



# Readfield Messenger



Volume 20 Issue 02

[www.readfieldmaine.org](http://www.readfieldmaine.org)

## June 13, 2023 Town Meeting

### Nomination Papers:

**Available: Thursday, February 23, 2023**

Due Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 by 3:30 PM

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

## 2023-2024 Upcoming Budget & Warrant Meetings for February:

*All meetings start at 6:30 PM and are open to the public*

- |                      |                                                                                                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 02/01/2023 | Joint Select Board & Budget Committee Meeting:<br>Department II & Capital Investment Plan Review |
| Monday 02/13/2023    | Select Board Meeting: Second Draft Budget                                                        |
| Wednesday 02/15/2023 | Budget Committee Meeting: Department III                                                         |



More information can be found online at the link below:

<https://www.readfieldmaine.org/budget-information/pages/2023-24-budget-information>

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# CLOSED

## PRESIDENTS' DAY

### MONDAY

★ ★ ★ ★

February, 20, 2023  
Town Office & Library

Dog Registrations are now **PAST DUE!** Please stop in if you have not registered your dog for 2023



Reminder that the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Property  
Taxes are due  
February 24, 2023



# Select Board Corner

Hello from the Select Board,

It's February which brings snow, sleet, candy, and a week vacation.

It also brings us to "Budget Season" in Readfield.

The 23/24 budget is being prepared and each town department, along with the Town Manager and Budget Committee, are all submitting their budgets.

The best way for you to stay involved with this process is visit our website - [readfieldmaine.org](http://readfieldmaine.org) - and under BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, click on the Budget Committee link. Explore, take a look around, and familiarize yourself with the timeline. There are meetings happening where you can have input and feedback about budget items. Once we get to the end of the process, it's too late to have that say, and we don't want that to happen.

A question I often hear is, "How can we get more feedback from people in town?"

Whether it's the Comprehensive Plan Survey (Have you taken it?) or warrant and voting information, the town expends incredible resources to engage and educate our residents about everything that we do. We employ direct mail items, a comprehensive website and YouTube presence, and even this very publication in order to give the public information about the process of running a town. We can't make everyone in town participate or use their voice, but what we can do is distribute the materials that support each decision that is made.

We hope you will take part in your town and fill out the survey (available at our website) and familiarize yourself with the budget process!

As always, stay safe, check on your neighbors, and take good care!

*Dennis Price, Select Board Chair*

## Select Board Contacts

<b><u>Steve DeAngelis:</u></b>	(207) 931-5001	<a href="mailto:sdeangelis@readfieldmaine.org">sdeangelis@readfieldmaine.org</a>
<b><u>Carol Doorenbos:</u></b>	(207) 446-7535	<a href="mailto:cdoorenbos@readfieldmaine.org">cdoorenbos@readfieldmaine.org</a>
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<b><u>Dennis Price:</u></b>	(207) 577-4919	<a href="mailto:dprice@readfieldmaine.org">dprice@readfieldmaine.org</a>
<b><u>Kathryn Mills Woodsum:</u></b>	(207) 685-9094	<a href="mailto:kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org">kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org</a>

# News from the Town Manager

## Town Manager's Report - Budget Process and Draft Budget Update

I want to thank all of the residents, volunteers, and staff who have been working together on this year's budget and warrant process. We are seeing lingering impacts from the pandemic and new challenges driven by events far from the Town of Readfield. As a result we are faced with increasing costs. However, we have a few things going in our favor. This makes for a complicated municipal budget but one that I believe responsibly meets the needs of our residents without undue burden. Nearly a decade of stable and responsible governance, which continues with this year's budget, has put the Town of Readfield in a position to minimize impacts to taxpayers. We anticipate a net increase in taxes but it will be driven by the County and Regional School Unit #38 budgets, not by municipal spending.

Here are a few summary budget highlights from the municipal budget (not the RSU or County budgets):

Many operating expenses are budgeted to rise as a result of increased material, transportation, and energy costs. Some expenses are being reduced because of savings or efficiency.

In the State of Maine inflation stood at 8.7% in 2022. This resulted in an 8.7% increase in the State Minimum Wage as of January 1, 2023. Wages in Readfield are subsequently being raised by 8%.

Salary and contract employees are seeing a more modest 5% increase. Stipends for Firefighters and other volunteers, which have not seen an adjustment for several years, will be increased 10%.

We are able to budget for expenditures for several planned capital expenditures, including a new Fire Truck, paving projects, and the proposed Church Rd. Sidewalk, with minimal impact due to savings and responsible borrowing. The Fire truck was originally intended to be replaced in 2018 but was "stretched" an additional 5 years.

Many non-tax revenue streams are up as a result of consumer spending on things like home improvements relative to pandemic era levels. Other revenue sources are down as we consider the impacts of inflation and persistent supply chain issues. In net, non-tax revenues are up.

Bond proceeds are a major budgeted revenue to cover the new Fire Truck.

Assigned and unassigned municipal fund balances are being used to minimize tax impacts. We have developed healthy reserves for use in times like these.

Here are the key details on the budget and warrant process:

**Public Hearing** on the budget and warrant will be on **March 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm**. They will be held via ZOOM and at the Town Office.

**Candidate's Night** will be held on **May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm** via ZOOM and at the Town Office.

Remote / virtual participation for all of the above events will be the same:

The public may participate by calling (929) 436-2866 or using the online ZOOM platform with Meeting ID: 881 4960 8367 and Passcode: 781405.

Written comments and questions for the Candidates can be submitted in advance on the Town Website: [www.readfieldmaine.org](http://www.readfieldmaine.org)

Budget Committee meetings are public and a schedule is on the Town Website

The **Annual Town Meeting / Secret Ballot** vote will be held on **June 13<sup>th</sup> from 8am until 8pm at the Kents Hill School Alford Athletic Center**.

Municipal **Absentee Ballots** will be available at the Town Office beginning **May 12<sup>th</sup>**.

As always, visit [www.readfieldmaine.org](http://www.readfieldmaine.org) for more information!

# Neighbors Driving Neighbors Expanding to Readfield



**MT. VERNON, ME (January 19, 2023)** – Neighbors Driving Neighbors will soon provide free transportation to residents of Readfield who don't drive. In announcing this expansion of NDN's service area, Harald Bredesen, NDN's President, said, "Readfield and we have had each other in our sights for over a year and are thrilled that this collaboration is now being realized." Readfield Town Manager Eric Dyer echoed Bredesen, noting, "We've been admiring the value NDN delivers to its service-area communities and look forward to a successful launch over the next several months. This is an important piece of the puzzle for communities like ours with close proximity to service centers but limited transportation options."

A working group made up of representatives of NDN and Readfield is now recruiting an initial group of drivers and riders with a plan to initiate service provision in the Spring. "We'll be scheduling training sessions for prospective drivers and conducting intake interviews of residents who are looking for rides," said Joe Austin, NDN's Executive Director.

Bredesen added that NDN volunteer drivers have now driven more than 100,000 miles to help over 180 different riders get to where they need to go. "The heart of NDN is the volunteer driver. It is that community spirit that makes NDN possible and that makes Readfield a natural next step. What better way to mark the 100,000<sup>th</sup> mile than to invite the neighbors."

**About Neighbors Driving Neighbors:** NDN is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 to enrich participating communities by matching volunteer drivers with those who do not drive. NDN's current service area comprises Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Rome, and Vienna, and 40 volunteer drivers provide rides to 58 registered riders. For more information including FAQs, visit [neighborsdrivingneighbors.org](http://neighborsdrivingneighbors.org).

**CONTACT: Joe Austin, Executive Director, NDN**  
**TEL: 207-860-0677 / E-MAIL: [jaustin.ndn@gmail.com](mailto:jaustin.ndn@gmail.com)**

**More information on Page 22**

## **E-Alerts Subscription & NEW!!! Text Alerts!**

An easy way to keep up-to-date with Town Happenings!

You can now subscribe to receive Texts Alerts in addition to the E-Alerts via email from the Town of Readfield. Be informed of important closures and updates!



Sign Up for  
**Text Alerts**

Go to [www.readfieldmaine.org](http://www.readfieldmaine.org) and click on E-Alerts to sign up.

Pick the type of notifications you would like to receive by checking off the categories of your choice

*Your contact information will be treated as confidential information.*



Town of Readfield  
8 Old Kents Hill Rd.  
Readfield, ME  
04355



# Town of Readfield Comprehensive Plan

Readfield's Comprehensive Plan is our "blueprint" to encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas, preserve the Town's rural character, protect natural resources, make efficient use of public services, and build a community in which we love to live. Readfield last updated our Plan in 2009. The 2022 update process currently underway will help us:

- Find out how our town has changed in the last decade
- Assess the effectiveness of the current plan and goals
- Set new goals for where the town's residents want to be in the future
- Develop strategies to get us there

The comprehensive planning process is critical to a thoughtful future for the Town of Readfield.

## We Need Your Help

Take the Survey - Attend the Public Hearings - Talk to the Manager - Vote!

(See reverse side for details)

# Take The Survey

Tell us about **your priorities** for our town, what makes Readfield so special, and what we can do to make it a better place in the future! Scan the QR code, visit [www.readfieldmaine.org](http://www.readfieldmaine.org), or call the Town Office at 685-4939 and we'll mail you a survey and return envelope!



# Attend The Hearings

Attend any of the upcoming **Public Hearings** at the Town Office:

- January 28, 10:00am (Saturday)
- February 25, 2:00pm (Saturday)
- March 22, 6:30pm (Wednesday)
- May 31, 6:30pm (Wednesday)



We will have remote participation options - check the website for details!

# Talk To The Manager

Every Thursday morning in January from 7:30am to 9:30am stop by the Town Office for a **cup of coffee with the Town Manager** and talk about the Comprehensive Plan or other issues. You can also call 685-4939 or email [manager@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:manager@readfieldmaine.org) any time.



# Vote!



The Comprehensive Plan will be on the **Town Meeting Secret Ballot** for voter approval on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Please Vote!

For More Information Visit:

<https://www.readfieldmaine.org/comprehensive-plan-committee>



**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.
- b.  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):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c.  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):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Physical location of your homestead (i.e. 14 Maple St.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 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.
- b.  The address on my driver's license is the same as the homestead location on line 2b.
- c.  The legal residence on my resident fishing and/or hunting license is the same as the homestead location on line 2b.
- d.  I pay motor vehicle excise tax in this municipality.
- e.  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 1, 2023

You only need to apply once, not sure you have it, call us to check!

Revised 7/2020





A federal program is funding a \$30-per-month internet service discount for qualifying households.

Households with income of up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which subsidizes high-speed internet known as broadband.

Eligible incomes in Maine and most states are \$27,180 a year for a household of one; \$36,620 for two; \$46,060 for three; and \$55,500 for a household of four. Only one discount is allowed per household. People might also qualify for a discount on devices, such as a new laptop.

Those who already have a broadband provider can simply call and ask for the discount. Callers might be asked to provide proof of income. Those who have not been able to afford internet service but want to sign, up or know of an older relative who qualifies, can also call and ask for it.

To apply, go to [www.affordableconnectivity.gov](http://www.affordableconnectivity.gov) to see eligibility guidelines for households of up to eight people.

*This program is not affiliated with the Town of Readfield*

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

*(Positions advertised are as of January 27, 2023)*

- Age Friendly Committee: 1 Member (2024), 1 Associate Members (2024)
- Cobbossee Watershed District: 1 Alt. Member (2024)
- Conservation Commission: 1 Alt. Member (2025)
- FirstPark: 1 Representative, 1 Alt. Representative (2023)
- Heritage Days Committee: Multiple Positions Available
- Local School Board Advisory: 3 Members (2023, 2024 & 2025)
- Maranacook Outlet Dam Committee: 1 Alt. Member (2023)
- Planning Board: 2 Alt. Members (2023 & 2027)
- Recreation Committee: 1 Member (2025)
- Road Committee: 3 Members (2025)
- Solid Waste & Recycling Committee: 1 Member (2025)
- Trails Committee: 4 Members (2-2024, 1-2025 & 1 Alt. Member-2023)



*If you are interested in joining any of the above committees please complete the Appointment Application on our website under Volunteer Opportunities or stop by the Town Office.*

**For more information: 207-685-4939 or [clerk@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:clerk@readfieldmaine.org)**

# READFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

From: Dale Potter-Clark, Readfield Historical Society (207) 441-9184 ~ [dmclark1@roadrunner.com](mailto:dmclark1@roadrunner.com)

Mark your calendars for our annual meeting and program on Saturday, March 18, 2023, 1:00 p.m. at Gile Hall, 8 Old Kents Hill Road. Our annual appreciation award will also be presented to a (hopefully) surprised Readfield resident and the election of officers will take place during the business meeting. A program will follow the brief business meeting.

Willi Irish of Livermore will provide our program, in character as Mercy Lovejoy, 19<sup>th</sup> century pauper. Irish has decades of experience in historical interpretation as the widow Clara Howard, 1853 school teacher, among other 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century women. Mercy's life was a sad one in some respects but she tells her stories with a touch of humor while enlightening her listeners about a pauper's experience in days of long ago. We feel confident in saying that anyone who has observed Willi Irish in her role as a historical interpreter, at Norlands Living History Center, can attest to her skill at making history come alive. All ages are welcome including interested school-aged children with their adults.

Items from our gift shop will be available to purchase including The Paupers and the Poor Farms: Support and Care of the Poor in Readfield 1791-2018 by Dale Potter-Clark. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this event, donations are appreciated. New and existing members who wish to vote at the business meeting can pay or renew their dues at the door. Annual dues are \$10.00 or \$5.00 for seniors. Lifetime memberships are \$100.



*RHS is open by appointment when weather and temperatures allow. Appointments can be made by contacting Bob Harris at [readfieldhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:readfieldhistorical@gmail.com) or (207) 377-2299. Dues, in the amount noted above, can be mailed to RHS, PO Box 354, Readfield 04355*

### PHOTO CAPTION:

Willi Irish is pictured here in character as Mercy Lovejoy, 19<sup>th</sup> Century town pauper. Irish will provide the program for our annual meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Gile Hall.

## From the Transfer Station

Some of you may wonder what happens to the money generated from the returnable donations left at the transfer station. All the proceeds are put into Readfield's heating assistance fund. Given the current cost of heating our homes, it's certainly a helpful endeavor. During 2022, the donations totaled **\$4,6030.40**. That's a lot of nickels! In fact, since most of the returnables were cans or other five cent items, that equates to 92,608 items. Thanks to each of you who helped with your donations. Together, we can make life easier for our fellow community members.





**Henry Wyman, circa 1772, South Road**



**Joseph Johnson, circa 1775, Main St. East Readfield**



**Joshua Bean, Esq. circa 1781, 1015 Main Street**



**Warren Kent circa 1785, Main St. Kents Hill**

## WHAT IS THE OLDEST HOUSE IN READFIELD?

First of all let us say the oldest towns in Maine are Kittery and York, which were first inhabited circa 1623, more than one-hundred forty years before Readfield. This because living in the unpopulated wilderness of Central Maine was considered too perilous during the French & Indian Wars. After 1754 this area was finally accepted as a safe place to live, because Fort Western (in Augusta) was built that year and garrisoned to protect the area on and around the Kennebec River. Then too, free land was offered to those who agreed to settle here, which was also a draw.

It should first be noted that Readfield was a part of Pondtown which was inc. 1771 as Winthrop - the first town in Maine to be incorporated inland, away from the coast or a major river. Twenty years later residents in the northern part of Winthrop voted to separate and Readfield became incorporated in 1791. Also note that Lake Maranacook was known as Chandler's Pond in those days and Winthrop village known as Chandler's Mills.

We believe the brothers Thomas, Nathaniel, Benjamin and William Whittier from Salisbury, MA were the first settlers in northern Pondtown, arriving in 1765 where they cleared land and built their log cabins in what came to be East Readfield. Bear in mind, frame houses were not constructed until after three sawmills had been established in town between 1769 and 1780 - two of them that we know of in Readfield. Joshua Johnson lived on South Road and operated one on Beaver Brook. Another was established about 1780 on Mill Stream by James Craig, Sr., a native of England. It is believed the building located nearest the dam on Mill Steam Road was Craig's mill house. Our research has revealed that both men bought and sold large tracts of land before 1800 in various parts of Readfield so no doubt they sawed lumber for some of the oldest houses in town.

The earliest sawmill was located in southern Pondtown, having been set-up by John Chandler in 1769 with equipment that he'd transported from Hallowell on the first town road built for that very purpose. The second road was laid-out in 1772 to completely encircle Chandler's Pond, creating parts of the current Beaver Dam Rd., South Rd., Main St and Winthrop Rd. It is reasonable to conclude that transporting logs to and lumber from southern to northern Pondtown would have been too laborious and time consuming for those living in the far northern reaches of town but not as much for those living closer to or on sections of the "new road" encircling Chandler's Pond - that is if they owned or had access to oxen. Others could have utilized Chandler's Pond to transport logs and lumber if their house lots were in close enough proximity to that waterway.

Previous historians have told us that Capt. Christopher Turner came here from England circa 1775 and built the first frame house in Readfield which was later used as a barn at the Harvey homestead near Dead Stream. That building has been gone for decades. But our research revealed that Turner lived on what we know today as Town Farm Road so the question arises, did he first settle on Dead Stream? Many of Readfield's historic houses have burned or have fallen into disrepair and torn down. A few weeks ago the house known as Martha Washington Inn was razed. It was built by Capt. William Armstrong who, like Turner, came here from England circa 1775. His location bordered both Chandler's Pond and the Winthrop Road, plus he was close enough to Chandler's Mills that he could have built a frame house upon his arrival. There may be other very old houses



Charles Kent circa 1785, Chimney Rd., Kents Hill



Joshua Packard, Sr. circa 1785, Main St. Kents Hill



Moses Whittier, Sr. circa 1787, North Road



James Craig, Jr. circa 1788, Readfield Corner

in town with undiscovered treasures or clues between the walls. An example of that was the Smith homestead on Sturtevant Hill Road which was demolished in 2015. That structure had an interesting evolution, as told to Dale Potter-Clark by Mrs. Reggie (Olive) Smith in 1989. The kitchen was the original log cabin which was built circa 1768 a short distance from Chandler's Pond by Capt. Mathias Smith, Sr. of Tisbury, MA. A few years later it was moved to what we know today as Sturtevant Hill Rd. where the log cabin was enveloped and transformed into the kitchen of a new Cape Cod style home. Finally Smith's great-grandson Gustavus Smith added a Victorian style structure after the Civil War. A house on South Road long ago known as the Elisha Smith homestead and more recently as the Packard place was built in the 1770s by Joshua Johnson, the previously mentioned saw mill operator. It burned about fifty years ago and like the Turner, Armstrong and Smith houses, all traces of it are gone now.

On Main Street in East Readfield there's a house that is no longer inhabitable but is still standing (sort of). It was built by Joseph Johnson, Sr., a wealthy tanner and deacon of the Congregational Church who moved here from Brentwood, NH circa 1775. His son was that sawyer Joshua Johnson who operated the saw mill on nearby Beaver Brook. Joseph no doubt built his house with lumber sawn by his son.

The oldest standing and occupied house we have found to date is on South Road, built by Henry Wyman circa 1772, he having moved here from Lancaster, MA with his wife and three daughters. His name appears in the early annals of Winthrop's history. For one, in 1779 the town compensated him for serving during the Revolutionary War in the Penobscot Expedition. His house was centrally located in pre-1791 Winthrop and accessible via road or water, so he was known to open his home for religious services and town meetings. One of those meetings was significant when in 1791 the townspeople met at Wyman's house to vote on the town's division that formed Readfield. Interestingly, Wyman was the only man to vote "Nay," perhaps because his central location was not as inconvenient as it was for others further north?

Thus far, we have found many standing circa 1790s houses but only these six built in the 1780s: **Joshua & Mary Bean** were Quakers who moved here with their nine eldest children from Gilmanton, NH circa 1781 and built the house at 1015 Main Street; **James Craig, Jr.** circa 1788 at 4 Garden Way, Readfield Corner. Craig operated the saw mill on Mill Stream with his father; **Moses Whittier** moved his family here from Raymond, NH circa 1787 and built the house still standing at 163 North Road. The other three are in Kents Hill village: **Joshua Packard** from Bridgewater, MA circa 1785, 1548 Main St.; **Charles Kent** circa 1785, 11 Chimney Rd.; and his brother **Warren Kent** circa 1785, 1601 Main St. The Kent brothers came from Marshfield, MA and bought 200 acres from the aforementioned James Craig, Sr. Their parents Elisha and Susanna (Foord) Kent also moved here and lived with their sons.

There are still a few old homes left to study and one never knows if old diaries or letters might surface to shed light on our research. But as of today, the houses noted above are the oldest we have to share.

*This content of this story was compiled from research done by Dale Potter-Clark and William J. Adams, as of January 2023. Potter-Clark and Adams are extensively researching for a book about Readfield's old houses and the families who once lived in them.*

# February Transfer Station News

## Why would we put 5 million dollars in a landfill?

Here is a look at how recycling prices have changed over the past year. Keep up the good work we've been doing!

2022 was a booming year for recycling markets! All materials showed exceptional market pricing. Thanks to community efforts committing to landfill diversion, recycling tonnage was consistent and prosperous in FY22.



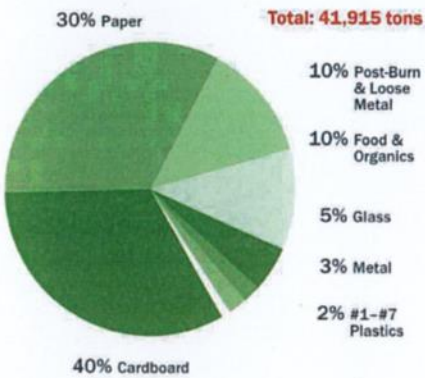
### Practice Kindness

Please remember to be patient with everyone while you are at the Transfer Station. There are many challenges presented to using the space safely and efficiently and everyone handles those in their own way. But please try to be patient and understanding of other patrons and our employees. Everyone is doing the best they can and deserves to be treated respectfully and with kindness. Thank you for your efforts to make this Town operated facility function well.

Readfield Solid Waste & Recycling Committee

THE RECYCLING TON 2022

PRICE PER TON FY21



↑ Mixed Paper FY21 \$11/TON FY22 \$63/TON	↑ #1 PET Plastic FY21 \$182/TON FY22 \$606/TON
↑ Cardboard FY21 \$84/TON FY22 \$156/TON	↑ #3-7 Plastic FY21 \$57/TON FY22 \$195/TON
↑ Aluminum FY21 \$952/TON FY22 \$1,547/TON	↑ #2 HDPE Natural Plastic FY21 \$1,437/TON FY22 \$1,548/TON
↑ Steel and Tin Cans FY21 \$180/TON FY22 \$289/TON	↑ #2 HDPE Colored Plastic FY21 \$488/TON FY22 \$836/TON



### Now Open!

Please bring items in and feel free to take items you can use.

Recycling Through Re-Use

### 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 Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday  
Senior-Only Hours  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM



For the whole month of March Readfield U will be helping us get through the tail end of winter. This is neighbors getting to know neighbors and their community better, and learning something new along the way. While all classes will be held in Readfield, people from neighboring communities are welcome to attend. Classes will include:

- ◆ Encaustic painting – what is it and where did it originate? Give it a try. Camee Davidson
- ◆ Iris Paper Folding – Learn to fold paper creatively and come away with a beautiful greeting card. Holly Maffei
- ◆ “Let’s Play Canasta” – Learn the basic rules. Elaine Katz and Marty Hanish
- ◆ Maine author Claire Ackroyd talking about her book “Murder in the Maple Woods” and the Maine maple industry. Organized by Readfield Community Library.
- ◆ “Maine Wildflowers from the Usual to the Unusual”. Told in words and pictures. Marianne and John Perry
- ◆ Climate Resilient Farming Practices in Maine. Nicholas Rowley, University of Maine Co-operative Extension
- ◆ “Escape from Bunker Hill, a journey on the Underground Railroad.” Dale Potter-Clark
- ◆ “Readfield Union Meeting House and Vestry – downtown gems.” John Perry
- ◆ “On a Healing Note” A recent journey with breast cancer and how music continues to be a vital thread toward ongoing healing. Ellen Bowman
- ◆ “A Story to Tell” A writing class where participants will be helped to tell the story of their own life or the lives of loved ones. Donna McGibney
- ◆ “Written in Stone” An overview of the geology of Readfield and central Maine. Bob Marvinney, a former longtime State Geologist.
- ◆ “Kennebec Land Trust – Baldwin Hill Conservation Cemetery” - providing an ecologically sound burial for people of all faiths. Susan Caldwell
- ◆ “My ancestor Is Who???” Genealogy - How to begin delving into your family history. Amy Gove
- ◆ “Readfield in the Good Old Days”. A panel of longtime Readfield residents with moderator Dale Potter-Clark
- ◆ “Overview & history of the Readfield Comprehensive Plan” Eric Dyer, Town Manager

The full schedule of classes will soon be posted at [www.readfieldu.org](http://www.readfieldu.org). and flyers will be at the library, post office and town hall.

Contact [readfieldu@gmail.com](mailto:readfieldu@gmail.com) with questions.

**Readfield U is sponsored by the  
Age-Friendly Committee.**



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



## Browntail Moth Caterpillars

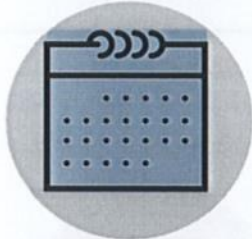
### Fact Sheet



Browntail moth caterpillars have tiny poisonous hairs that can cause skin reactions similar to poison ivy and other more severe reactions.

The caterpillars may reach 1.5 inches in length and are brown with a broken white stripe on each side and two red/orange spots on the hind end.

Image from Maine Forest Service



The caterpillars are active mid-April until early October. The hairs remain toxic for up to three years.

## Signs and Symptoms



Skin Rash



Breathing and Other Respiratory Issues

Direct contact with hairs can cause a localized skin rash that may last a few hours to several days. The rash may be red, bumpy, and itchy. Certain people may have a more severe form of the rash that can last for a few weeks. In some cases, the hairs can be inhaled and can cause respiratory problems. The rash does not spread from one person to another.



There is no specific treatment for browntail moth rash. Home remedies can help with symptoms. This can include a cool bath with baking soda, hydrocortisone cream, and calamine lotion. If you are having trouble breathing, swallowing, or swelling of your mouth, tongue, or throat, call 9-1-1.

## Prevention



Take a cool shower and change clothes after activity in areas with browntail moths to wash off any hairs.



Wear a mask, goggles, and coveralls when doing any activity that can stir up browntail moth hairs, like raking leaves.



Dry laundry inside during June and July to prevent browntail moth hairs from getting on clothing.



Perform yard work and clipping on wet days so browntail moth hairs do not get stirred up.

## Control



Clip browntail moth webs in the winter and very early spring



Hose down structures with caterpillars and vacuum up with a HEPA filter vacuum



Hire a licensed arborist/pesticide applicator

After clipping webs, destroy them by soaking in soapy water. Hire someone to treat affected trees before the end of May to prevent development of toxic hairs. Pesticide use within 250 feet of marine waters is restricted.

## For More Information, Visit:



1. [www.maine.gov/dhhs/browntailmoth](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/browntailmoth) (Including frequently asked questions)

2. [www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/invasive\\_threats/browntail\\_moth\\_info.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm) (Includes browntail moth risk map)

You can also contact 211 Maine by dialing 211, texting your zip code to 898-211, or emailing [info@211maine.org](mailto:info@211maine.org) for more information.



# News & Notes from the Readfield Trails Committee

Hello Readfield Trail Enthusiasts,

Our trails are in good shape for winter activities and, as I write this, we finally have some good snow cover. For those of you that have snowshoes or skis we hope you will use them for your trail activities at least until the trails are packed down to a hard surface. I realize that all our trail enthusiasts may not have these items. However, for those of us that do have them please use them so that our trails do not develop a hardened, post-holed surface. For those who would like to use snowshoes but don't have them, consider checking out a pair from the Readfield Library. You can also take advantage of this service if you have guests that would like to try them.

No matter what your choice of footwear I hope you will go outside and experience the many trail opportunities we have in Readfield.

Our trail maps (not including the Carlton Pond Trail at this point) continue to be available at the town office and on-line [https://www.readfieldmaine.org/sites/readfieldme/files/uploads/readfield\\_trails\\_2019\\_map.pdf](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. We appreciate feedback.

Dog owners please note: Dogs are required to be on leash or under voice control on all town properties including our trails. We also request that pets be leashed on the Carlton Pond Trail.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Peale, Chair, Readfield Trails Committee. [rnpreadfieldgov@gmail.com](mailto:rnpreadfieldgov@gmail.com)  
207-458-4259



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK

The First Baptist Church Mount Vernon Food Bank serves the communities of Mount Vernon, Vienna, Readfield and Fayette. We are located at the First Baptist Church on 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141. Our hours are from 9:30 to 11:30 Saturday mornings.

We offer full pantry items, eggs, meats, meals and toiletry items on the first and third Saturday of the month; however, customers may come in every Saturday for fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, pastry items and deli items. We also have a small supply of clothing and miscellaneous items.

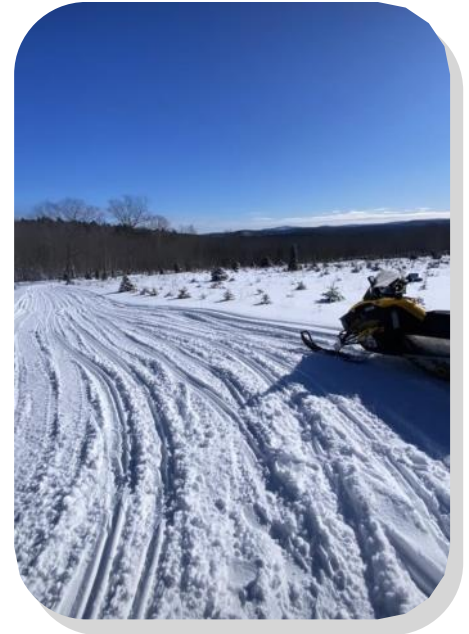
If you are a new customer, you may come in any Saturday and we will provide you with enough food to get by until your next scheduled visit.

**Donations can be dropped off at the Readfield Town Office**



Fellow outside lovers,  
 It has been very hard to write articles about local snowmobile trails when the lake is not yet frozen, we have had warm temperatures and no snow. After yesterday overnight's and today's continuing snow we can at least be hopeful for more in the forecast., Club trail volunteers worked often and especially hard this year preparing the trails for safe travel. There were

Where will this year's rides take you?  
 Enjoy and, as always, be safe!



more than the usual number of bridges that washed out due to heavy rain, while soft grounds and winds left a lot of downed trees and limbs. Kudos to our volunteers! Through December and most of January we looked forward to some lasting snow, but it was slow in coming! There are still lots of open water on the lake and water holes, so please wait just a bit longer until it freezes thick enough to accommodate us and our sleds. Winter is finally showing signs of coming albeit sloth-like! The club continues its effort to grow its membership. The annual fee for a family is a mere \$30.00 and for businesses \$35.00. Membership entitles you to a copy of the Maine State Snowmobile newspaper

mailed to you directly several times during the winter season.

The newspaper includes reports from snowmobile clubs throughout the state of Maine and is a useful tool for travel planning to popular snowmobile areas. The Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club meets once a month, the first Wednesday of each month through April. Meetings are held at the Weathervane Restaurant, lower level, beginning at 7:00pm. Hopefully soon we will be able to ride in! Meeting notices are posted on the Blizzard Busters Club facebook page monthly. If you would like a membership application just email me at [readfieldblizzardbusters@gmail.com](mailto:readfieldblizzardbusters@gmail.com)

In addition, we have several fundraisers every year. Most recently, two weekends in December, Nancy and Dave Buker led a successful gift-wrapping event at Central Maine Power Sports in Lewiston and the gun raffle winner was drawn at our December meeting.

Remember to recite this year's mantra over and over – Let it snow, Let it snow Let it snow..... Wishes for a happy, safe and healthy season.....




Mount Vernonites Parker and Caleb enjoy practicing for trail rides!

*Marge Livingston, Secretary  
 Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club*

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services**

**Crisis Hotlines**  
 If your life or someone else's is in immediate danger, please dial 9-1-1

Maine Crisis Hotline: 1-888-568-1112  
 Child Abuse: 1-800-452-1999  
 Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse: 1-800-624-8404  
 Suicide Prevention: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
 Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222



If you are not sure who to call, dial 2-1-1 for help getting connected with thousands of statewide services and programs.  
 For those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, dial 7-1-1 for the Maine Relay Service.

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services**

**Additional Helplines**  
 If your life or someone else's is in immediate danger, please dial 9-1-1

Substance Use/Opioid Use Disorders: Dial 211  
 NAMI Mental Health Helpline: 1-800-464-5767  
 Domestic Violence Helpline: 1-866-834-HELP  
 Sexual Assault Helpline: 1-800-871-7741  
 Maine Tobacco Helpline: 1-800-207-1230



If you are not sure who to call, dial 2-1-1 for help getting connected with thousands of statewide services and programs.  
 For those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, dial 7-1-1 for the Maine Relay Service.

# FROM THE OFFICE OF YOUR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

## FEELING POORLY? RSV, FLU, COVID - WHAT DO I HAVE?

**What is RSV?** Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in 1-2 weeks, but RSV can be serious, especially in infants and older adults. It can spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, when you have direct contact with a person who has the virus, such as kissing a baby, or when you touch a surface with the virus on it and then touch your face before washing your hands. People with RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days, and can become contagious 2 to 3 days before having symptoms.

Diagnosis: The most common is the rapid diagnostic test. This test looks for RSV RNA in nasal secretions. The results are usually available in 1 hour.

Treatment: Supportive. There are no specific antivirals.

Prevention: There are no vaccines against RSV



**What is Influenza?** Influenza ("flu") is a contagious respiratory virus that can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can even lead to death, even in healthy children and adults. Symptoms include fever, chills, headache, sore throat, runny nose, body and muscle aches, cough, and less commonly nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. It spreads similarly to RSV.

Diagnosis: Rapid diagnostic tests are becoming the gold standard. Performed by swabbing nasopharyngeal or throat secretions results are available in 15-30 minutes.

Treatment: Specific antiviral flu drugs can decrease the risk of serious complications, hospitalization and death and also shorten the duration of symptoms. Antivirals work best when given within 48 hours of when symptoms appear.

Prevention: The best way to prevent flu is to receive a vaccination every year. The CDC recommends that everyone age 6 months and older get vaccinated annually. The best time to get vaccinated is in the fall, before influenza viruses begin spreading in your community. However, vaccination throughout the flu season is still beneficial.

**What is COVID-19?** COVID-19 is a viral disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus discovered in 2019. Some people who are infected may not have symptoms. For people who have symptoms, illness can range from mild to severe. Adults 65 years and older and people of any age with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness.

The virus spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

Diagnosis: Three main types of tests confirm a COVID-19 diagnosis:

NAATs (such as PCR based tests) are most often performed in a laboratory or clinic setting. They are typically the most reliable tests for people with or without symptoms.

Antigen tests produce results in 15-30 minutes. They are less reliable than NAATs, especially for people who do not have symptoms. To best detect infection, a negative antigen test should be repeated at least 48 hours apart.

Self (or "at-home" tests) are usually antigen tests that can be taken anywhere without having to go to a testing site. Follow FDA and manufacturer's instructions, including the number of times you may need to test.

Treatment: Depends on the severity of infection and is constantly evolving. There are antiviral drugs for COVID-19.

Prevention: People ages 5 years and older should complete the COVID-19 primary series vaccines and boosters (including mix and match shots) to prevent getting and spreading the illness.

### ***How can I stay healthy?***

Avoid contact with people who are sick. If you need to be around a sick individual, wear a well fitting mask (N95 or surgical) and make sure to cover your mouth and nose.

Stay home if you have symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve, not your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand rub that contains 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

**VACCINATE yourself against influenza and COVID.**

***Chip Stephens, Readfield Health Officer***

# Maranacook Food Pantry

Thursdays 3:30-4:30 PM ~ FMI Call 207-685-4923

In March the MAFP will note its 3rd year of offering curbside pick up or assisted delivery to those unable to get to Maranacook Middle School for weekly food box pick up. The Pantry Committee once again sends its heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those that have assisted with this endeavor. This program could not be sustained without the generous support of residents, businesses, Maranacook Education Foundation (MEF), Augusta Food Pantry, and local churches. Recent donations over the holidays included a check for \$675.00 and Hannaford gift card from Wayne Community Church, Highbrow of Manchester sent a \$4,000.00 check to help with Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries, two school food drives stocked our shelves for 2 months, food donations from Readfield United Methodist Church, and Manchester Elementary school sponsored a "Turkey Trot" event that boosted our account. We also get many anonymous gifts of cash, food donations, and gift cards that literally just appear at the pantry. Incredible generosity. Recently a long time supporter garnered a special discount for her meat purchases for the pantry from Weston's Meat Market in Farmingdale. Thank you to Karen and Miranda.

At the December holidays, the MAFP put together 48 boxes of food that included fresh potatoes and squash from Farmer Kev as well as 48 donated hams and turkeys that helped ensure local families and individuals could have a pleasant holiday dinner. I know I've mentioned these individuals before but our school nurses do so much behind the scenes by communicating the requests to our committee in a confidential manner.

If you or anyone you know could use some assistance weekly or short term, the MAFP is here to help in a confidential manner. A Winthrop volunteer / retired MCMS teacher is ready to help at [foodpantry@maranacook.com](mailto:foodpantry@maranacook.com) or [durgie@roadrunner.com](mailto:durgie@roadrunner.com). The pantry pick up hours are Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 at the lower parking lot at Maranacook Middle School. Two white sandwich boards help direct to the pick up location.

As the winter stretches ahead of us, the MAFP is here to lend a helping box. Each box contains (on a rotating basis chicken or tuna, rice, pasta, or potatoes) pancake and syrup, PB&J, cereal, canned fruit, vegetables, soup, beans, crackers, TP or paper towels, and bi-weekly Farmer Kev's fresh vegetables. Donations of food can be dropped off at the middle school or Readfield Town Office. Monetary donations can be made through Maranacook Education Foundation P O Box 133 Readfield, ME 04355 attn: Rick Wilson, or online at MEF, or by check to RSU #38 45 Millard Harrison Drive Readfield, ME 04355 with Food Pantry designation.

Thank you and have a safe winter. Next MAFP update in March Messenger.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Durgin

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



# Readfield Union Meeting House

Three years ago the ‘Old Vestry’ was rescued from oblivion, when our Board of Directors set a mission to renovate the Vestry into a community center. Events would include music, dance, food, birthday/anniversary celebrations, fairs, etc. Together with the restored Meeting House, the two buildings will provide an historic venue for weddings, memorials and other multiple use events.

In 2019 the Vestry was in desperate condition and out of date with respect to all codes. The kitchen roof was leaking, and the building smelled from mold and critter waste below. Board member Larry Dunn, a retired general building contractor, drew up plans to fix the many problems with the building. His “modus operandi” was for RUMHCo to buy the necessary building materials, and to “persuade” his fellow contractors to donate their labor. However, the lion’s share of that labor has been donated by Larry himself!

This “buy and volunteer” plan was first employed on the kitchen roof, resulting in an 85% reduction in cost compared to an earlier estimate. Next, the entire annex (kitchen, furnace, storage and bath) was gutted out. Dirt and waste was removed from the crawl space under the kitchen and a waterproof membrane was installed over the soil, thereby eliminating much of the odor. Floor joists were leveled and the interior wall was shimmed to be plumb and straight. Drainage around the building was improved, and new vinyl siding replaced the old siding. Plumbing and electrical systems were then updated to meet current codes. Insulation, vapor barrier and new drywall have been installed. New interior doors have been installed. All work complies with current building codes.

In the winter and spring of 2023, work will focus on painting, new flooring, cabinets, fixtures, appliances, safety equipment and ADA-compliant access. Painting and cleaning the main room will follow. Work on the main entryway and the upstairs is scheduled for 2024.

Dozens of volunteers have given their time to get the renovations to this point. Larry Dunn’s planning, leadership and hard work has kept the project moving ahead for 3 years! The Friends of the Meeting House & Vestry have actively promoted their vision for the Vestry—“to create a haven for a wide variety of cultural and social activities in our community”—and have raised money at more than a dozen fundraising events. The Readfield Enterprise Fund has provided a no-interest loan to kick-start the work, and a recent \$2,200 donation by Kennebec Savings Bank has been a boost to our account. Thank you all for your generosity, patience and commitment.

We intend to open the Vestry for community activities this summer. From now until then, we will need to equip the kitchen and bathroom with appliances and fixtures, either new or donated. If you have good kitchen or bathroom equipment to donate, please call Larry Dunn at 207-512-0742.

If you wish to make a money donation, send a check to RUMH Vestry, PO Box 451, Readfield ME 04355, or make a credit card donation via our web site <https://unionmeetinghouse.org>

**The Vestry, originally built in 1809, was moved adjacent to the Union Meeting House in 1869.**



**The kitchen/bathroom addition on the right was added in 1978. This addition has received most of the renovations over the last 3 years.**

# Neighbors Driving Neighbors Readfield Expansion!

Neighbors Driving Neighbors (NDN) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich participating communities by coordinating volunteer drivers for those who do not drive, so they can more easily stay in their homes.

NDN provide free and confidential rides within our service area—Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna, and now, Readfield—for adults who are not able to drive. We can take you to:

- run errands
- exercise sessions
- classes
- medical appointments
- shopping
- socializing
- volunteering
- other

Part of the process of joining NDN includes identifying both riders and drivers.

**Drivers:** We are looking for volunteers who like to drive, have a good driving record, and would enjoy being part of providing free transportation for adults who no longer drive. Flexible time commitment, great socialization and many thanks from the riders.

**Riders:** If you are a resident of Readfield and don't drive, Neighbors Driving Neighbors can help.

**To become a driver or register as a rider, please call (207) 860-0677 or send an email to [neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com)**

**Another way to show our community support in Readfield is by making a donation to Neighbors Driving Neighbors online at [neighborsdrivingneighbors.org](http://neighborsdrivingneighbors.org) or by mail to:**

Neighbors Driving Neighbors  
P.O. Box 142  
Mount Vernon, ME 04352





## FEBRUARY 2023—LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

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

### IMPORTANT! LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Library will be CLOSED on the following days in February:

- Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day

### TAKE YOUR CHILD to the LIBRARY DAY—Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>



Stop by the library for our Open House event any time from 10:00am-4:00pm on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> to enjoy cookies, cocoa, crafts, and more! We will have live music as well, including student musicians from the Pineland Suzuki School from 12-1pm. Also, be sure to check out lots of books to read together with your child once you get home!

**SPECIAL EVENT:** At 1:00pm on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>, please join us for an OUTDOOR group Story Walk on the Library Trail to enjoy our February book *Owl Moon* together.

### STORY WALK® --Two sites in Readfield for families to enjoy in February!



#### February STORY WALK® at the Readfield Community Library—*Owl Moon*

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 *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, sponsored by an anonymous donor. 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 to pick up the take-home craft that accompanies the story.



#### February STORY WALK® at Readfield Elementary School—*The Mitten*

The RES StoryWalk® is always open for all to enjoy! The RES Story Walk is located along the edge of the back soccer field behind the school. The picture book featured for February is *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, sponsored by Lori Clark and Family.

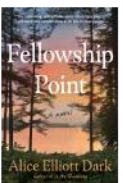
### STORY WALK® EVENTS on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

Join us as we enjoy the February Story Walk (Library location) together, plus music and crafts! Meet outdoors behind the Library. Check Facebook for any cancellations due to weather.

- Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm
- Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

### February ADULT BOOK GROUP MEETING

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. Our February meeting will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Maine-interest novel *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark. Note that for the winter months, we are meeting by Zoom rather than in person. Please call 207-685-4089 or email [librarian@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:librarian@readfieldmaine.org) if you would like to participate and/or need a copy of the book.



### SNOWSHOES AVAILABLE TO BORROW



Get outside and enjoy the beautiful Maine winter and all the incredible trails Readfield has to offer! 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!

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate Scottish poet Robert Burns' birthday last month! We enjoyed mulled cider, Scottish treats, live Scottish music thanks to a local fiddler and accordionist, and some Burns' poems, of course!

### 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/>



**The Readfield Community Library is thrilled to be able to offer a 2023 Environment & Sustainability Program & Speaker Series**, with a special focus on issues related to the local Readfield area and/or Maine. We are planning 2 events per month, which will include some authors, local speakers, and events for children as well. Funding for this program series is through a Maine Public Libraries Fund grant received by the Library. MPLF monies come from Maine income taxpayers *who choose to make a donation on their Maine Income Tax Form* "Schedule CP Charitable Contributions." The Maine State Library makes MPLF funds available to Maine public libraries through this grant program **to encourage and support innovation in the creation and expansion of new library programs/services**. We are excited to be a grant recipient this year!

Note that all program offerings are **free and open to the public**. All programming will be listed on our website, and will be continually updated as more programs are scheduled through the year. All events will also be posted to our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/ReadfieldCommunityLibrary>

Some upcoming events are listed below:

**MEET MAINE OUTDOORSMAN AND AUTHOR TOM ROTH—Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Tom Roth, 25-year regional columnist for *The Maine Sportsman*, recently published his first book *A Sporting Year in Maine*. Please join us for an **Author Event with Tom on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm at the Readfield Town Office** to hear about his new book and his 4-season adventures as a Maine outdoorsman. (Note this event was rescheduled from Jan 26<sup>th</sup> due to weather.) Tom will have books available for purchase and signing after the event. If you are unable to attend in-person, you may attend by Zoom instead by registering at this link:



<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrcuyvpzMuH9wz1GW9YHfy898Wifa67p4U>

From the publisher: *"In A Sporting Year in Maine, Tom walks you through each month, detailing what the great state of Maine has to offer, complete with how-to, some where-to and a healthy dose of humorous events that happened along the way. Written in his folksy, conversational tone, Tom brings the reader along on all his forays and will entertain sporting and non-sporting folks alike."*

**FULL MOON SNOWSHOE/HIKE—Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us for a community all-ages "Full Moon" evening snowshoe/hike on **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm!** Last year we had participants form age 1 to 80 and everything in between!! 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 and cookies back at 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. The Library is excited to offer this event this year in partnership with the Trails Committee. Note: if weather does not cooperate, we will try to reschedule.



**MAINE'S WASTE POLICIES and PATHWAYS to a LOW-WASTE FUTURE with Natural Resources Council of Maine**



Did you know that the average Maine resident tosses out nearly 4 pounds of trash every day? There are lots of ways that individuals and businesses can reduce their impact on Maine's environment by cutting down on their trash. **Please join Vanessa Berry of the Natural Resources Council of Maine at the Readfield Town Office on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** to learn about what waste experts and lawmakers are doing to address waste issues in Maine, and how you can help support waste solutions and hold polluters accountable for wasteful packaging. This event is live and in-person at the Town

Office, but those who prefer to join by Zoom may do so by registering here:

[https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvc-6tqT8rHtaFvCK7\\_D4Qx6VInc72o5oK](https://networkmaine.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvc-6tqT8rHtaFvCK7_D4Qx6VInc72o5oK)

**About the presenter:** Vanessa joined the NRCM in April of 2022 as the Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator. With a background in elementary education and waste management, she uses her expertise to "talk trash" and build public support for policies that promote the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy. Prior to her role at NRCM, Vanessa spent nearly four years working directly with municipalities, schools, and local organizations to provide education and support on their waste reduction and diversion strategies. She graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and with a master's degree in Sustainability Science from Unity College.



**READFIELD REC  
FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**NOT AN RSU  
SPONSORED EVENT**

**3RD ANNUAL**

# **YOUTH ICE FISHING DERBY**



**ON MARANACOOK LAKE**

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 5TH 2023  
6:30AM - 3:00PM**

**\$5 TICKETS - 1 FISH PER TICKET**  
Weigh-in Stations: On  
Maranacook Lake by Readfield  
Beach

**Buy more tickets  
WIN MORE PRIZES!!**  
1ST, 2ND, 3RD BIGGEST FISH  
PRIZE FOR SMALLEST FISH  
RAFFLED DOOR PRIZES

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENT DETAILS**  
**READFIELD RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

# SENIOR CAFE

AT  
MARANACOOK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

- TEA, COFFEE, AND MUFFINS PROVIDED.
- PRESENTATIONS ON ARTS, TRAVEL, EVENTS, AND MORE.
- HOSTED BY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING.
- BRING CRAFTS, GAMES AND FRIENDS!

TUESDAYS

9-11

## Interested?

CONTACT DAN HOLMAN  
AT  
DAN\_HOLMAN@MARAN  
ACOOK.COM  
OR  
(207)500-1737

# RSU 38 Maranacook Schools

RSU #38 – FY24 Budget Workshops  
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Budget Goal Statement: *“To balance the needs of ALL members of the RSU #38 school community, and to promote student success in all areas, while maintaining fiscal responsibility”*

## BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- February 1\*** Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop – Elementary, Middle & High Schools  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82586468413>
- February 15** Budget Workshop – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88036823389>  
Special Education  
Multilingual Learners (formerly ELLS)  
Gifted & Talented  
Technology
- March 1\*** Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop –  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405860759>  
Operations & Maintenance  
COVID grants overviews
- March 8** Budget Workshop –  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81323836284>  
Co-and Extra-Curricular  
Transportation  
Miscellaneous Cost Centers/Accounts (Adult Educ., Food Service, Health Center, Professional Development/Assessment/ Curriculum, Systems Admin., Debt Service)
- March 15** Budget Workshop – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88645767758>  
Annual Report from Auditor Ron Smith; Joint meeting with local select boards re: draft FY24 budget; budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making
- March 22** *Tentative meeting (if needed)* – Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81447373319>
- April 5\*** Regular Business Meeting and Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82352204345>
- April 12** Workshop Meeting – vote on Budget (2<sup>nd</sup> week of April) –  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84449725610>
- May 10** Annual Budget Meeting, Middle School Gymnasium, 7:00 p.m.
- \* Regular Business Meeting in addition to budget workshop



**June 12 – Budget Validation Referendum at individual town polling locations**

# RSU 38 Maranacook Schools

## RSU 38 Maranacook Adult Ed News

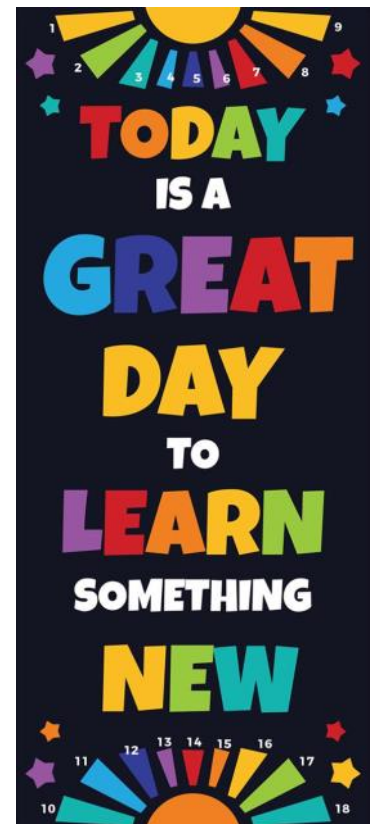
Lots of new classes starting soon!!

HiSET/Diploma Classes Ongoing Year-round

### Enrichment Classes

### Start Date

HiSET Test Preparation	Ongoing
We Were Made For These Times; 10 Lessons for Moving Through Change, Loss, and Disruption	02/01/2023
Don't Get Pushed Around	03/11/2023
Driver Education	03/13/2023
Map & Compass Level 1	03/16/2023
Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney	3/23/2023
Acadian Arts Asian Fusion Cooking Retreat - Kennebunkport, Maine	03/24/2023
Acadian Arts Watercolor Retreat - Kennebunkport	03/24/2023
Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People	04/03/2023
Instant Guitar for Hopelessly Busy People	04/04/2023
Coastal Navigation Level 1	04/06/2023
History of Malaga Island	04/12/2023
Acadian Arts Asian Fusion Cooking Retreat - York Beach	04/17/2023
Acadian Arts Watercolor Retreat - Willows York Beach	04/17/2023
Home Repairs for Home Owners	05/02/2023
Acadian Arts Asian Fusion Cooking Retreat - Prospect Harbor	05/26/2023
Acadian Arts Watercolor - Prospect Harbor	05/26/2023
Digital Tools for the Beginning Memoir Writer	Ongoing
Organize & Edit Images with Your iPhone/iPad Photos App	Ongoing
Hidden Gems Lurking in Your iPhone and iPad	Ongoing
Introduction to iPhone Basics	Ongoing
Introduction to Mac Basics	Ongoing
Introduction to Zoom Basics	Ongoing
Take Fabulous Photos of the Flora and Fauna in Your World	Ongoing
Taking Awesome Pictures With Your iPhone/iPad Camera	Ongoing
Unlock Safari's Secrets on Your Mac in Just Five Lessons	Ongoing
More Hidden Gems Lurking in Your iPhone & iPad	Ongoing



To register, or for more details and to view all classes, go to:  
<https://maranacook.coursetorm.com/browse>

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



# Readfield Play Group

Thursdays 9:30-11:00am  
@ Readfield Elementary School  
beginning January 5th

Come join the fun!  
Learn through play!



**What:**

For toddlers/preschoolers in the community, and their caregivers

**When:**

Thursdays, 9:30-11:00AM beginning 1/5/23 (follows school calendar)

**Where:**

Readfield Elementary School Breakfast Cafeteria  
~ use front door to be buzzed into school ~

**Why:**

Offers children and caregivers a time to play, talk, and connect

**FMI:**

Contact Patricia Clark 207-685-4101 or [pclark@maine.edu](mailto:pclark@maine.edu)

**Sponsored by the Readfield Recreation Association**

Thanks to all who helped get this program running again!



**Presidents' Day Snowshoe Outing  
Monday, February 20  
9:30 AM and 10:45 AM  
Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area, Manchester**

Photo credit: Norm Rodrigue



Join Kennebec Land Trust on Monday, February 20 at 9:30 AM or 10:45 AM for a family-friendly snowshoe outing to explore the Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area in Manchester. We'll snowshoe for approximately

1.5 miles (round trip) to Hutchinson Pond through forests and fields. Registration is required as parking is limited. Please bring water, warm clothing and snowshoes and/or ice cleats depending on the conditions. Poles are recommended as there will be a few narrow bog bridging crossings.

Please register for either 9:30 AM or 10:45 AM as parking is limited. Contact Marie to RSVP at [mring@tklt.org](mailto:mring@tklt.org) or 207-377-2848.

**Kennebec Land Trust 2023 Lyceum Lecture Series  
Maine's State Parks and Public Lands: Conserving Nature, Managing People & Embracing the Future  
Thursdays March 16, March 23, and March 30 ~ 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Winthrop High School Auditorium**

Join Kennebec Land Trust for our annual winter lecture series to learn more about Maine state parks and public land from Maine State staff. KLT's winter lectures are modeled on the early New England lyceums that began in 1826 in Massachusetts.



Photo credit: Andy Cutko

- ⇒ This year's lectures include:  
Recreational and Cultural Importance of Maine's Parks and Public Lands - presented by Jocelyn Hubbell & Rex Turner on Thursday, March 16, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- ⇒ Conservation of Wildlife and Biodiversity of Maine's Parks and Public Lands presented by Justin Schlawin & Sarah Spencer on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- ⇒ Looking Forward: Land Acquisition Partners and Priorities presented by William Patterson on Thursday, March 30, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Summer field workshops will be announced soon. Visit [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org) or contact Marie at [mring@tklt.org](mailto:mring@tklt.org) or 207-377-2848 for more information.

Directions: From Route 41 in Winthrop, turn onto Rambler Way to the Winthrop High School. Once inside, follow the signs for the performing arts center.



**Business Card Size (3.5" x 2.0")**

1 Month	\$12.00
6 Months	\$60.00
12 Months	\$100.00

Contact the Town Office:  
207-685-4939

[clerk@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:clerk@readfieldmaine.org)



Manchester Lions Club  
Beef Stew or Pulled Pork Dinner  
Eat-in or To Go



100% of proceeds support  
our community!

**\$12**



All dinners served  
with coleslaw,  
biscuit and dessert!

**Soda and Water available for purchase**

**When:** February 4, 2023 from 4:30 to 6pm

**Where: Manchester Lions Club House**

PULLED PORK \_\_\_\_ @ \$12. = TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_

BEEF STEW \_\_\_\_ @ \$12 = TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAID \$ \_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

FOR DELIVERY, PLEASE  
INDICATE ADDRESS:

CONFIRMED BY: LION

\_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO MANCHESTER LIONS CLUB  
PO BOX 1 MANCHESTER, ME 04351



# Town Office Staff Contacts

## Town of Readfield

www.readfieldmaine.org


8 Old Kents Hill Road  
Readfield ME 04355

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



Town Manager, Eric Dyer: [manager@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:manager@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Finance Officer, Teresa Shaw: [finance@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:finance@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Town Clerk, Kristin Parks: [clerk@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:clerk@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Code Officer, Chip Stephens: [ceo@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:ceo@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Front Desk Clerk, Anjelica Pittman: [info@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:info@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Maintenance, Matthew Seems: [maintenance1@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:maintenance1@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Animal Control, Eric Johnson: 207-931-7684  
 Sexton, Ben Rodriguez: [sexton@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:sexton@readfieldmaine.org)  
 Assessor, David Ledew: [assessor@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:assessor@readfieldmaine.org)

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Select Board / Budget Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	2 	3 Assessor In (By Appointment)	4
5	6	7	8 Age Friendly Committee 9:00 AM Library Board of Trustees 6:30 PM	9 Road Committee 6:00 PM	10	11
12	13 Select Board 6:30 PM	14 Planning Board 6:30 PM Conservation Comm Meeting 6:30 PM 	15 Comprehensive Plan Committee 6:00 PM Budget Committee 6:30 PM	16	17 Assessor In (By Appointment)	18
19	20  Town Office & Library Closed	21	22 Trails Committee 6:30 PM	23 March Messenger Articles Due Nomination Papers Available	24 Second Half of 2022 Taxes Due	25 Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing 2:00 PM
26	27 Cemetery Committee 10:30 AM	28 Planning Board 6:30 PM				