

BOW LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER (BLCC) NEWS

For the Care of the Beloved Bow Lake Grange Hall!

The next regular meeting of the BLCC will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm in person at the Bow Lake Grange Hall. Our meetings are open to all, so please join us and support a fantastic group of volunteers, and maybe even consider becoming a new volunteer for BLCC!

The BLCC is now open through the end of 2024! You can book your date for your wedding, shower, birthday, and anniversary parties; theatrical events, celebration of life/memorial programs, concerts, education seminars, annual meetings, potlucks, holiday parties, dances, and more right now! Weekends are booking up especially fast. As of the date this article was submitted, only Saturday May 4 was still available to rent in the month of May. Please email 569grange@gmail.com for more information about available dates, rental rates, and the contract you need.

Line Dancing has returned to the BLCC on Tuesdays. Check for details at www.bowlakecc.org!

In anticipation of **Memorial Day**, BLCC is selling **US Flag set-ups** (flag, flagpole and mounting hardware) to be displayed on telephone poles all over town. These flag set-ups can be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones and the names of the loved ones will be posted on the BLCC website. **Please go to www.bowlakecc.org to purchase them or mail a check for \$100.00** to BLCC, PO Box 204, Strafford, NH 03884. Be sure to state what your check is for and who you want to honor or memorialize. Please do so soon to insure our town is covered in brand new flags by Memorial Day! In lieu of buying a flag kit you can donate to the Flag Fund.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, following the Strafford Memorial Day Ceremony at the Bow Lake Dam, the BLCC, with help from the Strafford Women's Club, will be serving a free hot dog lunch in the lower level of the Bow Lake Grange Hall. So be sure to come out to watch the parade, attend the ceremony, and grab your free lunch. We will be asking for donations to help support the annual July 3rd Fireworks.

Please mark your calendars for BLCC FUNDRAISING in 2024:

- Wednesday, July 3rd, **Annual Food Truck Festival** in the BLCC parking lot from 5 pm – 9 pm with Kona Ice, Cheese Louise, Phil's Cupcakes, Chicken Fingers, Fried Dough, and more! The Town of Strafford Fire Works happen at about 9:15 pm. Inquire if there's room for your food truck at 569grange@gmail.com.
- Saturday, August 31, 7 am – 1 pm, **COGO! Annual Community Golf Tournament** at Nippo Lake Golf Course. Go to www.bowlakecc.org and click on the link, COGO, to register your team and/or to become a sponsor.
- Sunday, September 1, **Ducks O'er the Dam**, 12 pm – 1:30 pm, at the Bow Lake Beach and Dam. Featured are a duck race with cash prizes at 1 pm, hot dog lunches for sale, lawn games, and a Duck Pinata for the kids! Adopt your ducks for the race at www.bowlakecc.org

- Saturday, **October 12, Chili and Chowder Challenge**, 5-7 pm at BLCC. Call Michelle at (603)664-5745 for more information or to enter your chowder or chili.

BLCC will also be offering free community events including the **Annual Haunted House** at BLCC on Trick or Treat Night (Wednesday, October 30) and possibly another night, for Halloween; Christmas Tree Lighting and pictures with Santa on Sunday, December 1; and more. Please keep checking our website!

We are pleased to announce **we have procured a new industrial stove** with 10 burners and 2 ovens for the BLCC kitchen! The replacement of the outside stairway and porch is finished! Thanks to all who have volunteered, donated materials, given discounts for materials and labor, and supported the winter projects and upgrades to the BLCC with financial donations. The community support is amazing and we appreciate it very much!

Our only income, other than rental income, is from our generous community through donations and supporting all of our fundraisers! We do not receive funding from the Town or the State. We do not have a Trust Fund. The expenses of yearly operation (heat, utilities, cleaning, snow removal, lawn maintenance, insurance, etc.) far exceed the rental income. If you haven't already done so, please consider renewing your sponsorship of the BLCC now! BLCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and volunteer organization. You can make a tax-deductible donation at www.bowlakecc.org or mail it to the BLCC, PO Box 204, Strafford, NH 03884. If you want your donation to go to something specific (the Memorial Day US Flag set-ups, the July 3rd fireworks, or for something else) please mark that in the memo section. We appreciate all donations immensely! Thank you so much for your support!