



Readfield Messenger

www.readfieldmaine.org

January 2021



Dear Neighbors:

As the new 2021 year begins, a lot of us are glad to see 2020 being in the rear view mirror. Looking ahead, there are coronavirus vaccines on the horizon and within the year many will be inoculated. Business should gradually get back to normal and hopefully the 2021/2022 school year will be a full regular session with students able to attend classes and activities in person. Many of these items will likely be gradual in implementation but the sense of our ever improving situation will surely be positive.

All this is not to say that everything experienced in the past year was negative. We made the best of a challenging situation. We adapted as we learned more about the virus and how to fight it. We took care of each other, checked on each other, and continued to communicate with each other in new ways. Readfield residents were resoundingly resilient!

On the town governance front, we worked hard to keep services available and safe. Many of our town's attractive features became more essential to our everyday wellbeing. People depended on our library, seniors were assisted, and a lot more footprints appeared on our trails. Looking ahead, I expect the board to be mindful and sensitive regarding the impact of our 2021/2022 budget as we begin work on it.

Winter can be challenging but with the shortest and darkest day being behind us in December, we can now see the growing light that lies ahead. I wish each and every one of you a personally gratifying New Year.

Take care;
Bruce Bourgoine
Select Board Chair



March 9, 2020

SPECIAL ELECTION

VOTE

Special Election to replace the vacant seat in State Senate District 14

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE 2/9



READFIELD TRAILS

building community a step at a time

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE TRAILS

Dog owners please note: Dogs are required to be on leash or under voice control on all town properties including our trails. Some of our community members are not comfortable and may even fear unknown, unleashed dogs. We have heard some complaints recently so please do your best to help everyone to feel safe on our trails!

Happy New Year to trail enthusiasts. In spite of the recent wind storms and highly variable weather, the opportunities to enjoy our many trails are always available. Thank-you to our trail clearing crew including Bob and Jeanne Harris, and Greg and Nancy Durgin. The current lack of snow allows for trail access without specialized winter equipment. Assuming the snow will return you will still be able to enjoy them on skis or snowshoes as well. If you don't own such equipment the Readfield Community Library has snowshoes available to loan out for children and adults (call 685-4089 for current availability). Library membership is free to Readfield residents.

Below are two recent photos from the Esker Trail. This trail is best accessed from the parking lot at the Maranacook Schools Bus Garage on the North Road. It begins behind the cinder block building on the right side of the parking lot. I recommend using the trail when the Transfer Station is closed to eliminate the industrial noise.



Ski tracks from Esker Trail to Old Landfill



New sign for bog view off Esker Trail

Our trail maps continue to be available at the town office and on-line (https://www.readfieldmaine.org/sites/readfieldme/files/uploads/readfield_trails_2019_map.pdf). Please let us know if you encounter damage or other issues when on our town trails.

If you have any comments or questions for the Readfield Trails Committee or would like to volunteer for trail work please call our chair person Greg Durgin at 685-4481. Even better if you are willing to join our committee (yes, we have openings now) please contact Greg and the town office at 685-4939 for the appropriate paperwork.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Peale, Vice-Chair, Readfield Trails Committee.

CURRENT BOARD/COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Age Friendly Committee: 1 member (2021)

Cemetery Committee: 1 member (2023)

Cobbossee Watershed District: 1 alt rep (2021)

Conservation Commission: 1 alt member (2022)

Local School Board Advisory: 1 opening (2023)

Maranacook Outlet Dam Committee: 1 alt member (2023)

Planning Board: 3 alternates-terms 2022, 2023, & 2024

Road Committee: 3 vacancies (all 2022)

Solid Waste & Recycling Committee: 2 vacancies (2022 & 2023)

Trails Committee: 4 member terms: 2021 (2) & 2022 (2); one Alternate 2023

If you are interested in joining any of the above committees/boards please complete the appointment application at www.readfieldmaine.org or stop by the Town Office for an application.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MT. VERNON FOOD BANK @ THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2020 has come to an end. This has been a year like no other due to the pandemic. The First Baptist Church-Mt. Vernon Food Bank has continued to serve the communities of Mount Vernon, Readfield, Fayette and Vienna. We have been operating differently since March but have remained open and serving customers every Saturday morning. We prepare prepacked boxes. Customers drive up and volunteers put the boxes into their cars.

As in the past years, all the volunteers at the food bank would like to thank all those in our community who have so graciously donated throughout the year through the Town Hall, Readfield Community Library, and our schools and churches. Our community has been very generous, caring and thoughtful this year. We really appreciate all you have done and thank you very much.

First Baptist Church Mt. Vernon Food Bank Volunteers



Mount Vernon Food Bank

open every Saturday morning ~ 9:30 am to 11:30 am

People in Readfield who find they are in need at any time during the year do not have to go hungry. The Mt. Vernon Food Bank, located at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, serves the people of Readfield in addition to Vienna, Fayette and Mt.

Vernon. It is supported by the schools, churches and individuals from the area.

Those who are not in need of the food service can become supporters of the Food Bank with tax-deductible checks made payable to the Mt. Vernon Food Bank.

If you are in need of help during off hours, please call: Bob Peterson 685-7292 or Helen Wilkey 293-2351.



FOOD DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE TOWN OFFICE

Deadline Coming Up Soon.....2021 Dog Registrations now available!

Don't get stuck paying a late fee of \$25.00 per dog.....

Reminder that dog registrations were due 12-31-2020.

Here is how to register your dog(s) and avoid a \$25.00 per dog late fee effective 02-01-2021:

Due to COVID-19 we are asking you to opt into our online registration service before making an appointment at the Town Office. Information is below. Thank you for understanding.



The cost to register your dog is \$6.00 if spayed/neutered and \$11.00 if able to produce young. Proof of current rabies and spayed/neutered certificate is required if not already on file at the town. Ways to register:

- Call the Readfield Town Office during regular business hours to set up an appointment (Monday/ Tuesday 8:30-4:30, Wednesday 12:00-6:00, Thursday 10:00-2:00 - *Please only open for seniors and those at high risk*, and Friday 7:30-3:30) **No Walk-In Appointments Accepted at this time due to COVID-19.**
- Call the Town Office at 207-685-4939 to pay over the phone (credit/debit card; fee applies).
- **Online:** www.readfieldmaine.org (online services). We will mail the registration/tag to you.
- By mail by sending payment and required documents to: Town of Readfield/Dog Registrations, 8 Old Kents Hill Road, Readfield ME 04355. Checks made payable to Town of Readfield. (See fees above)

Contact the Town Office with any questions by calling 207-685-4939.

The deadline for registering your dog was December 31, 2020. A late fee of \$25.00 per dog will be applied if not registered by January, 31, 2021.

If you are no longer an owner or keeper of a dog, please let us know.

THANK YOU

JANUARY 2021 LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



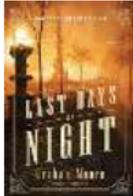
UPCOMING EVENTS at the

Library CLOSURES for January

Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Upcoming LIBRARY BOOK GROUP MEETINGS

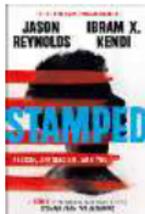
Our monthly Library Adult Book Group is open to all! Please let the Librarian know ASAP if you would like a copy of any of the books listed below. **The Book Group meets by Zoom on the last Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Please call 685-4089 or email librarian@readfieldmaine.org for the Zoom meeting ID.**



January Book Group

Meeting: by Zoom on Monday January 25 @ 6:30pm

Selection: *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore (historical fiction)

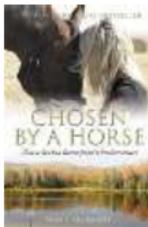


February Book Group

Meeting: by Zoom on Monday February 22 @ 6:30pm

Selection: *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram Kendi (nonfiction; young readers edition)

Special Note: Community members are invited to participate in virtual "Community Conversations about Racism and Equality" with small groups of middle school students. These virtual discussions will be held during February and will be led by a teacher and high school student facilitator, allowing students and community members the opportunity to collaboratively talk about this sensitive subject in a structured and meaningful way, based on a shared reading of *Stamped*. This intergenerational "community read/discussion" project is being organized by Jean Roesner, MCMS teacher, and is funded by a Maranacook Education Foundation grant. Please contact the Librarian if you would like to participate in one of these discussions.



March Book Group & Author Talk

Meeting: by Zoom on Monday March 29 @ 6:30pm

Selection: *Chosen by a Horse* by Susan Richards (memoir)

Special Note: The author, Susan Richards, will join us by Zoom for an Author Talk and Q & A session as part of this book discussion!

3rd ANNUAL (VIRTUAL) BURNS NIGHT (tentative)

Please set aside the (tentative) date of **Saturday, January 23th at 6:30pm by Zoom** for an evening of poems, ceremony, and music celebrating the life and work of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. Watch for more details on our Facebook page or website as we get closer to the date.



SNOWSHOES AVAILABLE TO BORROW

Get outside and enjoy the beautiful Maine winter! Child- and Adult-sized snowshoes are available to borrow at the Library. We also have poles! Note: check-out period is for one week, and we ask that you return snowshoes when the library is open. This program is made possible by the generosity of patrons who have donated the snowshoe equipment.

THANKS—UPCYCLED BOOK HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Thank you to our patrons who helped decorate the Library for the holidays with crafts made from old books and magazines. Check out these beautiful creations made by our patrons:



Virtual STORY TIME—each Tuesday at 9:30am by Zoom



Please join us for our weekly **STORY TIME, by ZOOM, each Tuesday at 9:30am**. Perfect for children 0-5 (older is fine too!) and their parents/grandparents/caregivers. On the first Tuesday of each month we will have special guest visits with string musicians from the Pineland Suzuki School to help us explore **Books through Music and Music through Books!** Please contact the librarian for the Zoom meeting ID at 685-4089 or librarian@readfieldmaine.org.

DIVERSE BOOK FINDER GRANT

The Readfield Community Library has received a \$300 Library Grant from the Bates College Diverse BookFinder, in partnership with the Brooks Foundation and the Maine Humanities Council! This grant will allow us to diversify the Library's picture book collection. The Diverse BookFinder project has given us the opportunity to assess our picture book collection and to identify areas where it may be enhanced. The Diverse BookFinder picture book collection (housed at Bates College) and searchable database provide useful tools for libraries, teachers, and parents. For more information, or if you have questions about the grant or about the project, feel free to ask the Librarian or check out <https://diversebookfinder.org/>



WRITERS' GROUP

We are trying to assess community interest in starting a monthly Writers' Group—a small, supportive, informal group of writers of all types (novice, veteran, budding professional, etc.) who can workshop with each other to critique and improve their writing and explore new ideas, genres, and styles. Please let the Librarian know if you have interest in such a group!

UPDATED COVID-related LIBRARY INFO

The Readfield Community Library strives to continue to offer library services while keeping patrons, volunteers, and staff safe during the pandemic. Due to the rise of Covid-19 cases in Maine during the winter months, the Library will be encouraging minimal in-person interactions by asking patrons to make use of Curbside Pickup services when possible. **Please call 685-4089 or email librarian@readfieldmaine.org to place an order for Curbside Pickup during regular library hours.**

In-library browsing and services (photocopier, WiFi printer, patron laptop) are available as well during regular library hours. Please use the "Golden Ticket" system (in the basket at the side door) and note that we will be limiting in-building services to **1 patron/family at a time for the winter months.** You no longer need to call to make an appointment to come inside, but please note you may have to wait a few minutes in the parking lot if there is already a patron inside. **Face coverings are required to enter the library.**

Patrons should be aware that there is some risk inherent in using shared indoor spaces with shared materials. We cannot guarantee a completely safe space. Library visitors are entering with this knowledge of risk.

Please see the library website's "COVID-19 Response/Info" page for the most updated information: <https://readfieldlibrary.wordpress.com/covid-19-response-info/>

Library Hours

Mondays	3pm-7pm
Tuesdays	10am-4pm
Wednesdays	1pm-7pm
Saturdays	10am-4pm

AGING FRIENDLY UPDATE



January 2021 State Scam Alerts

Week 1 -- Three Words For 2021

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is dedicated to providing people with simple tips to keep them safe from scammers. In 2021 we've got three simple words to keep you protected: Stop, Think and Verify.

When you get an unexpected offer or alarming news over the phone or other device, **stop** and ask yourself, "Is this for real?" Next **think** about content of the message. Is it too good to be true? Do you have to act now? Is there a threat involved? If the answer is yes, you should end contact. If you are concerned the communication may have been valid, independently **verify** it. For example, if the caller claimed to be with the government, look up the agency's phone number (without relying on the results of a web search, as the numbers that result could connect you to a scammer) and inquire if there is an issue.

Week 2 – COVID – Vaccine Scams

If 2020 taught us anything it's that scammers follow the headlines. While we're all relieved to turn the calendar to 2021, the uncertainty that marked the last 12 months isn't going away any time soon. And scammers thrive on uncertainty.

One particular uncertainty right now is when we'll get our COVID vaccines. In the early weeks and months, expect the limited supply of vaccines to be available only to certain high-risk populations. So, when you see an ad, email, text message, or you pick up a call and the offer is to reserve your vaccine for a fee, know it's a scam. Listen to your health care provider and health authorities for guidance and ignore all else.

Week 3 – Scam Map

Scammers make their living by keeping up their ploys day in and day out. Often, they aren't solo con acts but are part of a large criminal enterprise scheming to fund illegal activity, from child trafficking to terrorism. And often, our reaction to hearing about a scam is to shake our heads and not understand how someone could "fall for it".

Once we know, though, that these are sophisticated criminal enterprises, and that the money they steal funds deeply troubling criminal activity, we could perhaps have more empathy for the victims and more desire to shut it down.

See for yourself how ubiquitous scams are. Thousands of people report scams they've seen or experienced on AARP's scam-tracking map at www.aarp.org/scammap. Add your story to help others spot and avoid criminal scammers.

Week 4 – New Year's Resolution: No Nudes

If we could share just one New Year's Resolution for 2021 it might be this: don't send nude photos. While this might seem like a joke, it is very serious to victims of romance scams who have been extorted because they shared private photos with someone who turned out to be a scammer.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline has seen a sharp increase in calls from romance scam victims who have shared compromising photos. Scammers, who have been particularly active during the pandemic, develop virtual relationships with victims online and eventually ask for seductive photos. Once they have them, they then threaten to share the photos with the victim's personal and professional contacts unless the victim pays money. The fact that scammers can readily violate people's trust in such a personal way is a reminder that you can never fully trust someone you've never met in person.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at 1-877-908-3360 to report a scam or get help if you've fallen victim.



Submitted by
Marge Livingston
Secretary, RBBSC



As I write this article for the January issue of The Messenger, we are patiently waiting for cold winter temperatures and a good, solid snowfall. Maranacook Lake is not yet safe to ride on, so please wait and continue to stay safe. My December article mentioned that we were in our final stages of trail work, putting up the last directional signage. Since then we have had a bit of inclement weather, possible microbursts, which have brought us almost back to square one. As I sit here toasty-warm writing this message, the trail volunteers are out again clearing fallen trees and broken limbs off the trail. I have included a few pictures of our trails. We had an extra volunteer today, so here's to hoping good progress will occur over the next few times out. Earlier this week our volunteers found a multitude of treetops frozen onto the trail, making it much more difficult to remove. Our club volunteers are committed to keeping trails clear and in the best shape possible despite this year's challenges.

Regarding another important topic - the pandemic - and its affect on the snowmobiling sport. There are many, many restaurants along the trails that have either closed temporarily or in some cases permanently. Only time will tell which businesses will survive. We can make other arrangements to grub up, but the real issue is obtaining gas fill-ups. It's not hard to social distance while enjoying a nice ride, however gas stops are essential. If you are traveling at locations within Maine, make sure you are not relying on a gas supplier that is no longer in business.

We know there will be good times to enjoy out on the trails doing one of our favorite past times. Hope to see you riding soon!



READFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

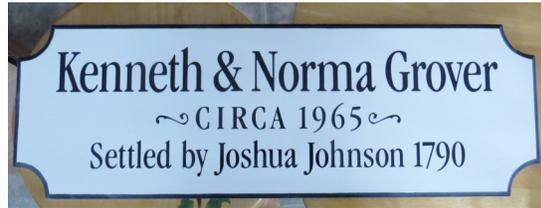


PHOTO CAPTION: Four of the eight house circa signs that were recently sold to homeowners. Another order will be placed in 2021. Anyone interested in knowing the history of their property and in purchasing a sign contact crossings4u@gmail.com.

SOME PACKARD FAMILY HISTORY

Joshua Packard and his sons Caleb, Joshua II, Lebbeus and Ralph were among the earliest to settle in Readfield, about 1780 atop Kents Hill. Some of the Packard men were known for their carpentry skills and several of the homes they built remain standing to this day, including three on P Ridge Road which was first known as Packard Ridge. Their's was the largest family on Kents Hill at one time, a fact that is largely unknown today unless one happens to be strolling through the old section of the Kents Hill Cemetery. By the way, the cemetery sits on original Packard land as does the Readfield United Methodist Church.

In another part of town, on South Road, the Packard name appears on the sign marking Packard Shores Road. That road and several 20th century houses were constructed on what used to be the 200 acre homestead of Fred Packard (1855-1935) and his father Samuel (1824-1898). They moved to the Enoch Smith farm about 1877, the same property that had been settled by Joshua Johnson about 1790.

Samuel Packard was born 1824 in Kents Hill village to Joshua Packard III (1793-1857) and his wife Harriet (1795-1850), the fourth of twelve children. Samuel graduated from Kents Hill School in 1839 and married Ruth (Libby) in 1848. At that time Samuel and his father Joshua III built a house (1595 Main St.) where Samuel and Ruth lived and their first five children were born. In 1855 their son Fred was born and Samuel sold their Main Street house. He moved his family to Lewiston then on to Windham where he worked as a teamster until returning to Kents Hill in 1876. At that time he bought a brick house on Kents Hill (1563 Main St.) from his sister Harriet. They stayed for only a year before moving to South Road where in 1880 Samuel, Ruth and their three sons were living in the same household. The men were farming a total of 300 acres on their own property plus the abutting farm. Combined, the land they were working included 110 acres tilled; 98 acres natural meadow; 98 acres pasture; and 101 acres of woodland.

Fred Packard married Amy (Wells) of Fayette in 1893 and they carried on the homestead after Samuel and Ruth died. Of Fred & Amy's three children only Nellie (1893-1959) lived to adulthood. In 1920 she bought her own house (59 South Road) and after Fred died Amy sold their homestead and lived with Nellie. The Packard homestead changed hands a few times before 1962 at which time Roy & Alice Mace bought and subdivided it. The original house burned many years ago.

Thanks to some homeowners in Kents Hill village and on South Road who have bought circa signs for their houses, you can identify where some (not all) of the Packard houses are located.

RHS is closed for the season but questions and inquiries for historical information are welcome at any time. Contact us via Email at readfieldhistorical@gmail.com or phone 377-2299. Visit RHS on Facebook where historical information and photos are added often.

By Dale Potter-Clark, RHS Secretary



THE READFIELD UNION MEETING HOUSE

22 Church Road ~ PO Box 451 Readfield, ME 03455
on the National Register of Historic Places since 1982

Submitted by Nancy Durgin

The Readfield Union Meeting House (RUMH) has several reasons to be thankful as we closed out 2020. We are looking forward to a "more normal" 2021.

THANK YOU!! Since we made an appeal for sponsorships to restore the clock and dials in July, there have been 42 generous responses and total donations of \$17,405. Added to this total is a recently awarded grant of \$9,000 from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and a yet-to-be received matching grant from Jack and Anita Smart. There are still many parts of the clock and dials remaining to be sponsored. See the options on our Facebook page. <https://facebook.com/readfield.union.meeting.house>

We are thankful to George Smith who recently featured the upcoming restoration of the Meeting House in his weekly column in the Kennebec Journal. Didn't see it? Click on this link: <https://www.centralmaine.com/2020/12/16/george-smith-history-lives-on-through-the-buildings-around-us>.

We are thankful to Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust for a \$5000 unrestricted grant. Several grants were given to Maine non-profit organizations that were not able to move forward on planned projects due to Covid-19.

So what does 2021 look like for us? Readfield Union Meeting House Company (RUMHCo) is launching a fundraising effort in advance of planned major restoration of the Union Meeting House. These pledges, we are looking for \$200,000, will leverage additional funding from charitable foundations. Pledge payments will also be partially matched by a challenge grant from Jack and Anita Smart of Hallowell. A recent press release by the Kennebec Journal outlined our goals. Work to be accomplished includes repairs and painting of exterior wood trim, restoration of the 1930 E. Howard Tower Clock and 8-ft diameter dials (this project is already in progress), structural repairs to the clock tower and roof timber framing, siding replacement on the clock tower and belfry, and construction and installation of a new 30-ft tall spire to replace the original spire which blew off in 1916. Additionally work is also in progress on the Vestry building next to the Meeting House. Won't you help us spread the word and sign up for a pledge? Call John Perry, Treasurer 685-3531, Jim Tukey, Board President 215-5180 or email unionmeetinghouse@gmail.com.

In closing, we, the RUMH Board, want to say thank you again to all who have helped with the restoration efforts to the Readfield Union Meeting House.

**Happy
New Year!**

Tel: 685-4064



Visa/Mastercard

KEN'S DRAG IN AUTO INC.
Rt. # 135, Readfield, Maine

Used Auto and Truck Parts • Auto Repair
Used Cars and Trucks • Buying Junk Cars

Ken Edgecomb

Mark Edgecomb



Kennebec Land Trust

Thank you for supporting land conservation!

President Kim Vandermeulen (R) and
Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

Dear KLT Members and Supporters,

Even with the challenges of 2020, there is reason to be hopeful for the year ahead.

This year more than ever, we have seen that time in the outdoors - in a city park, a hilltop, the deep woods, open fields, or boggy wetlands - is one of the best tonics for our souls and spirits. Our new edition of Take a Hike! and our website property list are your passports to 6,900 acres of conservation land close to home.

And we end the year with an announcement about our newest conservation property: fifty-five acres in East Winthrop which will be transferred to KLT on December 28.

The KLT Board of Directors and staff sends goodwill to all.

Upcoming Programs

Keep an eye out for the 2021 programming schedule. We are looking to host a combination of virtual and in-person events with limited attendance.

2021 KLT Ronald Joseph Summer Internship

We're seeking summer interns to work on trail maintenance and construction, land conservation projects, invasive plant control, educational programming, and general office work such as writing press releases and sending out mailings.

Happy New Year from Kim Vandermeulen, President, the KLT Board of Directors, Theresa, Jean-Luc, Marie and Tyler

SELECT BOARD



<u>Bruce Bourgoine:</u>	(207) 624-1977	bbourgoine@readfieldmaine.org
<u>Ralph Eno:</u>	(207) 685-3177	reno@readfieldmaine.org
<u>Dennis Price:</u>	(207) 577-4919	dprice@readfieldmaine.org
<u>Christine Sammons:</u>	(207) 685-0051	csammons@readfieldmaine.org
<u>Kathryn Mills Woodsum:</u>	(207) 685-9094	kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org



Town of Readfield

www.readfieldmaine.org

8 Old Kents Hill Road
Readfield ME 04355

Phone: 207-685-4939
Fax: 207-685-3420

Public Meetings and Communication:

We are returning to remote meetings exclusively. No in-person Board, Committee, or other group meetings will occur at the Town office.



- Those interested in attending, listening, or watching public meetings and proceedings remotely should look for web conference and teleconference links and instructions on meeting notices and agendas. **This information is required to be public so the public can be engaged.**
- Phone and email are still the best way to reach municipal staff and appointed and elected officials. Call the Town Office or visit the website for this information.



The Town Office is now open by appointment only - please call ahead to schedule an appointment (685-4939). Residents are requested to avoid conducting business in-person at the Town Office. Please call or email, or utilize our many [online services](#).

JANUARY 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7 6:30 Parks & Rec Workshop	8 Assessor in	9
10	11 6:30 Select Board	12	13 6:30 Planning Board	14 6:30 Budget Committee	15	16
17	18 -CLOSED- 	19	20	21	22 Assessor in	23
24 31	25 6:30 Library Book Group	26 6:30 Trails Committee	27 6:30 Planning Board	28 6:30 Budget Committee	29	30