



Readfield Messenger

www.readfieldmaine.org



Town of Readfield Ongoing Email Issues

Please Use Alternate Communication Methods if unable to reach via email.

We apologize for the significant difficulty this email outage is causing. We are working diligently with our IT support team to resolve the issue. All town "@readfieldmaine.org" addresses are/were affected, and can in some cases send email but are not able to receive email. This includes town staff and elected and appointed officials.

Please use alternate means of communication (phone / fax / mail / in-person delivery) if you do not hear back from us via email in a timely manner.

We appreciate your patience and apologize for the inconvenience.



June 14, 2022 Town Meeting – State Primary Nomination Papers:

Available: Friday, February 25, 2022 at 7:30 AM

Due Date: Friday, April 15, 2022 by 3:30 PM

Select Board	2 – 3 Year Terms
RSU #38 Board	1 – 3 Year Term
Local School Board	1, 2, 3 Year Terms

Have you completed the
Application for Maine
Homestead Property Tax
Exemption?

Deadline is April 1, 2022

Form/Information on
Pages 7 & 8

New Staff Phone Numbers:

- Town Manager: 931-7680
- Maintenance: 931-7681
- Maintenance/Sexton: 931-7682
- Animal Control: 931-7684
- Code Enforcement: 931-7689

**WE'VE GOT A
NEW
PHONE NUMBER.**

**OFFICES CLOSED
FOR HOLIDAY**

The Town of Readfield will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents Day.

Select Board Corner

Hello Friends,

I hope this latest version of the Messenger finds you happy, healthy, and warm. With temperatures dipping below zero, it seems like a good time to remind you that different types of heating assistance are available in our community. Contact the Town of Readfield if you or someone you know may need help staying warm.

Growing up, I played Atari, had phones with cords attached, and watched *The Transformers* and *He-Man* cartoons. After Optimus Prime and Prince Adam saved the day, I watched American good guys, *G.I. Joe*. After the Joes defeated COBRA, the episode ended with a public service announcement about how, by working together and doing what's right, everyone could get along. The tagline was classic: "**Now you know. And knowing is half the battle.**" I took that to mean that "Knowledge was power."

The Town of Readfield goes to great lengths to share as much public information as possible. We have an expertly run YouTube channel, a Facebook page, an extensive website, public access live broadcast, and email alerts that let you customize your own content. This very printed publication is a way to inform folks that might not have access to email or Facebook. I know the work that it takes to create and distribute this information, and I know the wrath of Kristin Parks as she "gently" reminds me that her deadline to publish this newsletter is quickly approaching. We just want to do our best to share news about our town.

To that end...

Town Website: www.readfieldmaine.org Look over it. It's an incredible repository of information from minutes, presentations, online services...Subscribe to E-alerts for important emails. If you need it, it's probably here!

Town Facebook : www.facebook.com/townofreadfield As a general policy, we avoid posting any comments on Facebook, for obvious reasons. We'd much rather hear you or see you in person.

Town of Readfield is on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). Go to the YouTube page and search for TOWN OF READFIELD. Our page has the official Readfield seal for a profile picture. Subscribe to watch videos of old meetings and see for yourself the amount of video information that is available.

Contact information for most Boards, Committees, and Commissions has been updated and posted on the website. They are always looking for volunteers to serve as members and alternate members in order to do their work.

Check out the ways you can stay informed from the Town of Readfield. Give yourself the power. Knowing really is half the battle.

Dennis Price, Select Board Chair

Select Board Contacts

<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

Please help us welcome our new staff !

Anjelica will be greeting you when you stop by the Town Office as the new Front Desk/Collections Clerk.
Matt will be out and about around town as our new Maintenance Person.

Welcome to the Town of Readfield Team!



From the Code Officer (CEO)

It may sound a bit premature, but now that we are past a few months of “winter” and with a few to go, this is a good time to think about building projects and home improvements.

Consider the following:

- Building supplies and materials are slowly coming back to earth cost wise, not completely but trending down. This means that if you start planning now you can start sooner when the snow and ice are gone.
- Bring your plans and questions to the CEO office to discuss what’s needed with permits, they are cheap and necessary if you plan on spending over \$2000 for your project. We are not busy now and are ready to help get your plans ready for post-mud season.

Builders, excavators, surveyors, plumbers have all been in short supply due to COVID and the Real Estate boom. If you have plans you will be well served doing your research and due diligence before prime time (spring-summer) and before all those folks from away start looking and grabbing up those time slots. We saw a lot of land changing hands last year with plans of repair, rehab and new building in 2022.

I am here to help if you choose to be the early bird....

On another important subject, we are reviewing our local subsurface wastewater, septic, regulations to assure the clean lakes and streams we all enjoy year round.

Readfield has a long history of living with this water resource and there have been many Maine DEP and local regulations that were created to protect the shoreland areas for the future. Last year, we had a jump in failed septic systems, many of which were close to our lakes. This is not surprising for those long timers who remember all the summer lodging camps that surrounded many lake properties, Chase’s on Torsey and Mace’s on Maranacook to name only two. Since the 60s most of these camp types have been subdivided and are today individual vacation or full-time individual homes. Many have not routinely pumped their tanks every two years as suggested or they have not inspected their tanks and drain fields unless they pass ownership.

PLEASE know where your system is located, pump your tanks every 2 years, and ask your septic person to give you a quick evaluation of how the tank is functioning. There are septic plans for most properties on file here in town hall and online “post 1979” on the State DEP web site. Having your septic plan on hand can save you time and headache should your system have a backup or fail. Should you see ponding or mushy soil near your tank or field, OR if you have back up into your house, OR you just think you detect “that” smell outside your house, it then is time to act.

This all is critical in keeping our lakes clean for swimming and fishing, and many times a problem discovered early can save the owner thousands of dollars in replacement.

Thank you for help and here’s to talking to you about your building plans when you are ready.

Chip Stephens, CEO/LPI Readfield

AGING FRIENDLY UPDATE

Exciting news! The furniture funded by the AARP Challenge Grant has finally arrived after many months of delay. Both the Library and the Readfield Town Beach will benefit from this and provide welcoming spaces outdoors for the community to gather.

Important Note: Spread The Word

The Age Friendly Committee has a small stipend available (grant funded) to support someone to assist the Age Friendly Committee with publicity efforts, follow-up 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.

Please help us keep the work of the Age Friendly Committee going.

Sand Buckets

We are in the middle of winter. If you need a sand bucket delivered to your door, call the Town Office at 685-4939 and they will arrange to have a Handy Helper deliver a bucket.

**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



**Readfield's
VOLUNTEER
Handy Helpers**





READFIELD REC PRESENTS



WINTER FUN DAY



Sunday
Feb 13th

STARTS AT 12PM-2PM
Weather Permitting

Hot Cocoa &
Cookies Served!

Sledding & Snowman Building

Readfield Blizzard Busters
snowmobile club will offer rides back
to the top!

Join us On The Hill
at Maranacook High School
Readfield, ME 04355

Not an RSU Sponsored Event



Fraud Watch Network

Week 1 - ID Theft Protection Week

The first week of February is Identity Theft Awareness Week. It's a good time to think about a sobering reality: your personal information has most likely already been stolen. Many entities have our personal information – credit card and bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, and health-related information – and data breaches have exposed it. So, what can we do to protect ourselves after the fact?

Here are three steps to protecting yourself against identity fraud. 1) [Place a security freeze](#) on your credit accounts with the three big agencies so no one can open a new credit line in your name; 2) Establish online access to your financial accounts and monitor regularly (you can typically set up text alerts for activity on these accounts); 3) Use unique passwords for every online account; consider purchasing a password manager that creates complex passwords and stores them securely.

Week 2 - When Cupid is a Con

Whether they come via a dating app or somewhere else on the internet, online relationships are more common than ever. But beware, sometimes cupid is a con.

Here are some red flags that will help you spot a romance scam. The person might propose chatting offline or profess their feelings for you before getting to know you. They may offer to visit if you can help cover travel costs, then cancel those plans at the last minute.

Many victims don't see the crime coming because they weren't looking for love online to begin with and think "it just happened." This is a common ploy for con artists. Remember, anytime a love interest or new friend whom you've never seen in person asks for money, it's most likely a scam.

Week 3 - Crypto Scams

Cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Dogecoin are soaring in popularity these days. Indeed, these virtual currencies, which are not regulated, can lead to profit for some investors. But while many consumers are new to crypto, scammers aren't, and they are finding all sorts of ways to run successful scams.

Here are several schemes: Websites promising huge returns if you invest in crypto with the company. "Celebrities" offering investment opportunities in virtual currency via their social media accounts. Online love interests who either ask for financial help via cryptocurrency or seek to convince you to invest in crypto with them. And more recently, a call from a government agency or business warning that you must pay some alleged debt to avoid a bad outcome (such as arrest due to nonpayment of back taxes, your utilities being cut off, your Social Security number being suspended). In the latter, criminals direct targets to withdraw cash from their bank account and deposit it in a cryptocurrency ATM as a mean of paying the alleged debt.

Cryptocurrency is the wild west of investing and deceiving. Make sure you understand fully the risks associated with this currency before engaging in any way.

Week 4 - Job Search Scams:

The workforce has become a seller's market and millions of people are leaving their job for greener pastures. More money, working from home and more time off are just some of the perks. But if you're in the market for a career upgrade, make sure that new gig is legitimate before taking the leap.

Criminals flood job search sites with professional looking ads offering the sun and the moon, but there is often a catch.

Work-from-home scams can promise jobs with medical billing, data entry or starting an online business, but they may require paying something up front – which should always raise a red flag. Or they seek sensitive personal information, like your Social Security number, *before* you are hired.

There are genuine job opportunities out there. The challenge is knowing how to spot the real opportunities in a sea of empty — and costly — promises.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.



APPLICATION FOR MAINE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

36 M.R.S. §§ 681-689

Completed forms must be filed with your local assessor by April 1. Forms filed after April 1 of any year will apply to the subsequent year tax assessment.

SECTION 1: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- 1a. I am a permanent resident of the State of Maine.
- 1b. I have owned a homestead in Maine for the 12-month period ending April 1.
If you owned a homestead in another municipality in Maine within the past 12 months, enter the address (street number, street name, municipality): _____
- 1c. I declare the homestead in this municipality is my permanent residence and I am not claiming or receiving a homestead property tax exemption for any other property.
(Summer camps, vacation homes, and second residences do not qualify)

IF YOU HAVE NOT CHECKED ALL THREE BOXES, STOP HERE
You do not qualify for a Maine homestead property tax exemption

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 2a. Names of all property owners (names on your tax bill): _____
- 2b. Physical location of your homestead (i.e. 14 Maple St.): _____
Municipality: _____
Email: _____ Telephone #: _____
- 2c. Mailing Address, if different from above: _____
Municipality: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

SECTION 3: MAINE RESIDENCY IS BASED ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING (check all that apply):

- 3a. I file a Maine resident income tax return.
- 3b. The address on my driver's license is the same as the homestead location on line 2b.
- 3c. The legal residence on my resident fishing and/or hunting license is the same as the homestead location on line 2b.
- 3d. I pay motor vehicle excise tax in this municipality.
- 3e. I am a registered voter in this municipality.

(If you did not check any boxes, please attach an explanation and evidence that shows your residency.)

I hereby declare, aware of penalties for perjury, that the answers to the above are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct and complete. A person who knowingly files false information for the purpose of obtaining a homestead property tax exemption is guilty of a criminal offense.

Signature of Homestead Owner(s) _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 1. Check the appropriate box related to each question. You must check all three boxes to qualify for the Maine homestead property tax exemption. If you have moved during the year and owned a homestead in Maine prior to your move, enter the address of the homestead you moved from on line 1b. Your ownership of a homestead must have been continuous for the 12-month period ending on April 1. If you did not check all boxes in this section, you do not qualify for the homestead property tax exemption. A person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who is permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base in this state is deemed to be a permanent Maine resident. A person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States does not include a member of the National Guard or the Reserves.

SECTION 2. Enter your full name(s) as shown on your property tax bill, the physical location of your home, your telephone number, email address, and your mailing address, if different than the physical location.

SECTION 3. This section gives the local assessor information which may be used to determine if you qualify and should support your answers to the questions in SECTION 1. Please check the appropriate box for each of the applicable statements in this section.

At least one of the owners of the homestead must sign this document. Please file the application with your local municipal assessor. If, for any reason, you are denied exemption by the assessor, you may appeal the assessor's decision under the abatement statute, 36 M.R.S. § 841.

DEFINITIONS

Homestead. "Homestead" means residential real property owned by an individual or individuals and occupied by those individuals as their permanent residence. Residential real property held in a revocable living trust for a beneficiary who occupies the property as his or her permanent residence also qualifies as a homestead. A resident homeowner who is subject to foreclosure and subsequently purchases the home back from the municipality is considered to have no interruption in homeownership for purposes of this exemption.

Municipality. "Municipality" means any city, town, plantation, or that portion of a county in the unorganized territory.

Permanent residence. "Permanent residence" means that place where an individual has a true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment to which the individual, whenever absent, has the intention of returning. An individual may have only one permanent residence at a time and, once a permanent residence is established, that residence is presumed to continue until circumstances indicate otherwise.

Permanent resident. "Permanent resident" means an individual who has established a permanent residence.

A cooperative housing corporation may apply for a homestead exemption to be applied against the valuation of property of the corporation that is occupied by qualifying shareholders. To qualify, the corporation must complete an Application for Maine Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Cooperative Housing Corporations.



**Application
deadline is
April 1st !**

Revised 7/2020

The RED BARN Fundraiser

To benefit the

Maranacook Area Food Pantry

2/15/22, 3 - 7pm

256 State Street, Augusta



Maranacook Area Food Pantry receives 50% of proceeds

Benefit Menu on Reverse of this Flyer

Call ahead, Prepay, and Choose Pick Up time:

(207) 480-1023

Order Ahead On line

@ <https://www.theredbarnmaine.org/>

50/50 Raffle!

Maranacook Food Pantry
Thursdays 3:30-4:30 PM ~ FMI Call 685-4923



To all our friends and supporters,

It must be winter; we have snow. Of course, we always wish for more, but we have been blessed with a start. Recently club volunteer groomers spent a solid two days out preparing the trails for our enjoyment. A hearty thank-you to the trail crew. The lake finally appears sufficiently frozen in most areas and the sounds of snowmobiles can be heard buzzing up and down the lake. Maybe a stop at the Weathervane will be included in your day out. Yes - winter is here, and we have some happy folks. Please remember to stay on the marked trails. Riding on private property trails is not a guarantee and can be revoked very easily, if our landowners are not treated as our hosts. Remember we are invited guests.



The Club currently has 220 Facebook followers and under 30 family memberships. FYI - Club news and monthly meeting notices are posted regularly on Facebook. Please consider following Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club or joining the club. Family membership is an annual fee of \$30.00 and can be sent to RBBSC, PO Box 62, Readfield, ME 04355. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy and safe sledding!

Marge Livingston, Secretary, Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club

The Town of Readfield is now seeking volunteer members for the following committees:

- * Age Friendly Committee: 2 Members (2023 & 2024)
- * Cemetery Committee: 1 Member (2022)
- * Cobbossee Watershed District: 1 Alt. Member (2024)
- * Comprehensive Plan Committee: 1 Member (2022)
- * Conservation Commission: 1 Member (2023), 1 Alt. members 2024)
- * Heritage Days Committee: Multiple Positions Available
- * Local School Board Advisory: 2 members (2023 & 2024)
- * Maranacook Outlet Dam Committee: 1 Alt. member (2023)
- * Planning Board: 3 Alt. members (2022, 2023 & 2026)
- * Recreation Committee: 2 Members (2024)
- * Road Committee: 1 Members (2022)
- * Trails Committee: 4 members (1-2022, 3-2024), 1 Alt. member (2023)

If you are interested in joining any of the above committees please complete the Appointment Application on our Web Site or stop by the Town Office.

**FMI 207-685-4939 or
info@readfieldmaine.org**

**BE THE
CHANGE**
VOLUNTEER &
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE





RSU 38 Maranacook Adult Ed News

Lots of new classes starting soon!!

HiSET/Diploma Classes Ongoing Year-round

Class Name	Start Date
Winter Survival Skills Workshop	02/12/2022
Gentle Yoga for Vitality & Resilience	02/21/2022
Martial Arts for Teens and Adults	03/07/2022
Martial Arts for Youth & Teens	03/07/2022
Flat Felting Beginning & Intermediate (March Class)	03/08/2022
Beginner Metalsmithing: Silver Ring	03/10/2022
Literacy Volunteer Tutor Training	03/15/2022
Map & Compass Level 1	03/16/2022
Coastal Navigation Level 1	04/05/2022
Ukulele for Beginners	Ongoing
Cooking With BoomerTECH Adventures	Online-Start anytime
Create & Deliver Online Zoom Courses	Online-Start anytime
Digital Tools for the Beginning Memoir Writer	Online-Start anytime
Organize & Edit Images with Your iPhone	Online-Start anytime
Hidden Gems Lurking in Your iPhone and iPad	Online-Start anytime
Introduction to iPhone Basics	Online-Start anytime
Introduction to Mac Basics	Online-Start anytime
Introduction to Zoom Basics	Online-Start anytime
Take Fabulous Photos of Flora and Fauna	Online-Start anytime
Taking Awesome Pictures With Your iPhone/iPad	Online-Start anytime

To register, or for more details and to view all classes, go to:

<http://maranacook.maineadulted.org>

Or call the Adult Ed office at 685-4923 x1065 for more info

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

A Caring School Community Dedicated To Excellence

RSU #38 – FY23 Budget Workshops Schedule Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- February 2*** Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop – School Budgets
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81719553103>
- Elementary Schools
 - Middle School
 - High School
- February 16** Budget Workshop
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82974917237>
- Special Education
 - English Language Learners (ELLs)
 - Gifted & Talented
 - Technology
- March 2*** Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82699219498>
- Operations & Maintenance, including Bond
 - COVID grants overviews
- March 9** Budget Workshop
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84889377395>
- Co-and Extra-Curricular
 - Transportation
 - Miscellaneous Cost Centers/Accounts (Adult Educ., Food Service, Health Center, Professional Development/Assessment/ Curriculum, Systems Admin., Debt Service)
- March 16** Budget Workshop – Annual Report from Auditor Ron Smith; Joint meeting with local select boards re: draft FY23 budget; budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86950503874>
- March 23** *Tentative meeting (if needed)* – Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85736109509>
- April 6*** Regular Business Meeting and Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81953176745>
- April 13** Workshop Meeting – vote on Budget (2nd week of April)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89887551961>
- May 18** Annual Budget Meeting, Middle School Gymnasium, 7:00 p.m.
- June 14** **Budget Validation Referendum at individual town polling locations**



*Regular Business Meeting in addition to budget workshop

Budget documents are available by visiting <https://www.maranacook.org/page/fy-23-budget-documents>



RSU #38
Manchester ~ Mount Vernon ~ Readfield ~ Wayne
FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR
PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

RSU #38 is seeking all Pre-K and Kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year.

Please call your local elementary school to add your name to the list for further information. Town of Wayne Pre-K parents please call Readfield Elementary School.

- Manchester Elementary – 622-2949
- Mt. Vernon Elementary – 293-2261
- Readfield Elementary – 685-4406
- Wayne Elementary – 685-3634 (Pre-K parents please call Readfield Elem.)

Age requirements by October 15, 2022:

Pre-K – 4-years old

Kindergarten – 5-years old

Solid Waste & Recycling

Transfer Station News



We are working towards reopening the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station by May 1st, 2022. We will use a different inside space that will be well organized and lit. Several volunteers are undertaking this move alongside town employees under the guidance of Transfer Station Manager Karen Peterson.

SWRC (Solid Waste & Recycling Committee) Updates:

This committee has representatives from all three partner towns: Fayette, Readfield and Wayne. We meet four times each year to discuss operations, finances, capital needs, and suggested improvements. Currently we are looking into needed long-term capital improvements, the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023 budget, implementing the electronic payment system, this summer's Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, continuing promotion of our food composting program, and restarting the Swap Shop.

As daylight hours lengthen, please continue to take extra care while at the Transfer Station in the afternoon hours. Be mindful of folks walking to the bins as well as being careful where you walking, especially when leaving compost, brush or appliances.

General Operation Practices

All vehicles must stop at the Attendant Booth to speak with an employee about what materials you are bringing in, to receive directions on where to dispose of these materials, and to pay any required fee.

Please leave when you are finished to avoid making the space congested.

Transfer Station Fall/Winter/Spring Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
11 AM to 6PM

Saturday
8AM to 4PM

Change of Operation Practices due to Covid-19

We will continue to operate meeting standards from the Maine government including the following practices:

- Unvaccinated Staff and residents are required to wear a face covering while at the Transfer Station.

**WASTE LESS
SAVE MORE**



**RECYCLE
COMPOST**

Readfield Solid Waste and Recycling Committee



New from the Broadband Committee



Town Meeting Questions on Broadband

On November 2nd voters in Readfield spoke loud and clear by approving three articles concerning bringing Internet service to all locations in our town. There were 1015 residents who voted out of approximately 2300 registered voters. Of those who filled in a choice the results ranged from 70% to 78% approval. These votes have provided a clear direction to the Select Board and Broadband Committee. Both groups are committed to a prompt follow-through by assessing the available solutions and choosing the best and most equitable one to be presented at a Town Meeting in 2022.

News From the Broadband Committee

The committee met on January 26th and discussed many topics. Updates were provided on grant and funding opportunities, vendor contacts, legislative actions and news from the WKLCBA.

The committee discussed the proposals received on January 17th from three companies: Spectrum, Axiom and Matrix. There is a lot of detail to be considered and the five towns who contracted for the bids are awaiting a bid comparison report from our consultant, Casco Bay Advisors, which is due on January 27th. We will then be able to have in-depth discussions about which, if any, of these proposals would meet the needs of our town. We also received a separate proposal from Redzone, a fixed wireless company, who is proposing a 5G low-band network that is advertised to reach all addresses in town. The WKLCBA towns have each contracted with Redzone for a detailed topographical mapping study that should be complete by mid to late February. At that time all of our options will be available and ready for discussion and possible negotiation.

The committee requested that the Town Manager contact Charter/Spectrum to discuss our expired franchise agreement, something that was put on hold while we awaited the results of the RFP.

The committee is meeting next on February 16th and again on March 16th, 2022. We will be discussing the results of the RFP issued by the WKLCBA and what direction to recommend we proceed in. All meetings are public and will be held in person at the Town Office along with remote access. Look for links on the town website and for email alerts if you have signed up for them. Signup for email alerts is available on the town website. We publish monthly updates. www.readfieldmaine.org

WKLCBA Information

Readfield is a member of the Western Kennebec Lakes Community Broadband Association along with five other towns: Fayette, Leeds, Mt. Vernon, Vienna, and Wayne. We are working together to find solutions for the affordable delivery of high speed, reliable broadband internet access to all locations in our towns that have electric service. Please see their website to find the studies we have completed, the RFP (Request For Proposals) just issued, and many articles pertinent to this effort. www.wklcba.org

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

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE TRAILS

Hello trail enthusiasts,

Today I would like to briefly talk about winter trail etiquette. For those of you with access to snowshoes or skis it is preferred that you use them on snow covered trails at least until there is a smooth hard-packed surface. Even with small amounts of snow accumulation we would like to avoid creating an uneven, post-holed trail which is what is created from walking in fresh or compressible snow with just boots or ice grippers. One place you can get snowshoes is by checking them out from the Readfield Community Library. However, if you do not have access to such equipment please continue to get outside and enjoy our trails.

In addition please make sure to collect your dog's poop or at least take a stick and flick them off the trail into the woods.

Lastly the Trails Committee is following the efforts of Readfield's Recreation Board to create additional playing fields at the Fairgrounds. This may require some trail alterations or re-locations, as well as temporary trail closings when and if construction occurs. The town boards and committees will do their best to minimize disturbances. The public will have opportunities to comment on designs as the process moves forward.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for trail work or would consider joining the Readfield Trails Committee.

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.

Dog owners please note: Dogs are required to be on leash or under voice control on all town properties including our trails.

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

Welcome to February and our winter wonderland. Hope all are healthy and somewhat warm at home.

As the snow falls and the ice freezes each night its important to remember some simple ways to avoid accidents and injury.



DO clear snow from entrances and spread sand (available free at the transfer station).

DO NOT over do the lifting or moving of heavy snow and ice, GET HELP... its cheaper and less painful than injuring yourself and ending up at the doctor.

DO keep heating and ventilation vents cleared of snow, Carbon Monoxide backing into your home is not a healthy option.

DO NOT run generators, cars, or any engine in your garage or near vents, again Carbon monoxide is bad!

DO keep an eye on your elderly and ill neighbors, there are locals who are challenged and are without heat and electricity, it is not nose to care and check on them.

DO NOT hesitate to give or ask for help if you or your neighbor need help.

All this seems basic and not need be said, it does, if we all care we can save suffering and stay safe... that is a good thing. READFIELD CARES.

As to COVID, it is not gone but it is getting better. Keep safe:

If you are older, compromised or are just worried wear a mask. Wear it when you go out shopping or to anyplace there are people you do not know. BUT if you are outside walking, working or just getting out, the mask is not critical if you maintain space. The fresh air and less stress outweigh the mask necessity. And by the way if you are alone driving in your car, the mask does not accomplish much, common sense.

The COVID 19 and its cousins Delta and Omicron, are on the decline and things are looking promising for the near term. Don't stress, be safe, be smart and when the television news is driving you to stress out, turn it off.

Enjoy the snow, it is short lived, and soon it will be mud season with the promise of warmer and greener times. Let's survive and thrive Readfield.

READFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Readfield Historical Society 2021 in Review by Bob Harris, president

As we begin a new year, I would like to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. An organization such as the Readfield Historical Society is successful because of its membership, a strong supportive volunteer base, a strong executive board, and fundraising. We are most fortunate to be operating with all of these assets.

Last spring the Executive Committee voted to replace the twenty-two deteriorating windows in our building. A fundraising letter was sent out and we had an overwhelming response from our membership. Installation was done at no cost by the volunteerism of Dave Adelson, Greg Durgin, Bill Adams, Charles Woodman and my wife Jeanne. We also painted and repaired the stairwell and a small upstairs room that now has a Boy and Girl Scout display and a new grange display. Our talented member, Alan Hanson, repaired our broken chairlift.

Our consummate Historian, Dale Potter-Clark, resumed the History Walks in May and June making it a total of 58 since their inception. Dale also published a new book, researched and sold several circa signs, and created seven historical markers.

On August 13th we kicked off the Heritage Days weekend with a very enjoyable Wine & Cheese evening. The following day we sponsored an oxen pull event and served refreshments at the Fairgrounds. The event was paid for with a grant from the Maine Arts Commission that was written by Jerry Bley. Six historical markers were also dedicated that day at the library, the Union Meeting House, and the Fairgrounds. RHS also participated at the Veteran's Day celebration in November.

Although we were open by appointment only last summer, we had some very interesting visitors. Charlotte Killam stopped by and donated her grandmother's wedding gown. Maria Sanchez and her brother Maximo shared information about their 5th great grandfather, Maj. John Reed, whom Readfield was named for.

I would like to thank Chris Dumaine and Nicole Danielson for their years of service and dedication on our Executive Committee. Your contributions are much appreciated and you will be missed. I would like to welcome Greg Durgin and Melanie Lanctot to our EC. Their energy, unique talents, and perspectives will be valuable resources.

I want to offer my sincerest gratitude to the Executive Committee, Evelyn Potter, the volunteers, and the membership. You are the Readfield Historical Society and you are what make it successful.

As of now we are planning on a normal summer 2022 schedule RHS. If you are interested in being a docent or volunteering for a project, please contact us at 377-2299 or readfieldhistorical@gmail.com. Visit us on Facebook to see posts of a historical nature and updates from our organization.



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

PHOTO CAPTION: Bob Harris giving a tour of the RHS museum to some Readfield 3rd graders before the pandemic.



Readfield Union Meeting House

Standing Tall: A History of the Union Meeting House, Readfield, Maine is going to press! The Board of Directors authorized publishing 250 copies of the book, authored by Marius B. Peladeau, Board Historian. The book could be available to purchase as early as the end of February. The book price will be \$17.50 with a shipping & handling cost of \$5.00 per book. A book order form will be included in the next newsletter due out this month or by writing a check payable to RUMH Co. with a memo Book Project to: P.O.Box 451, Readfield, ME 04355. Please remember this is a limited edition of 250 books – order today.

The Building Committee has not yet received a bid yet from Preservation Timber Framing, (PTF) for the tower/spire project. They have asked for a 3 week extension on getting their bid to us. We are looking for two bids; one with and one without the spire. PTF and the Building Committee both understand the significant savings in staging, etc. with the spire included. We will keep everyone informed as new developments occur.

The Events Committee (only 2 of us and we're looking for volunteers) is in the planning stage for concerts, lectures, craft show, etc. all to take place this summer. If you are available to help out at some of the events, please call Nancy Durgin- 685-4481.

Yes, it's that time of the year when we ask for membership renewals. There will be a form in the upcoming newsletter that you can mail payment to RUMH, P.O.Box 451, or you can go online to: Readfield Union Meeting House. Under Support Us, click on Membership. There are several levels of membership which you can view on the website. If you are not a member yet, please consider joining our non-profit. Not every community can boast that they have a historical building that is on the National Register of Historical Places.

Submitted by, Nancy Durgin



LENDING A
HELPING HAND

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MT. VERNON FOOD BANK

As 2021 has come to an end, The First Baptist Church Mt. Vernon Food Bank volunteers 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 always been very generous, caring and thoughtful in helping us support those in our community who are in need and it is greatly appreciated.

The Mt. Vernon Food Bank is located at the First Baptist Church at 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon. It is open on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30. Because of COVID, we continue to adapt to changing conditions. We serve the communities of Mount Vernon, Readfield, Fayette, and Vienna. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141 or call Bob Peterson at 685-7292 any other time.

*Thank you,
First Baptist Church Mt.
Vernon Food Bank Volunteers*

**Food donations can be
dropped off at the
Readfield Town office**

*Thank you!
You make a difference.*



FEBRUARY 2022—LIBRARY NEWS and EVENTS

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

LIBRARY CLOSURES

~ Monday, February 21st in observance of President's Day

EMAIL ISSUES

Please note that we have continued to have issues with town email accounts on and off through January. If you sent an email to librarian@readfieldmaine.org recently and have not heard back, please try again as it may not have been received.

February STORY WALK® at the Library—*The Snow Dancer*



The Library StoryWalk® is always open for all to enjoy! The walk begins on the trail behind the Library and goes about ¼ mile to the Readfield Union Meeting House. **The picture book featured for February is *The Snow Dancer* by Addie Boswell, sponsored by the Small/Bell Family.** 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 that goes along with the story.

OUTDOOR WINTER CHILDREN'S EVENTS at the LIBRARY

~ Tuesday, February 1st, 9:30-10:15am—Group Story Walk & Story Time outdoors behind the Library featuring *The Snow Dancer* and other books, music, and activities. Dress for the weather!

~ Saturday, February 5th, 3:00-3:45pm—Group Story Walk & Story Time outdoors behind the Library featuring *The Snow Dancer* and other books, music, and activities. **Cookies and cocoa as well!** Dress for the weather!

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.

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.



FULL MOON SNOWSHOE/HIKE—Wednesday, February 16th



Please join us for a community all-ages "Full Moon" evening snowshoe/hike on **Wednesday, February 16th 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 OUTSIDE behind the Library. Dress warmly, and bring your own headlamp/flashlight, water bottle, and snowshoes/poles if you have them. Please call ahead to reserve a pair of library snowshoes to borrow if you do not have your own. Note: if weather does not cooperate, we will try to reschedule.

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, February 28th at 6:30pm** by Zoom to discuss the fiction selection ***The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See**. 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



Better Business Bureau will host an info table at the Library on **Wednesday, February 23, from 2-4pm**. Please stop by to get information and/or ask questions of Lisa Dube, the Maine Community Relations Specialist for BBB. Her role is to reach out to the community and help educate businesses and community members by hosting info 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.



ROBERT BURNS NIGHT

Thanks to the small but hardy group that braved the cold to celebrate Scottish poet Robert Burns' birthday last month! We enjoyed mulled cider, Scottish treats, music, and some poems!

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BOOKS/READING & ENTER READING CHALLENGES with Beanstack



-Thanks to all who participated in and completed our first Beanstack Reading Challenge, "Winter Reading 2022: Read for a Better World," by reading at least 240 minutes in January. Participants included **8 adults, 4 teens, and 1 child**. All who completed the challenge were entered into a raffle for a winter-themed prize including a treat and books! Congrats to the lucky winner!

-Stay tuned for future reading challenges!

-Did you know you can use the Beanstack app to keep track of your books and reading, even if you don't choose to participate in reading challenges? Go to maine.beanstack.org at any time to sign up.

"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: <https://www.maineinonet.org/comicsplus/>

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!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

Visit our website to see the newest books, movies, and audio added to the collection!

<https://readfieldlibrary.wordpress.com/new-items/>

UPDATED COVID-related LIBRARY INFO

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

BOOK REVIEW by Barbara D. Bourgoine

Barbara is a local children's book author, former reading teacher and literacy coach, and lover of children's literature!

PICTURE BOOKS AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS!

Imagine my surprise at discovering a brand new book reminiscent of my childhood favorites like *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*. On the fireplace shelf in the room for juvenile literature, among the Kennebec Valley Book Award winners, is *One Little Bag: An Amazing Journey* by Henry Cole. I knew this author to also be a talented pen and ink illustrator, but did not know he was a forester and science teacher. How fitting for him to create this imaginary story with no words, based on his own experience.

The story starts well before the title page, so slow down and take in the details! Although the book takes you back to a day when general stores and paper bags were part of everyday life, Cole incorporates contemporary ideas that challenge the gender and racial stereotypes of the past. The paper bag takes on a life of its own, used and reused as the needs of the characters change, reminding me of *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. Warning: the ending may make you cry! Think about sharing this book with a young person, or even an old person. This gem is too good to remain on the shelf!



**READFIELD REC
FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**NOT AN RSU
SPONSORED EVENT**

YOUTH ICE FISHING DERBY



ON MARANACOOK LAKE

**SATURDAY
MARCH 5TH 2022
6:30AM - 3:00PM**

\$5 TICKETS - 1 FISH PER TICKET
Weigh-in Stations: Readfield Beach
Readfield Public boat launch

WIN PRIZES!!
1ST, 2ND, 3RD BIGGEST FISH
PRIZE FOR SMALLEST FISH
RAFFLED DOOR PRIZES

FIND US ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENT DETAILS
READFIELD RECREATION ASSOCIATION



Manchester Lions Club

Baked Beans & Hot Dog or Lasagna

TAKE OUT

For More Info Call:

Lion Deb 207-441-9906

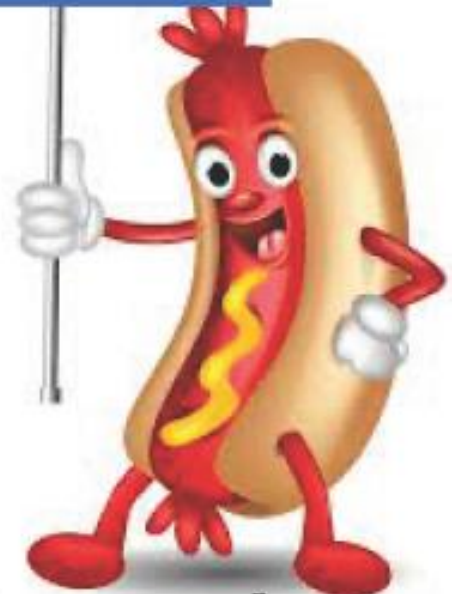
When: Feb 26 from 4pm to 6pm

Where: Manchester Lions Club

All meals served
with a yeast roll
and dessert

Grab your meal at the
Lions Drive-Thru!
Limited Delivery
available for pre-
registrations at an
additional charge

\$12



Soda and Water Available for purchase

Baked Beans & Hot Dog _____ @ \$12 = Total \$ _____

Lasagna Dinner _____ @ \$12 = Total \$ _____

Mail Checks Payable to: Manchester Lions Club, PO Box 1, Manchester, ME 04351

For Delivery Please Indicate Address: _____

Delivery Confirmed by: Lion _____

BRICKETT BENEFIT ICE FISHING DERBY



MARANACOOK LAKE - FEBRUARY 19TH, 2022
5:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

TO BENEFIT JUSTIN BRICKETT

\$20 ENTRY FEE

MAINE FREE FISHING WEEKEND!
PRIZES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN!

1ST PLACE WINS





Town Office Staff Contacts

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www.readfieldmaine.org

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Readfield ME 04355

Phone: 207-685-4939

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 Animal Control, Eric Johnson: 207-931-7684
 Sexton, Ben Rodriguez: sexton@readfieldmaine.org
 Assessor, David Ledew: assessor@readfieldmaine.org

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
 ♥ day ♥

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31 Last day to register dogs before late fee	1 \$25.00 Late Fee starts for dog registrations	2 Library Board of Trustees 6:30 PM 	3 Board of Appeals 6:00 PM Budget Committee 6:30 PM	4 Assessor In (By Appointment)	5
6	7	8 Planning Board 6:30 PM Conservation Comm. 6:30 PM	9 Age Friendly Committee 9:00 AM Solid Waste & Recycling Comm. 5:30 PM	10	11	12
13 Winter Fun Day 	14 Valentines Day 	15 Select Board 6:30 PM	16 Comprehensive Plan Comm 6:00 PM Broadband Committee 6:30 PM	17	18 Assessor In (By Appointment)	19
20	21 HOLIDAY Presidents Day Town Office Closed	22 Planning Board 6:30 PM March Messenger Articles Due	23 Trails Committee 6:30 PM	24	25 Nomination Papers Available	26
27	28 Cemetery Committee 10:00 AM Select Board 6:30 PM					