

House

From Page 1

Despite being situated in the center of downtown Winterport, few people living today have ever set foot inside the Union Meeting House. For most of its first 100 years, the building housed churches — Congregationalist and Methodist, though other denominations also held services at various times. A stack of hymnals sits in the back of the building, recording the names of parishioners who purchased the songbooks in the early 20th century. Attendance dwindled by the 1930s, however, and for nearly 30 years after World War II, the building laid empty, gradually falling apart (and falling out of people's minds).

"There are a lot of people who don't even know this place is here, and they may drive past it every day," said Fitzpatrick. "It's right on Route 1, and you don't even see it."

In the mid-1970s a group of volunteers came together to try to do fix the general disrepair — the Union Meeting House group was founded, and in 1973 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Slowly but surely, the organization has renovated the building, from the leaky roof and crumbling steeple, to painting and refinishing

walls, to the sewing of new cushions for the pews, to the removal of raggedy, mismatched old carpet from the floors — revealing old, handmade 19th century quilts used as carpet pads.

Perhaps the biggest undertaking occurred this year, with the installation of the electric lighting. The Union Meeting House board worked with experts to recreate the gas-light sconces that lined the walls, and to fashion a new chandelier for the center — the original chandelier, likely made of silver, that hung for over 100 years in the building, disappeared at some point in the 1970s or 1980s, and is believed stolen.

"The building probably wasn't locked, so someone probably just came in and took it, somehow," Maggie English-Flanagan, who also sits on the board. "We'd love to know what happened to it."

Despite that one incidence of theft, the Union Meeting House has remained remarkably well-preserved. It is believed that the glass in the windows is the original glass from the 1830s, and the early 19th century Paul Revere bell and the E. Howard steeple clock still chime every day. Fundraising for renovation efforts continues, and eventually, the board would like to install a furnace so the building can be heated during the winter months, and events can happen year-round.

"We just want it to be the place it was always meant to be: a gathering place for the town," said English-Flanagan. "It's such a great resource that we have here, and we just want more people to know about it."

Friday's open house will have a silent auction featuring Red Sox tickets, Waterfront Concerts tickets to shows at the Darling's Waterfront Pavilion, a Macy's gift basket and many more donated items. There are also two ticketed events coming up later this summer, including a talk by by former Maine game warden John Ford on Aug. 16, and an event with Tim Sample on Sept. 18. The meeting house is available for rentals for weddings, music recitals and memorials; to inquire, call Flanagan at 505-5157. For more information, like the Winterport Union Meeting House on Facebook.

Area organizations team up to offer free meals for school children

Good Shepherd Food Bank, in partnership with Bangor Housing Authority, Bangor Public Library, Bangor School Department and Brewer Housing Authority, will offer six summer lunch sites where Bangor and Brewer children can have free nutritious meals while the school lunches they depend upon the rest of the year are unavailable.

Organizers estimate the summer lunch program will reach 150 children each day it is available. The free meals are provided to children under the age of 18.

The kickoff event to raise awareness about the summer meals program will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 24, at Bangor Community Center in Capehart.

Lunches will be offered on the following schedule:

- Noon-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, June 14-Aug. 26, Bangor Community Center, 161 Davis Road, Bangor.
- Noon-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, June 20-24, The Rock Church, 1195 Ohio St., Bangor.
- Noon-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, June 14-Aug. 26, Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor.
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, June 20-Aug. 25, Second Street

Park, Second St., Bangor.
• Noon-12:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, July 5-29, at Fairmount School, 58 13th St., Bangor.

• Noon-1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, June 20-Aug. 26, at Brewer Housing Authority, Rinfret Drive, Brewer.

"We are excited to once again sponsor the Summer Food Service Program in Bangor and Brewer," said Kristen Miale, president of Good Shepherd Food Bank, in a press release. "More than 85,000 Maine children depend on the National School Lunch program during the school year. Despite the availability of funding from the USDA, less than 25 percent of those students receive meals during the long summer break, due to a variety of obstacles such as lack of awareness and accessible sites. With our partners in the area, we're working to make sure more kids in the Bangor region have nutritious meals this summer."

For information about the Summer Food Service Program, contact Shannon Coffin at 782-3554 ext. 1163 or scoffin@gsfb.org.

EMMC offers IT training for unemployed

Consider this scenario: Mill after mill closing in Maine; military veterans coming home to look for jobs; Maine people hoping to transition from unemployment or underemployment to good positions — simply put, hundreds of people needing to find work.

Now consider the computer tech industry in Maine, growing by leaps and bounds; employers looking for semi-skilled and skilled workers to fill open positions but not being able to hire enough of them. This is called a "skills gap" and Maine has a big one.

That's why Eastern Maine Community College, Maine Adult Ed, Tri-County Career Ctr., and EMDC are partnering to offer an IT Fundamentals Training this summer. By learning important industry skills such as setting up a workstation, installing software, connecting networks, troubleshooting, and preventing security risks, you will be prepared to sit for CompTIA Certification upon successful completion.

Training begins on Monday, June 13 at Eastern Maine Community College and at the Brewer Community Center. Participants must be enrolled in the WOLA program through EMDC. To sign up, call 561-4001.

Yesterday... Today

Turning pages from past issues of the Bangor Daily News

TheWeekly

Senior Beat

Advice from Carol Higgins Taylor about growing older

TheWeekly



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Skin Cancer Facts



Did you know...

- More than 3.5 million skin cancers are diagnosed in more than **2 million people** in the U.S. annually.
- Melanoma is the **most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old** and the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old.
- Both basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma have **cure rates approaching 95% if detected early** and treated promptly.
- People with more than 50 moles, atypical moles, light skin, freckles, or a family history of melanoma are at an increased risk of developing melanoma.

~ from the American Academy of Dermatology



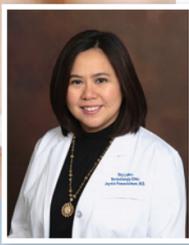
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