mah Jongg works; however, we do not teach the game.

As a reminder, we play Wednesday afternoon usually 1:00pm-3:00pm but are flexible. A \$1.00 donation is appreciated.

Any questions, please email m.lynnecox@gmail.com or text at 978-807-2598.



BPCC Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (Summer recess July-Aug.) at 4 pm. You are welcome to attend. Board Minutes may be found in the *Members Only* section of the website.

Center Rentals or other Requested Center Uses

contact Janet Gerding
[membershipteam@](mailto:membershipteam@biddefordpoolcommunitycenter.org)

biddefordpoolcommunitycenter.org



Joan Beaudry Education Award

This award was created in memory of Joan Beaudry, a longtime Biddeford Pool resident and passionate educator. With the recent expansion of the scope of students who are now eligible to apply for the scholarship, we are hopeful for a robust application cycle in 2026.

Members of the BPCC, as well as students working in the Biddeford Coastal Community (Biddeford Pool, Hills Beach, Fortunes Rocks and Granite Point) may apply. We welcome any student furthering their education beyond high school (college, university, graduate programs and technical/vocational programs) to apply for the Joan Beaudry Education Award.

The scholarship deadline is June 15th. The application can be found [here](#). Candidates must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and value leadership, citizenship and community service. Complete eligibility guidelines can be found [here](#). Each JB Award recipient is required to do a minimum of 2 hours of community service. If you know of any local community service opportunities for our recipients, please contact Tracy or Greg below.

If you have any other questions, please contact co-chairs Tracy Callahan gtfamily@comcast.net and Greg Tarbox gftbox@gmail.com. (Biddeford High School students may apply through their guidance department but can opt to apply through the BPCC if they have family ties.)

If you would like to make a contribution to the education fund, so that we may continue to reach as many of our local students as possible, please click [here](#). Thank you.

Partial List of New Books in the BPCC Library

The Correspondent / Virginia Evans

The Loneliness of Sonia & Sunny / Kiran Desai

Cry Havoc / Jack Carr

The Black Wolf / Louise Penny

Heart of the Lover / Lily King

What We Can Know / Ian Ewan

The Woman They Could Not Silence / Kate Moore (NF)

The Frequency of Living Things / Nick Fuller Googins

Wild Dark Shore / Charlotte McConaghy



NOTE: A book list appears on our website as well as in a notebook within the library. All adult titles acquired since 2017 are listed. Thank you to Jim Oleson.