

# Construction Break

BPS CORP.  
QUARTERLY NEWS

WINTER 2024



## The Looney Bin is Back!

July 2, 2023 was a gloomy and rainy day in the Lakes Region that only became darker for the patrons and team of the Looney Bin Bar and Grill, located on Endicott Street North, Laconia, NH. That afternoon, a vehicle attempting to turn left into Funspot parking lot across the street from the restaurant, was waived across by a driver in the line of cars that had formed in the turning lane to enter the popular arcade. The car was struck by a small SUV traveling southbound redirecting it into the busy restaurant. Fourteen people inside were transported to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries and the restaurant was shattered. The community rallied behind the bar by holding various donations, fund raisers, and even temporarily employing staff members while damage was repaired. Repairs included

reconstruction of the entire structure inside with new walls, plumbing, kitchen, new bar, new windows, new electrical system, and adding bollards to prevent a repeat accident in the future just to name a few.

On December 9—just five months later—the doors re-opened with the entire crew returning. “We can’t thank everyone enough for all the love and support through this. I feel confident in saying we never would have made it to this point without it,” said Owner Michelle Watson.

So many helping hands and businesses were involved with the rebuild. BPS was honored to be a part of it all and looks forward to enjoying some great food and drink with great people for many years to come. Welcome Back Looney Bin Bar & Grill!

## Understanding the Bond Vote Process

The time of year is approaching where townspeople gather at their polling locations to make their positions known on school and municipal bonds. Bonds are a form of long-term debt that local governments use to finance projects such as school construction,

infrastructure improvements, or community development. Cities and towns borrow money to pay for things like new schools, police stations, fire stations, renovation projects, and more. Community members decide whether to authorize the issuance of bonds to fund specific projects or initiatives.

**What are the Key Steps in the Bond Vote Process?**

**Needs Assessment:** Before proposing a bond, a comprehensive needs assessment is conducted to identify critical projects and their associated costs. This ensures transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.

**Proposal Development:** Based on the needs assessment, a detailed proposal is crafted outlining the projects to be  
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Which U.S. state has a law preventing your chicken from crossing the road?

## Can You Guess?

- What is the fear of Friday the 13th called?
  - Paraskavedekatriphobia
  - Calendophobia
  - Tredecimaphobia
  - Triambigophobia
- What is the Latin name for the genus of mammals to which goats belong?
  - Meleagris
  - Ovis
  - Capra
  - Bos
- Organza, taffeta, and georgette are fabrics traditionally made from what material?
  - Polyester
  - Cotton
  - Velour
  - Silk
- What were the first hockey pucks made out of?
  - frozen cow dung
  - ice
  - wood
  - rubber
- At what temperature is Fahrenheit equal to centigrade?
  - 32 degrees
  - 40 degrees
  - 0 degrees
  - 5 degrees
- Which U.S. state has a law preventing your chicken from crossing the road?
  - New York
  - Hawaii
  - Georgia
  - New Hampshire

Answers: 1 (a); 2 (c); 3 (d); 4 (a); 5 (b); 6 (c)

## How To Get More Energy Throughout The Workday

Maintaining your energy level all day can feel like an insurmountable challenge. Don't ignore physical or mental fatigue, but don't surrender to it, either. Try these tactics for recharging:

- **Move around.** Take a walk, even if it's just a quick stroll around your office several times throughout the day. Getting your blood flowing speeds delivery of oxygen and nutrients to your body.
- **Take a deep breath.** Several, actually. Sit up straight to open your chest cavity and get more oxygen into your lungs. Here's an exercise: Breathe out through your mouth completely. Then inhale through your nose for four seconds. Hold it in for seven seconds, and then exhale for a count of eight seconds. Do this four times to refresh yourself.
- **Drink sufficient fluids.** Water, like air, delivers oxygen throughout your body. If you're dehydrated, you'll feel tired. Drink plenty of water or a low-calorie sports drink.
- **Get outside.** Sunshine and fresh air can have a rejuvenating effect, along with the exercise benefits of taking a short walk.
- **Learn something new.** Spend a few minutes with a book or on the Internet researching a subject that's really interesting to you. You'll stimulate your mind and make new mental connections.

## Contraction Contradiction

Most contractions in English are pretty straightforward: they are becomes they're; he would is shortened to he'd; is not is isn't; and we will is squeezed into we'll. The two words join together, minus a few letters. Put it together, and shorten it up. What could be easier? But that isn't the case for will not, which becomes won't instead of willn't.

Why does the will change to wo? It doesn't really. We just inherited it from our linguistic ancestors. But there was a reason for the wo in the beginning.

In Old English there were two forms of the verb willan ("to wish" or "to will")—will- in the present and wold- in the past. Over the next few centuries there was a good deal of bouncing back and forth between those vowels (and others) in all forms of the word. At different times and places, will came out as wulle, wole, wool, welle, wel, wile, wyll, and even ull and ool.

There was less variation in the contracted form. From at least the 16th century, the preferred form was wonnot, from woll not, with occasional departures later to winnot, wunnot, or the expected willn't. In the ever-changing landscape that is English, will won the battle of the woles/wulles/ools, but for the negative contraction, wonnot simply won out, and contracted further to the won't we use today. When you think about the effort it takes to actually pronounce the word willn't, this isn't so surprising at all.

## Misquoted Movie Lines

*Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs*: "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"

Actual quote: "Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?"

*Gone With The Wind*: "Frankly, Scarlett, I don't give a damn."

Actual quote: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

*Casablanca*: "Play it again, Sam."

Actual quote: "Play it, Sam. Play 'As Time Goes By.'"

*The Empire Strikes Back*: "Luke, I am your father."

Actual quote: "No, I am your father."



# Optimism Breeds Success

Positive thinking alone may not ensure success, but it's an important start. If you don't believe in yourself, you'll have a hard time persevering against the obstacles and setbacks you're likely to encounter. Here are a few tips for maintaining the right attitude in the face of adversity:

- **Tell yourself you can change.** Think of how you've changed throughout your life—not physically, but emotionally. You're probably a different person today than you were five years ago, so don't assume you can't evolve further.
- **Use positive language.** Banish words and phrases like "impossible" and "I can't" from your vocabulary. Replace them with words that emphasize strength and success: "challenging" instead of "impossible," and "I must" for "I can't."
- **Create the right environment.** Listen to music that uplifts you. Watch inspirational movies and shows. Mix it up, with a leaning toward the positive.
- **Appreciate your life.** Focusing on what you don't have can crowd out your appreciation for what you already possess. Take some time every so often to enjoy what you've already achieved with your life. Think about what you did to get where you are, and use that as a reminder of your capabilities.
- **Let go of mistakes.** You're bound to fail at some things; don't obsess over them. Learn what you can and move on instead of beating yourself up over and over again. We all learn from failure.

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



# How Black Friday Got Its Name

When people emerge from their food comas the day after Thanksgiving, they think about shopping. In 2023, consumers spent a record \$9.8 billion just for online shopping during Black Friday, bolstering the bottom line for retailers like Walmart, Target, Best Buy, and other online outlets.

If Black Friday is such a financial benefit, why is it called Black Friday? According to an article in *Mental Floss*, the term was usually reserved for cash-draining events like the Thursday that precipitated the 1929 stock market crash or the Friday on which the 1869 gold market collapse led to financial ruin.

It turns out that the label didn't always have the positive holiday-spending connotation it enjoys today. Beginning in the 1950s, according to *Snopes*, employers and the media began observing that a lot of people called out sick the day after Thanksgiving—traditionally not a paid holiday—to give themselves a four-day weekend. For businesses, that Friday was indeed bleak, as productivity slowed to a crawl.

Law enforcement also had reason to be disgruntled with that particular Friday. With everyone skipping work and kids off school, traffic in major cities became a problem. In Philadelphia, police who were forced to deal with logjams and work mandatory shifts to cope with the congestion started to dread the day. Again, the "Black Friday" label seemed appropriate.

Eventually, this negative term spread via word-of-mouth and the media. Retailers in Philadelphia even tried to rephrase it as Big Friday to avoid the association with disaster, but it didn't stick. It soon became synonymous with record profits, and the term was permanently adopted for the frenzied rush of shoppers using their day off to get their holiday shopping done.

# Strange Facts

- The odds of giving birth to a baby at 12:01 a.m. on January 1 are around 1 in 526,000—roughly the same as the odds of getting struck by lightning.
- Humans are the only animals that blush.
- There was a third Apple founder. Ronald Wayne sold his 10 percent stake for \$800 in 1976.
- In Italy, it's considered bad luck to lay bread upside down on a table or in a basket.
- Your hair contains traces of gold.
- Ronald McDonald is called Donald McDonald in Japan.
- Dolphin calves are typically born tail first, rather than head first, so they don't drown during the birthing process.
- The raven that inspired Edgar Allan Poe's poem was named Grip, and he was Charles Dickens's beloved pet.
- Maya Angelou was San Francisco's first Black female streetcar conductor.
- The annual number of worldwide shark bites is 10 times less than the number of people bitten by other people in New York.
- Johnny Carson's first three wives were named, in order, Joan, Joanne, and Joanna.
- Geckos can turn the stickiness of their feet on and off at will.
- The second-half kickoff in Super Bowl I had to be done twice, as NBC didn't cut back from commercial in time to catch the first one on camera.
- The word astronaut comes from the Greek words meaning "star" and "sailor."

# Just Faking It

Killdeer birds fake injuries to fool predators. The species will feign being injured in order to lure predators toward them and away from their nest of offspring. When the predator gets close enough, the killdeer miraculously "recovers" and beats a hasty retreat.

# Introducing Our Newest Project Manager!

Meet Veronica Diltz, BPS's newest project manager. Veronica joined the BPS team in December and, upon completion of her training, will hit the ground running as a full-time project manager. Her roles include overseeing assigned construction projects from start-to-finish while ensuring the project stays on schedule and budget according to plans and collaborative meetings with the Owner and the project team.

Veronica is a New Hampshire native, with roots in the Lakes Region. A 2019 graduate of Cazenovia College, she holds a BFA in Interior Design. When asked what interests her in a career in construction management, Veronica said, "I have always loved watching things be built and was intrigued by the design side of things. From watching my father build small home projects helping where I could, to going to high school and being able to take drafting classes and art classes. As my experience has grown since graduating from college, I have learned I love to watch the transitions of projects from conception to completion."

"We are thrilled to have someone of Veronica's character and passion join our top-notch project management team. Leadership skills, solid communication skills, and eagerness to learn result in a successful project manager, and Veronica possesses all of those skills. We are excited to see what she will add to our future successes," said Keith McBey, President Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp.



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## Bond Vote Process *continued from page 1*

funded, the amount of the bond, and the anticipated impact on the community.

**Community Engagement:** Town hall meetings, public forums, and informational sessions are conducted to engage community members, answer questions, and gather feedback. It's crucial for residents to understand the proposed projects and their benefits.

**Board Approval:** The proposal undergoes review and approval by the relevant governing body, such as the school board or city council. This step ensures that the bond aligns with the community's needs and priorities.

**Ballot Preparation:** Once approved, the bond proposal is translated into a clear and concise ballot measure. This includes details such as the total bond amount, the projects it will fund, and the tax implications for residents.

**Voting Day:** On the designated voting day, eligible residents cast their votes either in person or through absentee ballots. It's important for everyone to exercise their right to vote and have their voices heard.

**Outcome Announcement:** After the votes are tallied, the outcome of the bond vote is announced. If the bond is approved, the community can move forward with the planned projects.

### **Your Role in the Process:**

As a community member, your input is invaluable. Attend public meetings, ask questions, and stay informed about the proposed bond. Encourage your friends and neighbors to participate in the voting process to ensure a well-rounded representation of community opinions.