

# **Readfield Messenger**

www.readfieldmaine.org



# **2022 Dog Registrations DUE NOW!!!**

The cost is \$6.00 is spayed/neutered and \$11.00 if unaltered.

## A \$25.00 per dog late fee starts on February 1st!

### Ways to register your dog:

- $\Rightarrow$  In person at the Town Office during regular business hours
- $\Rightarrow$  Online at www.readfieldmaine.org under online services Shuts down 02/01/22
- ⇒ By mail: Town of Readfield, 8 Old Kents Hill Road, Readfield, ME 04355
- $\Rightarrow$  Over the phone by calling 207-685-4939

Dogs 6 months & older are required to be registered in the town they live in by state law. Proof of rabies and spay/neuter (if applicable) are required to register

### Important Notice:

The Town of Readfield has been experiencing some issues with e-mails. If you have emailed town staff and have not received a response please call as we may not have received the email. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



The Town of Readfield will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2022 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



#### Hello Friends,

It is official - 2022 is here. With it comes some of our old challenges, but we move forward as we do each year with the hope that January brings some new focus, unity, and hope for the future. Here's to flipping the calendar.

I thought I might take the opportunity to do the same in this month's report.

#### Looking Back

Readfield, as a town, enjoyed unprecedented growth over the last year. Despite the pandemic, people moved to Readfield, renovated homes in Readfield, and built homes in Readfield. When we discuss making access to the beach free, building new trails, investing in our schools, and expanding our Fire and Library buildings, the payoff is this: Readfield is a great place and people want to live here.

The Select Board said goodbye to two members as Bruce Bourgoine and Chris Sammons wrapped up their terms. Their impact on the Board can be felt through the events and activities they helped start, as well as the decorum and respect they showed in their service. Thank you, both.

To that end, we welcomed Sean Keegan and Carol Doorenbas to the Board. It has been a pleasure to serve with them, and I look forward to working together for the best interests of Readfield.

Additionally in 2021, the Select Board began serious discussions about broadband internet access and received approval from the voters for more investment, the Church Rd. sidewalk project planning phase has officially begun to help keep pedestrians safe, and more recreation activities are being discussed as Readfield continues to grow.

We found ways to forge ahead, even in the face of unprecedented circumstances, and that is an amazing testament to our town.

#### Looking Ahead

What's past is prologue. We will continue into 2022 committed to finding broadband solutions that fit our town. We will continue finding ways for our town to be safe and responsible. We will continue finding ways to attract new businesses and support the ones that have always been here. That's what #ReadfieldTogether is all about.

This week, a Readfield friend called me to talk about our town. She wanted to know how she could go about helping create programs and events in town. I told her, the answer was simple...join a Readfield Board or Committee.

I would like to start the new year with the same invitation extended. Join a board or committee. Visit our website, click on the **Board and Committees** tab, and explore your options. Volunteering is a vital part of operating our town, and every board and committee has the same ultimate goal: How can we work to make our town better?

Together, we made it through 2021. We look to do the same in 2022!

Happy New Year, Readfield! Dennis Price Select Board Chair



<u>Carol Doorenbos:</u>	(207) 446-7535	cdoorenbos@readfieldmaine.org	
<u>Ralph Eno</u> :	(207) 685-3177	reno@readfieldmaine.org	
<u>Sean Keegan:</u>	(207) 446-8725	skeegan@readfieldmaine.org	
<u>Dennis Price</u> :	(207) 577-4919	dprice@readfieldmaine.org	
<u>Kathryn Mills Woodsum</u> :	(207) 685-9094	kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org	

# AGING FRIENDLY UPDATE





### Happy New Year!

The Age Friendly Committee has a small stipend available (grant funded) to support someone to assist the Age Friendly Committee with publicity efforts, followup with volunteers and recruit additional volunteers. In 2023, Readfield may have the opportunity to join the Neighbors Driving Neighbors Program in Mount Vernon, Fayette, Rome, Vienna and Belgrade but the ground work needs to be done beforehand.

This is very flexible work, can be done from home and requires about 4-5 hours a month. If interested, please call the Town Office at 685-4939.

# WINTER IS HERE & READFIELD'S SAND BUCKETS ARE READY!

Good news for all you folks needing a little assistance when icy sidewalks and steps try to keep you indoors. If you appreciate and need help getting sand, here is all you have to do: Call the Town Office at 685-4939, give them your name and address, and let them know you would like a bucket of sand. A volunteer will soon be at your door with the sand. If you want help spreading the sand, that will be done for you as well.

Last winter households were provided with this service, thanks to volunteers in our community and efforts of the Age-Friendly Committee of Readfield. We encourage you to call soon. Have a Happy Winter—Be Safe and Warm.

This message is from the Age-Friendly Committee of Readfield



The Readfield Recreation Association is looking for Saturday Referees for basketball; January 8 thru February 26!

This is a great opportunity for former players and/or others who know the game and would love to give back to the community.



Contact Tom Labrie at 207-240-3774 or <u>labriethomas@gmail.com</u> for more information

## **Board/Committee Openings -** Updated December 2021

Age Friendly Committee: Cemetery Committee: Cobbossee Watershed District Comprehensive Plan Committee Conservation Commission Local School Board Advisory Maranacook Outlet Dam Committee Planning Board Recreation Committee Road Committee Trails Committee 2 Vacancies (2024) 1 Vacancy (2022) 1 Alt Member (2024) 1 Vacancy (2022) 2 Alt Member (2022) 2 Vacancies (2023) 1 Alt Member (2023) 2 Alts (2022, 2023) 2 Members (2024) 3 Vacancies (all 2022) 2 Vacancies (2024), 1 Alt (2023)

Volunteer forms are available at the Town Office or online at www.readfieldmaine.org

If interested or for more information: 207-685-4939 or info@readfieldmaine.org

## **READFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

#### HOUSE CIRCA SIGNS STILL GOING STRONG

In October, 2015 we placed the first order for house circa signs, and we have researched more houses and sold more circa signs every year since then. This fall, six more were ordered, bringing the total to eighty-six. The latest signs are for both old and newer homes. Interestingly, the oldest is dated 1785 and the newest is 1985. Others of those six were built circa 1802, 1832, 1845 and 1921.

We order signs twice a year, the next round will be in the late spring of 2022. In fact, the first order for 2022 has come in already. FMI about how to learn the history of your house, with the purchase a circa sign, contact (207) 441-9184 or crossings4u@gmail.

#### NEW RHS EXECTUVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Greg Durgin**, and his wife Nancy, moved to town in 1976 where Greg taught at Maranacook Community High School for 36 years and since his retirement has continued to sub teach. Greg believes strongly in volunteering and giving back to the community which he has done as a Readfield Selectman, a member of the Trails and Conservation Committees and in other ways. RHS has been the beneficiary of his generous spirit and assistance over the past few years and we are grateful that he has agreed to join the Executive Committee.

**Melanie Lanctot** is a 4th generation "Readfieldite" inheriting the home her great-grandmother bought in 1914. She started her education at the one-room schoolhouse on Kents Hill before attending Readfield Elementary. After graduating from Kents Hill School she attended Elmira College in NY. She returned home after college to work as a data analyst for the ME Geological Survey and later for the State of ME as a program manager for the Department of Human Services' Cancer Registry and Office of Substance Abuse. Since retirement in 2011 Melanie has been active with the Fuller Center for Global Housing, became a ME Master Naturalist and an environmental activist. We know that Melanie's skills, energy, insights and love for Readfield history will add a great deal to RHS.

RHS will open by appointment for as long as weather and temperatures allow. Make an appointment, or if you have questions about any aspect of Readfield history, contact readfieldhistorical@gmail.com or (207) 377-2299.



Readfield Historical Society wishes all a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and New Year!



This house, built circa 1785 by Joshua & Mehitable (Alden) Packard on Kents Hill, is one of six in town that will soon be displaying a new house circa sign.

# **NEWS & NOTES FROM THE TRAILS**



Depending on your view and preference of what winter in Maine should be versus the reality of what we are experiencing so far, the town trails await. Using grippers on your boots or hiking shoes will help stop you from "slip sliding away" as the old Simon & Garfunkel song lyrics go if there is ice covering the trails. Skis and poles will send you gliding along our trail routes, and snowshoes will get you just about anywhere if you decide to go off trail. For you fat tire bike enthusiasts out there, may your clips, cleats, or whatever you use for pedals give quick release when

that corner comes up too fast! Tough Mainers never let the weather dictate or prohibit their enjoyment of experiencing a Maine winter. Enjoy it out there and stay safe!

The resurfacing project at the Fairgrounds location is about halfway completed with the work done in November / early December by OBP Trailworks LLC. Their crew did an excellent job of putting down a new 4 inch layer of stone and rolling it to help ensure a longer, more stable surface. The Trails Committee extends an appreciative "Thank You" to Town Manager Eric Dyer, Cushing Construction, the Readfield Conservation Commission, Age Friendly Committee (grant funds), as well as the student and staff volunteers from Maranacook and Kents Hill schools for their efforts to get this project on its way back in October.

The long anticipated opening of a trail at the Carlton Pond property is inching closer to reality due to a couple of work sessions that had a couple of volunteers with chain saws and others with pure grit and determination clearing the previously blazed trail on the west side of the property. A couple more work sessions in the spring should be enough to open the new trail.

December is FY 2022/23 budget time in Readfield and the Trails Committee has put together a budget, that along with committee and resident volunteer labor, provides for regular maintenance and improvement for our town trails. All town budget information including the Budget Committee meeting schedule is posted on the town website. As always, the Trails Committee welcomes input from residents and we are always looking for new committee members. Applications are available on line.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Durgin, Vice Chair Readfield Trails Committee





# **Readfield Union Meeting House**



The Readfield Union Meeting House (RUMH) Board of Directors extends a Happy New Year to all.

Thank you to those who chose to make end of the year donations to our non-profit. As mentioned before these donations are being matched by our benefactors Jack and Anita Smart with their \$50,000 donation.

You, our supporters, have also been very generous with donations to the various restoration projects that we held during this past year. We are anxiously awaiting bid proposals for the tower/spire restoration that are due on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Updates will be passed on to our community supporters in the next newletter that is due in late January or the beginning of February.

There has been, to date, outstanding support to raise funds to pre-pay for the printing of the upcoming book - *Standing Tall: A History of the Union Meeting House, Readfield, Maine* authored by Board Historian Marius B. Peladeau. More details on the book in the next newsletter.

The 2022 Membership Drive is just starting. Membership forms will be included in the next newsletter. The Membership Committee has set a goal of increasing memberships by 15%. Hope you will help spread the word- Support Readfield's historic Meeting House. Check out https://unionmeetinghouse.org/donate for membership levels.

Nancy Durgin VP RUMH



The Town of Readfield wants to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

## **Maranacook Food Pantry Holiday Update**

In the December Messenger, the Maranacook Food Pantry Committee included an article referencing the support the Maranacook Food Pantry received supplying Thanksgiving dinner baskets for our area families in need of some extra help. We listed all the area organizations that that stepped in while pointing out that numerous individuals and families also contribute fairly regularly either by donation of food items and / or by financial support. Our committee seeks to acknowledge each donation we receive via a personal thank you note. If, by some miscue on our part, we did not express our appreciation, please accept our heartfelt gratitude through this forum. Many times we find food donations left anonymously for us at the middle school or monetary donations sent to our account at the Superintendent's office. All donations go directly to enabling the pantry to continue its work every week.

The requests for holiday baskets for Christmas reached an all time high in December. Again we received help from Manchester Lions, Highbrow of Manchester, and the Augusta Food Pantry. Additionally in December, Root Fire Farm in Wayne, Farmer Kev's Organics in West Gardiner, Huhtamaki Manufacturing in Waterville, along with, again, anonymous individuals, made significant donations in support of our efforts for our holiday baskets.

It bears repeating that our committee could not continue our mission to support our local families without all the help we receive through our generous partners, the Maranacook Food Pantry Thursdays 3:30-4:30 PM Maranacook Middle School Lower Parking Lot FMI Call 685-4923

residents of Readfield, and our neighbors and friends from near and far, who help so much asking nothing in return.

The Maranacook Food Pantry Committee wishes everyone in Readfield and our neighboring towns a safe, healthy, and rewarding 2022.

Respectfully submitted for Maranacook Area Food Panty Committee, Greg Durgin



### **E-Alerts Subscription:**

An easy way to keep up-to-date with Town Happenings! The Town of Readfield website has a feature to subscribe to e-alerts. Go to www.readfieldmaine.org and click on E-Alerts to sign up. Your email will be treated as confidential information. Our privacy policy is available on our website



#### JANUARY 2022—LIBRARY NEWS and EVENTS

#### LIBRARY CLOSURES

" Saturday, January 1" in observance of New Year's Day

" Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr., Day

#### EMAIL ISSUES

Please note that we had issues with town email accounts on and off through the month of December. If you sent an email to librarian@readfieldmaine.org in the past month and have not heard back, please try again as it may not have been received.

#### GRANT RECEIVED from ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) for \$4,965!

Exciting news-the Readfield Community Library has received a New England Grant for \$4,965 from ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries)! These grant funds will be used for:

- \* patron workstations, technology, and renovations for the upstairs renovation project
- materials for outreach events and efforts
- ~ teen and children's author events/programming

#### January STORY WALK® at the Library—Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee



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The Library StoryWalk<sup>o</sup> is always open for all to enjoy! The walk begins on the trail behind the Library and goes about 34 mile to the Readfield Union Meeting House. The picture book featured for JANUARY is Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee by Chris Van Dusen, sponsored by Sue Halberstat. Please feel free to walk the StoryWalk® at any time that works for your family, regardless of whether the Library is open. And, be sure to stop by the Library during open hours to pick up the take-home craft/activity that goes along with the story.

#### ZOOM STORY TIME—Winter Pause

Please note that we will take a winter pause from our weekly Tuesday ZOOM STORY TIME for January, February, and March. We will go back to weekly, outdoor, in-person meetings beginning in April.

#### OUTDOOR WINTER CHILDREN'S EVENTS at the LIBRARY

" Tuesday, January 4th, 9:30-10:30am—Group Story Walk & Story Time outdoors behind the Library featuring Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee and other books, music, and activities. Dress for the weather!

" Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00-11:00am—Group Story Walk and Story Time outdoors behind the Library featuring Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee and other books, music, and activities. Cookies and cocoa as well! Dress for the weather!

" Tuesday, February 1", 9:30-10:30am—Group Story Walk & Story Time outdoors behind the Library featuring The Snow Dancer and other books, music, and activities. Dress for the weather!

#### Save the date—TAKE YOUR CHILD to the LIBRARY DAY—Saturday, February 5th

Stop by the library any time from 10am-4pm on Saturday February 5th to enjoy cookies, cocoa, and a "take-and-make" craft to bring home. Also, be sure to check out lots of books to read together!

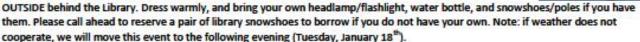
SPECIAL EVENT: At 3:00pm on Saturday February 5th, please join us for an OUTDOOR group Story Walk on the Library Trail to enjoy our February book The Snow Dancer along with other books, music, and activities.

#### NEW MAGAZINES at the LIBRARY

To add to our magazine collections, we have a few NEW magazines available for checkout at the Library. Perfect for winter reading! Sports Illustrated " National Geographic KIDS " The Atlantic (patron donation) " The Sun Magazine (patron donation) "

#### FULL MOON SNOWSHOE/HIKE—Monday, January 17th

Please join us for a community all-ages "Full Moon" evening snowshoe/hike on Monday, January 17" at 6:00pm! We will meet at the library parking lot and walk (at your own pace) on the Library Trail and continue to the Fairgrounds trails. After the walk, enjoy cocoa, treats, and a short winter reading with the group



#### ROBERT BURNS NIGHT (Revised!)

We are unable to host our annual Robert Burns Night & Dinner as in past years...however, we will offer a revised celebration of the Scottish poet's birthday this year! Please stop by OUTSIDE the Library on Monday, January 25th between 3-4pm for hot tea, mulled cider, Scottish treats, music (though NOT live bagpipes, unfortunately), and some poems!



#### Mandays 3pm-7pm Tuesdays Wednesdays Seturdays

Library Hours

LOan-4pm lpm-7pm 10am-4pm

#### **READING CHALLENGES with Beanstack**



-Beginning in 2022, the Readfield Community Library will start to offer reading challenges for ALL AGES (kids, teens, and adults, too!) through the Maine State Library and Beanstack. Beanstack is like a "Fitbit" for reading and helps you keep track of your books and reading time with an app. There will be challenges throughout the year that you can choose to participate in, or not.

-If you are interested in challenging yourself with reading in the 2022 New Year, please visit maine.beanstack.org to start a brand new Beanstack account on the Maine State Library's community site (you will choose "Readfield Community Library" as your library).

-If you'd like, you can register for the state's first challenge for all ages, "Winter Reading 2022: Read for a Better World," running from January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. The challenge is to read 240 minutes (4 hours) during the month of January, and if you complete the challenge, you will be entered into a raffle drawing with other Readfield patrons who complete the challenge. The prize will be winter-themed and will include a treat and books!

-Please connect with the Librarian if you have any trouble signing up for Beanstack or registering for the Winter Reading 2022 Challenge.

#### Upcoming LIBRARY BOOK GROUP MEETING (for Adults)

Our monthly Library Adult Book Group is open to all! The Book Group generally meets on the last Monday of the month at 6:30pm. For the winter months, we will meet by Zoom rather than in person. Our next book group meeting will be Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm by Zoom to discuss the nonfiction selection *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. To request a copy of the book and/or the Zoom ID, please call 207-685-4089 or email librarian@readfieldmaine.org.

#### BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU Information Table at the Library



The Better Business Bureau will host an information table at the Library on Wednesday, January 19, from 1-3pm and Wednesday, February 23, 2-4pm. Please stop by to get information and/or ask questions of Lisa Dube, who is the Maine Community Relations Specialist for BBB. Her role is to reach out to the community and help educate both businesses and community members by hosting informational tables at local events. Better Business Bureau is a non-profit public service organization, and all BBB programs and services are free to the public. Lisa will have free giveaways and resources for people if they are interested.

#### 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 snowshoe equipment.



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#### THANK YOUS

-Thanks to all who helped make our Annual Tree Lighting and Hanukkah Celebration extra special, with special thanks to Library Board of Trustees members for all the decorating help, preparations, and goodies! We hope you enjoy the tree, provided again this year by Mr. D's Christmas Trees in Readfield.

-We appreciate the efforts of the Kents Hill School students, Marianne and John Perry, and other volunteers and town staff to help clean up the Library Park behind the Library by raking leaves and caring for the perennial gardens.

-A local Girl Scout troop has been helping to change the Story Walk story each month and helping with other volunteer projects at the Library. Thanks!

#### "COMICS PLUS"-NEW FREE SERVICE for Digital Graphic Novels, Comics, and Manga!!



ComicsPlus provides access to a digital collection of over 20,000 comics and graphic novels, which are all available all the time, and there is no check out limit (no HOLD queues!). ComicsPlus works on the web and through an app available for Apple or Android.

If you would like to access this new digital collection, you will need your Readfield Community Library bar code number to sign up by following the instructions at this link: <u>https://www.maineinfonet.org/comicsplus/</u> Please contact the Librarian if you need help accessing the site, using the app, or if you forget your card number! We hope you enjoy this new, free digital collection!

#### Wrap-Up of TEEN "FALL INTO READING" CHALLENGE

Wow! Thirteen local teen readers read a combined 257 hours this fall! Great work! Each participant received a custom "Library" cookie designed by local business "Dany's Cakes." And, two lucky raffle winners (Emily and Grant) read their way to \$50 Amazon gift cards, a reading program incentive generously provided by the Friends of the Readfield Community Library. Thanks to our UMA fall intern, Marisha, for organizing the kickoff event and the teen reading challenge!



#### UPDATED COVID-related LIBRARY INFO

For the most updated information: https://readfieldlibrary.wordpress.com/covid-19-response-info/



Happy Holidays to all our friends and supporters,

We are very happy to report the winner of the Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club rifle raffle. A sincere congratulatory message to Mike Parks, a huge supporter of the snowmobile club for many years. The drawing was held at our regular club monthly meeting on December 9, 2021. Safe and successful shooting Mike.

We finally have a little snow and temperatures are beginning to drop. We are all anxiously anticipating some good sledding in our not-too-distant future.

The trails will be at their best after our club volunteers are able to create a good base, which simply said, means more snow. The grooming operation is really quite complex. During the fall trails are cleared and trimmed back, bridges are repaired and/or replaced. From time-to-time trails must be rerouted for a variety of reasons. If the amount of snow is sufficient to pack, trails are rolled, using a heavy handmade roller, behind one of the groomers. This helps to fill in ruts and make an even smooth trail. Once amply packed, the trails are then groomed using a drag, which brings snow in from the outer rims of the trail into the traveled area. The process of making the trails the best in the area is lengthy and requires a minimum of over two-hundred volunteer hours.

Special thank-you to our long time trailmaster, Peter Zarella. He knows our trails like the back of his hand and leads all the volunteers with expertise.



Happy and safe sledding! Marge Livingston, Secretary, Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club

# **Snowmobile Registration Price Increased October 18<sup>th</sup>**

- **\$56** Resident
- \$75 Non Resident 3 Day Registration\$100 Non Resident 10 Day Registration
- **\$120** Non Resident Full Season

For more information and for rules & regulations visit the Maine Department of Island Fisheries & Wildlife Website at: www.maine.gov/ifw



### **Town of Readfield**

www.readfieldmaine.org

8 Old Kents Hill Road Readfield ME 04355

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



# **Town Office Staff Contacts**

Town Manager, Eric Dyer: manager@readfieldmaine.org Finance Officer, Teresa Shaw: finance@readfieldmaine.org Town Clerk, Kristin Parks: clerk@readfieldmaine.org Code Officer, Chip Stephens: ceo@readfieldmaine.org Front Desk Clerk, Vacant: info@readfieldmaine.org Maintenance, Matthew Seems: maintenance@readfieldmaine.org Animal Control, Eric Johnson: 207-931-7684 Sexton, Ben Rodriguez: sexton@readfieldmaine.org Assessor, David Ledew: assessor@readfieldmaine.org

# **January 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year
2	3	4	5 Library Board of Trustees 6:30 PM	6	7 Assessor In (By Appointment)	8
9	10 Board of Assessors 6:00 PM Select Board 6:30 PM	11 Planning Board 6:30 PM Conservation Comm. 6:30 PM	12 Age Friendly 9:00 AM SW&R Comm 5:30 PM	13 Budget Comm 6:30 PM Appeals Board 7:00 PM	14	15
16	17 HOLIDAY MLK Jr Day Town Office Closed	18	19 Comprehensive Plan Com 6:00 PM	20	21 Assessor In (By Appointment)	22
23	24 Cemetery Comm10:00 AM	25 Planning Board 6:30 PM	26	27 Appeals Board 6:00 PM Budget Comm 6:30 PM	28	29
30	31 Select Board 6:30 PM	<b></b>	Jan. 31st - Last day to register dogs before late fee			