

# Construction Break

BPS CORP.  
QUARTERLY NEWS

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## Did you know....

New Hampshire is home to the very first tax-supported, free public library—not just in the U.S., but the entire world?

The Peterborough Public Library was the first free public library, supported entirely by taxation. The library was founded on April 9, 1833 during a town meeting led by Dr. Abiel Abbot, a minister who liked to spark the community's intellectual curiosity with access to books and reading. The library was originally located in a storefront, then moved to its final location in 1893 where it remains today.

So, who invented the library? In addition to his many inventions, you can add "library" to Ben Franklin's list. The Library Company of Philadelphia was founded in 1731 as a "subscription" library supported by and available only to its shareholders. During the early years books were difficult to get. They were expensive, difficult to find and many had to be shipped from Europe. The average person could not afford books, so reading was a luxury for the wealthy. Ben Franklin sought to change that. He organized a group of 50 of his acquaintances and suggested they pool their resources so they could purchase and share collections of books nobody could afford on their own. Each shareholder had to contribute 40 shillings upfront and then 10 shillings each year thereafter. Over time the "subscription" library grew with the number of added shareholders.

BPS has had the privilege of being involved with many library construction projects over the years, including: The Gale Library in Laconia, the Chester Public Library in Chester, the Cook Memorial Library in Tamworth, the Nute Library in Milton and, most recently, the new North Hampton Public Library and Cultural Center. Thank you to these

communities for their trust and confidence in BPS.

Source: Sturgis Library Website

North Hampton Public Library & Cultural Center



## New Public Library & Cultural Center

**W**e're happy to introduce you to one of the state's newest libraries and one of our most recent projects. It is with gratitude and excitement we say, "Congratulations!" to the North Hampton Public Library & Cultural Center.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in October with members of the community, library trustees, selectman and project team members in attendance. The new 12,000-square-foot building—located on the town square—provides the community with a central place to gather, learn and connect.

This project has been a long time coming. The previous library, built in 1973, was designed to serve the town's needs for only 30 years. Plans began in 1996 for a new library, but it wasn't until 2020 that the project was approved. The Library Board of Trustees selected Lavallee Brensinger Architects to design a forward-thinking, 21st century library. Original plans involved making improvements and additions to the existing library. The trustees' vision included a space that would be welcoming—a space that would promote and encourage social literacy through community engagement.

In January 2020, North Hampton had two competing warrant articles: one for the construction of a new library, and one for an expanded and renovated library. An amendment was proposed by a member of the budget committee to build the new library on a vacant lot next to the current library, and in March 2020, it was approved.

BPS was selected as the construction manager for the project and construction began in the Fall on a new stand-alone building which would be the modern, larger functioning library the community had been waiting for. Over the next 12 months, the empty lot was transformed into a beautiful, single level facility, with dedicated areas for children, pre-teens, teens and seniors, a large program room for town meetings, staff spaces, inviting common areas adorned with comfortable seating and a large fireplace. This high-performance building is efficient enough to meet the AIA 2030 challenge and is net-zero energy ready. The town is currently working on a plan to turn the original library into the town's new administration offices.

On behalf of the entire team at BPS, we thank the town of North Hampton. It was an honor to be part of this project.



*From all of us at Bonnette, Page & Stone, we wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy new year!*





## Old West Justice

A man in the Old West was being tried for stealing a horse. It so happened that the man whose horse had been stolen was a mean fellow who didn't have a single friend in the entire town. The case was tried and presented to the jury.

After about 30 minutes, the jury returned to the court chambers. The judge asked, "Gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a verdict?"

The chairman of the jury stood up. "We find the defendant not guilty if he will return the horse."

The judge admonished the jury. "I cannot accept that verdict. You will have to retire until you reach another verdict."

The jury went back to deliberate some more. About an hour passed before they re-entered the courtroom.

"Gentlemen of the jury," said the judge again, "have you reached a verdict?"

The chairman of the jury stood up. "Yes, your honor. We find the defendant not guilty, and he can keep the horse!"

### SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



# Top Tips For Career Advancement

You're ambitious and want to advance in your job. It won't happen overnight—you have to take active steps to move up in your career. Follow this advice from the *BioSpace* website to get ahead:

- **Always keep learning.** Knowledge is crucial to career success. You'll never get to the point where you know everything necessary for the future. Keep your mind open to new facts and opportunities to master new skills.
- **Set goals that matter.** To achieve what you want, you have to map it out in detail. Decide what's important to you and focus on that. Set goals daily and for the long term to keep yourself motivated.
- **Get organized.** Learn to manage your time effectively. Keep your workspace clear of distractions. Eliminate redundant or pointless tasks. This will help you concentrate on accomplishing what's most important.
- **Support your team.** Don't be selfish. Helping your team achieve its goals positions you as a reliable worker—someone others will support in turn. You'll earn respect and help build a strong network that will help you advance.
- **Take care of your health.** Get enough sleep, exercise regularly, cut back on junk food, and relax as needed. You need the energy that only a healthy lifestyle can provide to stay productive for the long haul.

*"Embrace what you don't know, especially in the beginning, because what you don't know can become your greatest asset. It ensures that you will absolutely be doing things different from everybody else."*

—Sara Blakely

## Want A Career You Love?

What do successful leaders see as essential to a fulfilling career—and life? Podcasters Eric Eliasson and Lara Mitra asked 30 top business leaders what they'd learned on their path to success. The *MIT Sloane School of Management* website presents some of their insights:

- **Diversify your passions.** Don't limit yourself to just one area of interest. Look around and seek out new possibilities throughout your career. The more passions you have, the greater your range as you go through life.
- **Be open to changing views of success.** "Success" can mean making lots of money, having wide power, or earning the love of a family—or an infinite number of other things. As you learn and grow, your definition of success may shift. Don't fight it. You may find that you have very different ideas of what's valuable at different stages of your life.
- **Remember to plan.** Being open to change doesn't mean totally winging it throughout your career. Set some goals early on and develop a plan for moving forward. You may have to adjust your plan as your circumstances and views change, but you'll be in a better position to pivot if you have a firm foundation to stand on.
- **Take action to build confidence.** You may be unsure that you're doing the right thing, but if you do nothing, you'll never achieve any of your goals. Taking action, even if you fail, can give you the confidence you need to keep moving forward. You'll see what you can do, and learn that failure isn't the end of the world.

# The Steamy History Of Coffee

From that morning mug of java to a cup of decaf with dessert, many people rely on coffee to get through the day. The *Cracked* website shares the fascinating history of our favorite hot beverage:

A legend goes that in Ethiopia around 850 A.D., a farmer named Kaldi noticed that the sheep in his flock had more energy and slept less after eating fruit from a particular plant. He tried it himself, and also felt more energized, so he took it to a nearby monastery where the monks used it to brew a tea. They found that the tea helped them stay awake during their evening prayers.

The first written mention of coffee came a few decades later, when a Persian physician wrote about a drink called "bunchum." "Bunn" was the Ethiopian word for the coffee berry. The Ottoman empire spread coffee through the lands it conquered, where it reached Europe during the 17th century. Early Christians thought it evil and asked the Pope to ban it. The Pope, however, decided to try drinking it himself first, and declined to forbid its use.

Coffeehouses spread quickly across the continent—Venice in 1645, England in 1650, and France in 1672. It eventually crossed the ocean in 1676, when a coffeehouse opened in Boston. For a while, farmers in Mediterranean countries enjoyed a monopoly on coffee, but that ended when the Dutch started growing and exporting it from the Indonesian territory of—wait for it—Java.

France is responsible for the first iced coffee, thanks to troops who dubbed their concoction "café mazagran" after the fortress they were stationed at. Today, we consume more than 2 billion cups of coffee a day around the world, making it the most popular beverage around.

*"The distance between insanity and genius is measured only by success."*

—Bruce Feirstein

## Take On Those Tough Tasks

Focusing on difficult tasks at work can be hard, but you can't avoid it most of the time. The *Nature* website offers this science-based advice on getting the job done:

- **Make space.** Set aside large blocks of time to work on the problem confronting you—15 minutes here or there won't let you settle in mentally. Schedule time consistently so you make it a habit that's easy to adjust to when you sit down to work.
- **Remove distractions.** Look around your workspace for cues that might lead you astray. Put your phone in a drawer so you won't see incoming texts, for example. Unplug your computer from the internet. Even if you can ignore such distractions while you're working, they'll still be there, tugging at your concentration.
- **Forget the small tasks.** You may be tempted to finish up just one more thing before getting down to work. Resist the impulse. These small tasks will interfere with your ability to start focusing on what you need to work on.
- **Find the right structure.** Think about how to approach the task ahead of time. Developing a logical plan will help you carry through when you hit obstacles. It also helps you get started each time, because you'll know right away where to begin.
- **Take breaks.** You're allowed to take a break while working on a complex task. Just don't get pulled into other work. Leave your workspace, talk to people, or just take a walk to clear your mind. Return with a clear head and dive right back into the task.
- **Stick with it.** You may need time to find the right structure or approach to working through the problem. Don't give up. Be ready to try something new as long as your mind is still focused on the project you're working on.



## Test Your Knowledge

1. How fast was the first person to be pulled over for speeding traveling?
2. Which are the only animals to blush?
3. What do the "M's" stand for in M&Ms?
4. Which American band has the most No. 2 *Billboard* hits, without ever reaching No. 1?
5. What is the dot over a lowercase "i" or "j" called?
6. What is the national animal of Scotland?
7. Humans are just one of how many estimated species on Earth?
8. Playing the accordion was once required of all teachers in which country?
9. Which animal kills more Americans than sharks each year?
10. How many three-point baskets did Shaquille O'Neal make in his career?
11. Which is the only U.S. state to border only one other state?
12. What is the Twitter bird's official name?

12. Larry.  
8. North Korea. 9. Cows. 10. One. 11. Maine.  
5. A little. 6. The unicorn. 7. 8.7 million.  
and "Murrie." 4. Creedence Clearwater Revival.  
1. Eight miles per hour. 2. Humans. 3. "Mars"

—Mental Floss

# BPS Earns Merit Award for School Expansion

The Associated Builders and Contractors NH/VT Chapter recently held their annual Excellence in Construction (EIC) reception. BPS was awarded with a 2021 EIC Merit Award for their work at the Auburn Village School. For the past three decades, the EIC awards program has been recognizing leaders in the construction industry whose work sets an example for excellence and innovation in construction.

The Auburn Village School, in Auburn, N.H., provides public education for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. In recent years, overcrowding provided challenges for the school. Areas

particularly affected were the food service and cafeteria spaces, science labs, special education, and administrative spaces. As a result, portable classrooms were brought in to provide adequate space for student learning.



The Auburn Village School

In June of 2018, the town began working with BPS as their construction manager alongside design firm, The H.L. Turner Group, to plan renovations and expansion of the existing school. The project was originally proposed at a much larger scope, but the

team worked with the town to align costs with the community's expectations. Aside from the budget, the scheduling intricacies

*continued below*



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## School Expansion...

of building in an occupied school presented additional challenges. Also, during construction, an archaeological survey uncovered 16th and 17th century artifacts. This required coordination with the New Hampshire Historical Society for proper removal. Despite the challenges, the project remained on schedule thanks to open communication and transparency with the entire team.

We are thankful for the excellent communication and cooperation by the school, the design firm The H.L. Turner Group, Owner's Representative Mark Jobin of Jobin Construction Consultants, and the many amazing subcontractors involved. As a result of everyone's efforts, hard work and creativity, the project stayed on time and on budget without incident or interruption. BPS is proud to have helped deliver a school that will serve the Auburn community for years to come. On behalf of the entire team at BPS, we say, "Thank You!" to the Town of Auburn, the Auburn School District, the entire project team and to the Associated Builders and Contractors NH/VT for recognizing all of the efforts that went into this great project.



William Hickey, The H.L. Turner Group, Kristin O'Brien BPS, Barrett Ryan Salta BPS accept the 2021 Excellence In Construction Merit Award for their work at the Auburn Village School.