



Readfield Messenger

www.readfieldmaine.org



Volume 20 Issue 12

Annual Community
TREE LIGHTING
 & Holiday Carols
 Friday December 1st
 @ 6:30pm
 Outside at the
 Readfield Community Library




Followed by cookies, cocoa, & Santa
 Inside at the
 Readfield Town Office

If snow/rain: Sunday Dec. 3rd @ 4:30pm

WE WILL BE CLOSED ON
CHRISTMAS DAY
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

ANNUAL
Christmas
 GIVING TREE



It's the most wonderful time of the year!

The elf's have been busy and the Giving Tree is set up in the lobby at the Readfield Town Office. You may stop in and grab a tag off the tree or if you don't have time use your imagination, any and all gifts; even gift cards are always appreciated!

Donations to the Food Banks are always accepted as well!

Please have all unwrapped gifts returned to the Town Office no later than **December 12.**

Thank you!

DOG LICENSE REMINDER
 2023 Dog Licenses Expire December 31st



Don't Delay, Register Today!
 More Information on Page 6



The Benefits of Workshops

By: Kathryn Mills Woodsum

The Select Board recently met with the Chairs of our Boards and Committees for our annual meeting. This is an essential component of success with projects and provides an opportunity for everyone to be on the same page. It was good that we had ten folks present to be able to listen and provide input. We have a great deal of appreciation for all these folks do for our town and for working hard to successfully lead their group.

The Town Manager has assigned an employee contact for each group to assist the chairs in dealing with their charge and a matrix was distributed so everyone knows who to contact. This designee can provide information and assistance with many tasks and hopefully allow for easier and quicker resolution to problems that may arise. A spreadsheet, prepared by KVCOG, was also provided that lists the Comprehensive Plan Goals by committee. This will allow each committee to more easily identify what was laid out in the Comp Plan for them to consider as they approach their work. The Select Board will be discussing how best to use this information for guiding everyone’s work and asking for input from each group. We want to stress that the Comp Plan is meant as a guide in most cases, though some items are required by law for the town to do, and we should always be mindful of public input throughout the implementation of each project.

The Chairs were congratulated for their collective improvement in providing timely minutes, both in draft and approved form, to the Town Clerk for inclusion on the town website. Agendas are to be posted publicly at least three days prior to meetings as well. This is helping with greater transparency by letting the public know what business is taking place in a timelier manner.

I asked, on behalf of the Select Board, for all boards, committees, commissions, staff and the Select Board to work together and to compromise in order to attain the goals everyone worked so hard to put together in the Comprehensive Plan. It is imperative that we each realize that no one can always get exactly what they want but that through discussion and active listening we can give a little and get a finished product that everyone can live with and support. It is in this way that we build a functioning community. It was pointed out that one tool groups can use is the updated Public Policy of Participation which along with a previously published agenda allows for business to be accomplished and for the public to provide input at specific times. In discussing when and how to revisit the Open Space Plan, which was last revised in 2006, it was suggested that we take the success of the format and function of the Fairgrounds Working Group which has representatives from five groups, and create an Open Space Working Group comprising representatives from the same five groups. This was met with agreement from all attending and will be created, advertised and appointed in April, May and June of 2024 with work to commence in July 2024. This is important work as it will lay out the next plan for working together to maintain and utilize the areas in our town that are considered open space. The 2006 plan defines this as: Open space, sometimes called green space, is any undeveloped land, private or public. It is land free of residential or commercial development that can include forests, fields, wetlands and waterbodies. It can include farmland and working forests, which provide for important wildlife habitat as well as for people’s livelihoods. Open space can be improved land such as a park or ballfield, or unimproved land such as a wildlife preserve or other natural area, or just an undeveloped parcel of land. In rural communities like Readfield, the bulk of the open space is privately-owned, unimproved, and unprotected.

Another area that is being considered and was discussed is how to effectively handle the growing recreation opportunities that are available in town for our children and our adults, being inclusive of all abilities. The town currently hires staffing for the town beach and maintenance of various town owned areas, but relies heavily on volunteers for all programming. We are looking at how this can be restructured to provide more efficient services and to expand offerings to more folks, especially adults. Stay tuned for discussion and to provide your input.

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**Select
Board
Contacts**

News from the Town Manager

Town Manager's Report - Volunteering

This message was probably more appropriate for November, but there is never a bad time to thank someone. There is also never a bad time to get involved in your community. I will address both of those things with my Messenger article this month!

I want to thank all of the members of our community who volunteer - a little or a lot, in Augusta or Readfield, for a non-profit organization or just to help out a neighbor. My window into the world of volunteering is often times limited to boards and committees and the more visible community organizations operating in town. However, there is a tremendous amount of volunteerism that happens outside of that view and it is just as important. I always encourage residents to get involved with municipal volunteer opportunities but I also want to encourage them to contribute in other ways. Volunteering is essential to maintaining a healthy community and as those who volunteer regularly know, it does a lot for the person doing the volunteering.

I recently had the opportunity to get involved with Boy Scout Troop 622 (serving Manchester, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, and Wayne) and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I was pushed outside of my comfort zone in many ways and have had to reassess how I manage my time and what things I value, but it is extraordinary seeing my son and other boys his age independently navigate a mile-long compass course through the woods, and be both excited and humbled by participating in the recent Veterans Day ceremony.

My hope is that everyone in Readfield can have a similar experience and see what can happen when they dig a little deeper, reach a little further, and give a little more. I hope they can see what it does for themselves and the people around them. We have a few "serial volunteers" in town who never seem to slow down. I am amazed by and grateful for their contributions. Not everyone has their time or energy but most everyone has a little, and just might find some more if they get involved with something that interests them.

As we approach a quieter time of year for most of us, I am hopeful that we can all think about how to volunteer or how to volunteer more. That could mean participating in one of the boards, committees, and commissions that our town is so fortunate to have. There are many open seats for a wide variety of interests and skill sets as well as varying levels of commitment. There is value in having a diversity of people involved with any endeavor and not everyone needs to be an expert. In fact it is often better if not everyone is! It could also mean finding an area of your own interest or need that has nothing to do with town government. The important thing is that you consider taking positive action to improve your community.

With Sincere Thanks,

Eric Dyer, Readfield Town Manager



www.readfieldmaine.org/subscribe



2024-2025 (FY 25) BUDGET & WARRANT PROCESS SCHEDULE As Amended 9/15/2023

Date	Meeting / Event / Task	Time
09/18/23	Select Board Meeting - Budget process review	6:30 PM
10/16/23	Select Board Meeting - Budget goals discussion	6:30 PM
11/13/23	Select Board Meeting - Warrant discussion	6:30 PM
11/15/23	Budget Committee Meeting - Organizational meeting and budget goals	6:30 PM
11/17/23	Budget process memo sent to Depts., Boards, & Committees - To include PY & YTD #s	N/A
12/11/23	Select Board Meeting - Capital Investment Planning Discussion	6:30 PM
12/30/23	Preliminary Dept., Board & Committee budget #s due	N/A
01/10/24	Budget Committee Meeting - Departments I	6:30 PM
01/22/24	Select Board Meeting - First Budget Draft	6:30 PM
01/24/24	Budget Committee Meeting - Departments II	6:30 PM
01/31/24	Joint Select Board and Budget Committee Meeting - Capital Investment Plan Review	6:30 PM
02/12/24	Select Board Meeting - Second Budget Draft	6:30 PM
02/15/24	Budget Committee Meeting - Departments III	6:30 PM
02/21/24	100 days before vote - Nomination Papers available	N/A
03/01/24	Deadline for warrant article and ordinance submissions - Select Board Review	N/A
03/06/24	Budget Committee Meeting - Budget review	6:30 PM
03/11/24	Select Board Meeting - Budget & Warrant review	6:30 PM
03/13/24	Possible School Board meeting with Select Boards - About 75% of tax bills is education spending	6:30 PM
03/15/24	Deadline for legal review of the proposed warrant	N/A
03/20/24	Public Budget Meeting / Hearing - Public Comment and Recommendations on DRAFT Budget	6:30 PM
04/08/24	Select Board Meeting - Final budget & Warrant review and approval	6:30 PM
04/10/24	Budget Committee Meeting - Final budget review and approval	6:30 PM
04/12/24	60 days before voting - Nomination Papers & Referendum Questions due - Warrant due to Clerk	3:30 PM
04/26/24	Draft annotated Warrant due & Official Ballot sent to printer (46 days prior to voting)	N/A
05/08/24	Public Hearing - Public Comment and Information on COMPLETED Warrant	6:30 PM
05/10/24	30 days before voting - Absentee Ballots available (actually 32 as the 12th is a Sunday)	3:30 PM
05/29/24	Public Hearing - Public Comment and Information on COMPLETED Warrant	6:30 PM
06/01/24	10 days before voting - Last day to hold referendum question hearings (Saturday)	N/A
06/04/24	7 days before voting - Town Meeting Warrant posted (absolute deadline)	N/A
06/11/24	Town Meeting - 8am to 8pm, Kents Hill School Alford Center	8:00 AM

Notes:

^ Involvement - The Select Board, Budget Committee, Other Boards & Committees, Town Manager, Finance Officer, and interested Residents will have ongoing roles in the budget process. All meetings are public open to public comment.

Select Board Attendance - Joint meetings and regular Select Board meetings will have full Select Board attendance and budget meetings may have members of the Select Board in attendance.

^ Public Budget Meetings - These meetings are intended to provide opportunity for extensive public comment, feedback, and recommendations on the draft budget, budget process, and final budget in conjunction with budget presentations / information.

Departments I - Includes the following: **General Government** (Administration, Insurance, Office Equipment, Assessing, Code Enforcement, Grants / Planning, Heating Assistance, Legal), **Maintenance** (General, Buildings, Vehicle / Equipment, Interlocal) **Boards & Committees** (Appeals Board, Planning Board), **Regional Assessments** (Cobbossee Watershed, First Park), **Kennebec County Tax** (County Tax), **General Assistance** (General Assist.)

Departments II - Includes the following: **Recreation and Open Space** (Beach, Conservation, Recreation Board, Heritage Days, Town Properties, Trails), **Roads & Drainage** (Roads & Drainage, Winter Maintenance), **Capital Improvements** (Admin Technology, Library Building, Cemetery, Roads, Equipment, Leases, Transfer Station, Maranacook Lake Dam), **Debt Service** (Debt Service),

Departments III - Includes the following: **Community Services** (Animal Control, Kennebec Land Trust, KVCOG, Age Friendly initiatives, Library, Public Access TV, Street Lights), **Protection** (Fire Department, Fire Equipment, Ambulance, Water Holes, Tower Sites, Dispatching, Personal Protection Gear, Emergency Ops), **Cemeteries** (Cemeteries), **Solid Waste** (Transfer Station, Backhoe),

Unclassified (Abatements / Overlay, Tax Relief, Non-profits, Contingency, Snowmobiling, Enterprise Fund, Revaluation)

Legend:

Select Board Meetings ^

Budget Committee Meetings ^

Joint Select Board and Budget Committee Meetings ^

Statutory Deadlines

Formal Public Hearings ^

July							August							September							October							
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30	31																											
November							December							January							February							
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31																				30								

 Select Board
 Budget Committee
 Joint Select Board & Budget Committee
 Town Meeting
 Holiday

December Select Board Meetings

Select Board: Monday, Dec 11th

Starting at 6:30 PM unless otherwise stated



Readfield Calling Tree

The Age Friendly Committee would like to create a Readfield Calling Tree.

If you would like to receive a weekly call from an Age Friendly volunteer or if you would be willing to be a Calling Tree volunteer, please reach out to Elaine at elainekatz03@gmail.com

2024 Dog Licenses



Ways to register your dog:

- ⇒ In person at the Town Office
- ⇒ Online at www.readfieldmaine.org under online services
- ⇒ By mail: Town of Readfield, 8 Old Kents Hill Road, Readfield, ME 04355
- ⇒ Over the phone by calling 207-685-4939

\$6.00 if spayed/neutered and \$11.00 if unaltered

Proof of rabies and spay/neuter (if applicable) are required to register

Dogs 6 months & older are required to be registered in the town they live in by state law.

**Registration deadline is
December 31, 2023**

**If you no longer have a dog
please let us know!**



Typical ice melts can be toxic for our furry friends, causing them irritation when brought in contact and toxic relations when ingested. To help your furry friend this winter, consider investing in a pet-friendly ice melt.

9 FACTS ABOUT RABIES THAT EVERY PET PARENT SHOULD KNOW

1. Rabies is a zoonotic viral infection
2. Rabies is (nearly) everywhere
3. Rabies can infect any mammal
4. Most rabies cases involve wild animals
5. Rabies is more common in cats than other domesticated animals
6. The rabies incubation period varies
7. Not all rabid animals will be aggressive
8. Rabies is the deadliest infectious disease on earth
9. Rabies in pets is *preventable*

Local Vaccination Clinics

Petco in Augusta
PetSmart in Augusta
Tractor Supply in Augusta

**Please get your
pet(s) vaccinated!**

Readfield Boards/Committee/Commission Openings

(As of November 28, 2023)

- Cobbossee Watershed District: 1 Alt. Member (2024)
- Connectivity Committee: 3 Members (2025)
- Conservation Commission: 1 Member (2026), 2 Alt. Members (2025 & 2026)
- Heritage Days Committee: Multiple Positions Available
- Local School Board Advisory: 3 Members (2024, 2025 & 2026)
- Maranacook Outlet Dam Committee: 1 Alt. Member (2024)
- Planning Board: 1 Alt. Member (2026)
- Recreation Committee: 1 Member (2026)
- Solid Waste & Recycling Committee: 1 Member (2025)
- Trails Committee: 3 Members (2-2024 & 1 Alt. Member-2026)



If you are interested in joining any of the above committees complete an Appointment Application online www.readfieldmaine.org or at the Town Office

Call 207-685-4939 or email clerk@readfieldmaine.org for more information

Need a ride?

For residents of Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Readfield, Rome and Vienna.



NDN provide **free** and confidential rides within our service area (listed at left) for adults who are not able to drive. We can take you to:

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

Call, email or visit our website for details about volunteering to drive or if you need a ride.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors

P.O. Box 142

Mount Vernon, ME 04352

phone: 207-860-0677

email: neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com

web: neighborsdrivingneighbors.org

Want to volunteer as a NDN Volunteer Driver? Contact them today! 207-860-0677

Veterans Day Celebration

November 11, 2023



December Transfer Station News

Cardboard Reminder: Please have your cardboard sized to **3'x3'** for easier recycling. Thank you!

Please Remember to 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. 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.

Assistance Available

If you have an accessibility issue, please ask the attendant on duty at the check-in building for a hand with your recycling and trash bags.

An attendant will remove bagged trash and recycling from your vehicle upon request.

Transfer Station Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday
& Friday

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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.

ecomaine
holiday recycling tips

do **recycle**



cardboard boxes



wrapping paper

(If it rips, it can be recycled. No cellophane, mylar, or other plastic wrap!)



paper gift bags

Again, no cellophane, mylar, or other plastic bags!



Still have questions? Check out our free RECYCLOPEDIA, with 1,300 more answers!
ecomaine.org/101

don't **recycle**

trees, wreaths, garland

(real ones can be composted)



string lights

(Goodwill will accept them, working or not!)



ribbons & bows

(reuse, if possible!)



padded envelopes & mailers

(no bubble wrap, either!)



old toys, games, & gifts

(same for old appliances, too)



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

Recycling Through Re-Use

Food Composting

Bring your food scraps to the compost pile at the Transfer Station! You can take home finished compost at no charge.



WASTE LESS
SAVE MORE



RECYCLE
COMPOST

Readfield Solid Waste
and Recycling Committee

How to stay on the recycling "Nice" list this holiday season



Happy Holidays from ecomaine! 'Tis the season for "decking the halls" and potluck parties galore. Here at ecomaine, we receive about a third of Maine's recyclables, or roughly 41,000 tons annually, which means we see evidence every day of serve ware, packages and decorations that are ripe with opportunity to be recycled right. **That's why we have created this Naughty and Nice list to remind you of what can be recycled.**

RECYCLING DOs to get you on the Nice list this holiday season: Aside from all of your standard household mixed paper and assorted rigid containers made of cardboard, plastic, glass, tin or aluminum, there are a number of items that are commonly used at the holidays that you can recycle. Here are the top five:

1. **Wrapping paper that rips:** If it rips, it recycles. Put it to the rip test and if it passes, place it in your bin.
2. **Holiday cards:** even if they have glitter on them, they are recyclable. Don't let all of that recyclable paper go to waste this season, put them in your recycling bin!
3. **Aluminum foil pans:** Whether its pie plates, fruit cake pans or any other aluminum pan, remember the rule that if the pan is not caked with sticky, thick food residue, then the pans are recyclable. The same goes for aluminum foil! Aluminum is a very nice material for your recycling bin!
4. **Cardboard and gift boxes:** With the rise of cybershopping, you might have a bigger inventory of cardboard boxes, never mind those gift boxes that make such pretty packages under the tree. Break them down flat before placing them in your bin to ensure enough space for the higher volume of recyclables you are likely to incur through the holidays.
5. **Cookie tins:** When you receive tins of cookies, consider saving them to contain your own baked gift next year, or donating them to Goodwill or any other salvage shop. But if they are no longer useful, do place them in your recycling bin!

Recycling DON'Ts that will land you on the Naughty list:

1. **Bows and ribbon:** there is no way to recycle these, so your best bet is to save them and reuse them each year or do away with disposable gift wrap altogether with decorative cloth gift bags. Bows and ribbon are naughty for the recycling bin.
2. **Wrapping paper that doesn't rip:** If your wrapping paper doesn't rip, then it is probably made of plastic vs. paper and therefore cannot be recycled. We'll talk about the wrapping paper you can recycle when we list the "Nice" to recycle list.
3. **Christmas tree lights:** Maybe you're trimming the tree only to discover that last year's lights are no longer repairable. In this case, your best bet is to donate them to a local Goodwill store. They can sell broken lights onto the market because of the valuable copper wires usually contained inside. Whatever you do, don't put them in your recycling bin, as they will end up clogging ecomaine's sorting equipment. They go in the metal collection bin.
4. **Foil caked with residue:** Aluminum foil is endlessly recyclable - if it is not caked with cheese or another sticky, messy residue. If it is caked with residue, you are best off tossing it in the trash.
5. **Plastic cutlery:** If you can avoid it altogether, that is the best strategy, but if you need to use it, consider reusing it again and again. When you can't use it any longer, you should put this type of plastic in the trash, not your recycling bin.

Reprinted from ecoMaine: [December 13, 2016 Education and Outreach, Recycling](#)

The logo for "ecomaine RECYCLOPEDIA" features the word "ecomaine" in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "RECYCLOPEDIA" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font on a green rectangular background. A small recycling symbol is integrated into the letter "O" in "RECYCLOPEDIA".

Have questions on what can & can not be recycled? Download the Ecomaine Recyclopeda App today!



DECEMBER 2023—LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

Library Hours

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

IMPORTANT! LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please plan your library visits during the holidays! The Library will be CLOSED on the following days:

- **Monday, December 25th** in observance of the Christmas holiday
- **Monday, January 1st** in observance of the New Year's Day holiday

ANNUAL COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING on December 1st at 6:30pm



Make this event a part of your family's holiday traditions! Please join the Readfield community as we gather together in front of the Readfield Community Library to light the community tree and enjoy holiday carols with the Maranacook Community Middle School Carol Singers. Then, we will follow the luminary-lit sidewalk to the

Town Office to enjoy cookies and cocoa and visit with Santa. This event will take place on **Friday, December 1st at 6:30pm, with a rain/snow date of Sunday December 3rd at 4:30pm.** Please dress warmly, as the first portion of the event is outdoors! Parking is available at the Library, Town Office, or along the road.



RECYCLED GIFT CRAFTING on December 6th, Drop in from 4-7pm



Make homemade holiday gifts with recycled materials! All ages welcome! **Drop in on Wednesday, December 6th anytime between 4-7pm** and make a holiday gift for a family member or friend. We will have ideas and supplies for craft projects for kids, teens, and adults, or use your imagination and get creative! Make ornaments from old CDs, decorative trees from old books and magazines, and more!



HANUKKAH Books & Activities EVENT on December 11th at 6:00pm



Enjoy **books, activities, and music** related to the celebration of Hanukkah on **Monday, December 11th at 6:00pm.** Some yummy treats as well! Books and activities are geared towards children, but all ages are welcomed!

GAMES, PUZZLES, and LEGOs on December 27th from 3-5pm

FREE vacation week FUN for kids/families! Stop by the Library on **Wednesday, December 27th from 3-5pm** for fun with puzzles, games, and LEGOs! All materials and snacks provided.



LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Upstairs electrical work has begun, and we have had an amazing crew of volunteers doing all lots of upstairs painting! We are so appreciative of the hard work that the town maintenance staff and volunteers have been doing to get the upstairs space ready!

Weekly In-Person STORY TIME on Tuesday Mornings at the Library

Join us at the Library on Tuesdays at 10:00am for theme-based books, songs, and crafts!



Library BOOK GROUP—NO meeting in December

The Library Book Group will NOT be meeting in December. We will resume our monthly meetings on **January 29th at 6:30pm by Zoom**. We will be reading 2 books in January to discuss together and also to discuss in early-to-mid February with local Maranacook Middle School students as part of a Community Read and Discussion Project. The books will likely be *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Man's Search for Meaning (Young Readers Edition)* by Viktor Frankl. Stay tuned for more info in early January. We look forward to these community discussions with the young people in our community!

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

December STORY WALK® at the Readfield Community Library—Red & Lulu



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 December is *Red & Lulu* by Maine author/illustrator Matt Tavares** 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.

December STORY WALK® at Readfield Elementary School—My Wonderful Christmas Tree



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 December is *My Wonderful Christmas Tree* by Maine author Dahlov Ipcar.**

PUZZLES!!

Cold winter days and school vacation weeks are great times for puzzles! We have many puzzles for all ages available for check out...we even have some with holiday and winter themes!



TOO MANY HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS?



Put your food waste to work by sending it back to the earth...simply bring **ANY** food waste along with you on your trip to the Readfield Transfer Station and dump it in the **community compost pile**. This saves the town money in waste disposal fees and it also provides those who need it with compost for their gardens. It is that easy!! Free counter top compost bins are available at the Transfer Station.

Kill-A-Watt ELECTRICITY MONITORS from ELECTRICITY MAINE

Curious about the efficiency of your household appliances, which items cost you the most in terms of your electric bill, and how you might save on your monthly bill? Simply check out an easy-to-use Kill-A-Watt Electricity Monitor from the Library to see how you might start saving!



Maranacook Community Cafe

**TEA, COFFEE, AND
MUFFINS PROVIDED!**

Hosted by middle school students.
Share your knowledge and find out
what they're learning!

Enjoy social time with others from our
community as well as with student hosts.

Presentations on topics of interest including
current issues, travel, arts events, and more.

Presentations rotate between student and
community lead.



**Thursdays
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

**Bring crafts,
games, and
friends!**

**Held in the Middle School
cafeteria. Reserved
parking in the lower
school lot.**

Contact Dan Holman if you're
interested!

dan_holman@maranacook.com

or

207-500-1737

Readfield PLAYGROUP

Thursdays
9:30-11:00

We've Moved!

The Play Group Moves to the Maranacook Bus Garage classroom, North Road, Readfield (next to Transfer Station)

Questions? Contact Pat Clark:
patricia_clark@maranacook.edu or 207-685-4101

For toddlers/preschoolers in the community, and their caregivers

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



Come join the fun!
Learn through play!

Thanks to all who helped get
this program running again!

Sponsored by the Readfield Recreation Association

MARANACCOK AREA FOOD PANTRY (MAFP) NEWS

For a week in early November, Maranacook High School and Middle School held their annual food drives to support the pantry. It is not news to anyone that food prices are higher and more of our community members are having difficulty getting enough food. It is with pride and thankfulness that I am able to write that this year's drive was one of our most productive in recent years. The numbers don't lie! Our middle school collected close to 2,000 food items and \$1,208.40 in cash donations. Staff member and Readfield resident Gwen Mohlar was the go to person who directed the drive and had huge support from staff and students.

At the high school, staff member Trudy Cormier and the Student Senate took on the food drive challenge and brought in over a thousand items and \$1,309 in donations. Special recognition and a cold thank you goes to Cal Dorman, assistant principal, who offered his "services" to be dropped into the dunk tank by the advisory group that brought in the most donations! By the "cold thank you" mentioned above, the dunk day was overcast with a strong Maine breeze and temps in the low 40's. The winning advisory group was Ian Fyfe's and the toss that sent Cal to the bottom was thrown by Readfield resident and member of the junior class Max Stevens who was the event's top dollar donor. Well done everyone!

On Monday, November 20th the food pantry committee members provided 23 Thanksgiving boxes filled with the traditional fixings of cranberry sauce, stuffing, corn bread, pie crust and pie filling, canned corn and green beans, sweet potatoes, a loaf of bread, and a Farmer Kev's bag of squash and white potatoes. Each box recipient received either a turkey, ham, or chicken. All the meat choices were donated by local residents.

With Christmas on the horizon, we will be gearing up once again to provide holiday meal boxes to local families. If you know of anyone who could use some assistance with a nutritious Christmas dinner, please reach out to foodpantry@maranacook.com or Greg at 685-4481 or durgie@roadrunner.com. All that is needed is a first name and location if a delivery is needed. Pick up date and time for the December holiday pick up / delivery will be Wednesday, December 20 between 12:00-2:00pm at the Middle School.

Thank you to everyone who has donated or plans to donate in the future. Happy Holidays to all.

Greg Durgin (for the MAFP).

*thank
you*

**Maranacook Food
Pantry**

**Every Thursday
3:00-4:00 PM**



Readfield Union Meeting House

Last month we talked about the “Christmas Through the Ages” event that is taking place on Saturday, December 9th . This event is being sponsored by the Readfield Union Meeting House Co. (RUMH) and the Readfield Historical Society. Limited to 84 people, the tickets sold out before all the advertising went out. If you are around town on the 9th, you may see small groups of people walking about town being led by a guide wearing a distinctive holiday hat. They are visiting 5 buildings in town, learning about Christmas traditions from the early 1700's to the present day. The RUMH will be the first stop on the walking tour by representing the Moravian era. This group came to what was to become the United States in the early 1700's. A highlight of their celebration involved decorating a “putz” and hanging a “Moravian Star” Is your interest piqued? Please take the time to research these terms by this little known group.



Getting ready for winter means several things to us at the RUMH and Vestry. Leaves! We have been fortunate to have Dana Therrien bring his Cyclone leaf machine to gather up the majority of the leaves again this year. Also, a group of students from Kents Hill School spent an afternoon raking leaves. This was part of their Community Service Day and we are very thankful for their help. Another winter preparation is turning off the water in the Meeting House but to keep water on in the Vestry, an insulated box needed to be rebuilt in the cellar of the Meeting House. Thank you board member Larry Dunn and community volunteer Joe Potter for doing this.

What's ahead for us? We are planning for a year end newsletter, organizing a charter committee to draw up guidelines for the community use of the Vestry and Meeting House, working on the 2024 summer schedule of activities, and for most of us board members, seeing the tower, belfry, and spire restoration actually take place.

The Board is so thankful for all the support that Friends of the Vestry, members, donors, and the Readfield community have given this year, actually for many years to the RUMH, and recently to the Vestry building. Twenty twenty four looks to be very promising year for our community.

In closing, my personal thank you goes to the Board of Directors of the RUMH for the hours of volunteer service that you have given. You have all “stepped up to the plate this year.”

Respectfully, Nancy Durgin, President RUMH Board

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK



Thanksgiving has come and gone. We are now preparing for our Christmas box handouts, which will be on Saturday, December 16 from 9:30 to 11:30.

If you have not signed up for a Christmas box and would like one, please stop by on December 2 or call the Food Bank at 293-2141 on that Saturday morning. Also, on the 16th we will have gift items available for you to help with your Christmas shopping.

We will be closed on December 23 but will be open on December 30

Donations can be dropped off at the Readfield Town Office

Conervation Commission News

Thanking Previous Commission Members

By Linnea Koons

The Conservation Commission recognized two retired members of the commission at the November meeting for their contributions over the years. We celebrated the accomplishments of Tim Sniffen and Bob Mohlar, both enthusiastic conservationists, with Black Magic Chocolate cake and apple cider. They volunteered their time over the years to help make Readfield a community that shared the natural world. Readfield residents can enjoy miles of trails year-round because of their efforts.

The Conservation Commission also recognized the contributions of Milt Wright, who passed away in July. We decided to name the 2nd Lake Overlook Spur at Torsey Pond Nature Preserve for Milt Wright. It will be called the Milt Wright spur and pond overlook. Milt was the steward for the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve trails located off Rt. 41. The Bangor Daily News has praised the trails in numerous articles. Please go walk, snowshoe or ski these trails. They are accessible year-round and there is a parking area.



Remember Readfield U?

In March of 2024 Readfield U will again offer a month of programs free of charge led by local people. It's a way for us get to know one another better in our community, learn something new, and make getting through the tail end of winter a little easier.

The Age-Friendly committee has already started planning this event and the line-up of classes is coming together. We hope to know what we have by December 15 to give time for scheduling and publicity. Perhaps you have something you'd like to offer—a craft, a particular skill, some specialty knowledge, a game to teach, something related to music, slides of a trip, or nature photography... The possibilities are endless. It could be a formal presentation, an informal gathering, a hands-on activity.

If you'd like to talk about it contact Maggie Edmondson readfieldu@gmail.com or call her at 685-4797. You can also check out the Readfield U website: readfieldu.org where there is a form for presenters to submit so that we know what you need in the way of time, space, minimum/maximum attendance and so on.

All classes are held in Readfield but people from surrounding communities are welcome to both offer and to attend programs.

If you know someone you feel would have something of interest to share please ask them if they're interested and then contact Maggie in one of the ways listed above.

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.

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.



Dear fellow snowmobile enthusiasts,

Trust that the Readfield Blizzard Buster Snowmobile Club volunteers are very busy making the estimated 30 miles of snowmobile trails ready for our winter enjoyment. I've seen some promising skimming of ice on the Readfield bogs as the temperatures begin to drop. I know the ice freezing is essential to accessing our many trails that connect with each other on the bogs and lakes. Intellectually I also know, that we have to be patient, which is not an asset I possess. Every December we do get antsy to start the season and are told "just wait" by the old-timers and seasoned trail riders. The good riding doesn't begin until at least mid-January.

Are you a current member of a snowmobile club somewhere in the State of Maine. If you ride a snowmobile, you owe it to the sport. The many trails through-out Maine are maintained and supported by your local club, completely through volunteers.



An interesting fact, the snowmobile industry brought in over \$606 million dollars in 2020 and contributed to employment for over 3,000 individuals. Please consider supporting the Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club through your membership. If you are interested, please call me at 685-4203 and we will send you a membership application. Annual Family membership is only \$30.00.

Submitted by Marge Livingston, Club Secretary

Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club; P.O. Bos 62, Readfield, Maine 04355



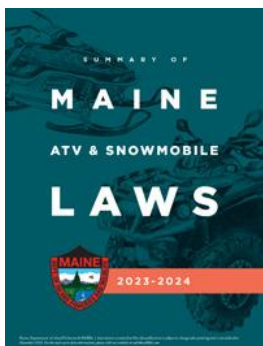
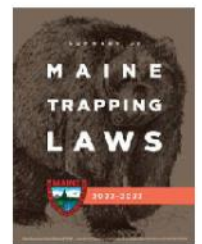
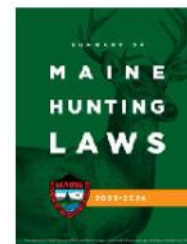
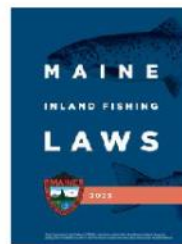
Bridge recently built by trail volunteers on trail 38C

Local snowmobile trail maps are for sale & available at the Readfield Town Office

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife



Laws of the Maine Outdoors



Stay up to date with all the laws & regulations at:

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/23-MDIFW-23-ATV-SNOWMOBILE-2023-24.pdf>



Open your phone's Camera / QR reader and scan the code

**advertise
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE!**

Business Card Size (3.5" x 2.0")

1 Month \$12.00

6 Months \$60.00

12 Months \$100.00

Other Sizes/Prices TBD

Contact the Town Office:

207-685-4939 / clerk@readfieldmaine.org



Parks Towing

Al Parks Sr. - Owner

Phone (207) 377-7963

Cell (207) 446-3881

Yard (207) 685-3444

Al (207) 931-8354

Donnie (207) 441-1366

138 Main Street
Winthrop, ME 04364

AAA & Insurance Companies Approved

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

**Check out the Business
Listings page on our
website for other local town
businesses!**



LITTLE HOUSE

Paul Elliot Schnall Interiors

P Ridge Road

Readfield

Email:

paulschnallaugusta@gmail.com



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

RSU #38 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule 2023-2024

The following is a schedule of meetings for the RSU #38 Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 school year. Meetings will be held at the Maranacook Middle School Cafeteria, with a zoom option on Wednesdays (typically the 1st and 3rd Wednesday), beginning at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please refer to the Maranacook Area Schools website for changes during the school year <https://www.maranacook.org/>

- December 6 – Business Meeting
- January 3 – Business Meeting
- January 17 – Budget Workshop Meeting
- February 7 – Business Meeting
- February 28 – Budget Workshop Meeting (4th Wednesday)
- March 6 – Business Meeting
- March 20 – Budget Workshop Meeting
- March 27 – Budget Workshop Meeting (4th Wednesday)
- April 3 – Business Meeting
- April 10 – Vote on budget; Workshop Meeting (2nd Wednesday)
- May 1 – Business Meeting
- May 8 – RSU #38 Annual Budget Meeting, MS Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday) (in person only)
- June 5 – Business Meeting
- June 12 – Business/Workshop Meeting (accept referendum votes and set local assessments) (2nd Weds.)
- June 11 – Referendum vote at individual towns



07/21/23



RSU 38

HiSET/Diploma Classes Ongoing Year-round

Enrichment Classes

	Start Date
Registered Maine Guide Training	1/23/2024
15 iPhone/iPad Vision Accessibility Features	Ongoing
Cooking With BoomerTECH Adventures	Ongoing
Create & Deliver Online Zoom Courses	Ongoing
Digital Tools for the Beginning Memoir Writer	Ongoing
Fantastic Photo Finishes-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
Maximize Your iPad's Potential	Ongoing
More Hidden Gems Lurking in Your iPhone & iPad	Ongoing
Taking Awesome Pictures With Your iPhone/iPad Camera	Ongoing
Unlock Safari's Secrets on Your iPad in Just Five Lessons	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

Manchester Lions Club Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday December 2, 2023

9:00 - 3:00

Lions Club House

Route 17, Manchester

Local Crafters & Artisans

Homemade Baked Goodies
and Concessions



We Serve





LOVE TO STITCH

Tuesdays 1-3pm

at the

Readfield Community Library



- Bring your favorite stitching project to work on (knit, crochet, cross stitch, quilt, etc.)
- Share new ideas and conversation
- Coffee and tea available
- All levels of experience welcome

Emerging Artists Exploring Identity will be an exhibition of 10 emerging artists displaying works at “The Gallery” in Readfield, from Fri, Dec. 8th - Sun, Dec. 10th, 11 AM to 6 PM. An opening reception will be held Sat, Dec. 9th, from Noon till 4 PM. There will be a reception open to the public on Sat, Dec. 9th from 12 PM to 4 PM. The artists featured are senior undergraduates in the Studio Arts program at the University of Maine at Augusta. They will exhibit works that represent their identities and creative developments as they plan to become professional artists. Works of various media will be on display.

For more information, contact Bruce Forbes at bruce.forbes@maine.edu



Chair Yoga Pop-ups

at



The Gallery in Readfield

Take a seat to benefit the
Maranacook Community School
Food Pantry!



Friday, Dec. 15th 9:00- 10:00 AM

Friday, Dec. 22nd 9:00 - 10:00 AM



Due to limited space, pre-registration is required. \$10 pre-payment reserves your chair and goes entirely to the pantry. Please **call Ann @ 207 440-0210 to register** and for further information.

No yoga experience needed. Pull up a chair, have some fun and stretch your giving muscles!



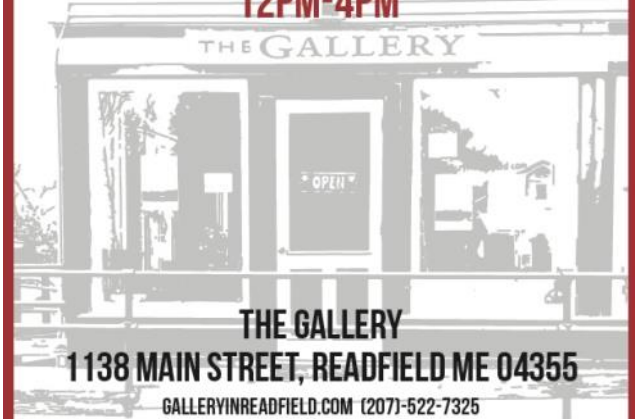
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AUGUSTA SENIOR ART STUDENTS PRESENT

EMERGING ARTISTS EXPLORING IDENTITY

OPENING RECEPTION ON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 2023

12PM-4PM



THE GALLERY

1138 MAIN STREET, READFIELD ME 04355

GALLERYINREADFIELD.COM (207)-522-7325

EXHIBITION DATES: DEC. 8TH-DEC. 10 GALLERY HOURS: 11AM-6PM

Have you scheduled your HEAP appointment?



KVCAP continues to schedule appointments for the Home Energy Assistance Program 2023/24 heating season, for Kennebec County residents.

For more information, to see if you qualify, or to schedule an appointment please call 207-859-1500, email energy@kvcap.org, or visit: <https://www.kvcap.org/for-the-home/energy-housing-services-overview/heating-assistance>

FAMILY SIZE	60% of SMI 70% of Points		
	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
1	2,723	8,168	32,672
2	3,560	10,681	42,725
3	4,398	13,195	52,778
4	5,236	15,708	62,831
5	6,074	18,221	72,883
6	6,911	20,734	82,936
7	7,069	21,206	84,821
8	7,226	21,677	86,706
9	7,383	22,148	88,591
10	7,540	22,619	90,476
11	7,697	23,091	92,361

E-Alerts Subscription & Text Alerts!

An easy way to keep up-to-date with Town Happenings!
Go to www.readfieldmaine.org and click on E-Alerts to sign up.



Readfield United Methodist Church

1564 Main St. Readfield, ME / Phone number: 207-685-4211

Email: office@readfieldchurch.net Website: readfieldchurch.org

Come worship with us every Sunday 10:00 a.m. / The church is handicap accessible



December 2nd

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Custom wreath making, chowders, arts & crafts

Our next kindness food box giveaway is scheduled for December 16th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Jesse Lee church. Anyone is welcomed to come get a box of non-perishable food. You just pull up in the parking lot and we put a kindness box in your vehicle. No questions asked. If you would like to help us with filling these boxes there is a list of items, we suggest on our website or you can call or email the office.





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

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2024 HOLIDAY CLOSURE The Town Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 for New Years Day					1 Annual Community Tree Lighting & Holiday Carols 6:30 PM outside at Readfield Library	2
3 RAIN DATE for Annual Community Tree Lighting & Holiday Carols 4:30 PM outside at Readfield Library (only if cancelled on 1st)	4 Connectivity Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	5	6 Kennebec County Budget Committee District Two Caucus 7:00 PM	7	8	9
10	11 Cemetery Committee 10:30 AM Select Board 6:30 PM	12 Conservation Commission 6:30 PM Planning Board 6:30 PM	13 Age Friendly 9:00AM Library Board 6:30 PM	14	15	16
17	18 Fairgrounds Working Group 6:30 PM	19	20	21	22	23
24 2024 Dog Licenses Due 31	25 Town Office Closed	26	27 Trails Committee 6:30 PM January Messenger Articles Due	28	29	30