



Readfield Messenger

www.readfieldmaine.org

JANUARY

Volume 21 Issue 01



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.

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

Late fee of \$25.00 per dog if not paid for by January 31st

January Holiday Closures:

The Town Office & Library will be closed on Mon, Jan. 1st in observance of New Years Day & Mon, Jan. 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Happy New Year
2024

CORNER

Thankfulness

By: Kathryn Mills Woodsum

In looking back over the past year, I find that I am thankful for many things and hope that others are also. Life offers up many things, events and people to deal with and how we choose to approach each experience greatly affects our wellbeing. Challenges are certainly more complex and consume more of our energy than joyful events but there is always the opportunity to choose to be thankful in the long run.

I had the privilege of attending a Readfield employee meeting in December and hear our town manager praise our employees for diligently working in their jobs for the benefit of the residents and working well together. I was able to expand on that by stating the appreciation of the Select Board for our impression of the collective group always being willing to pitch in and do what is needed even when it may not be a part of their job description. This is an often-overlooked function of a person’s working day responsibilities and is very often not present in organizations. We are fortunate in Readfield that the climate has been developed to have folks willingly work together when needed and this provides a much better result for the town and a better workplace for the employees. I presented, on behalf of the Select Board and the Town Manager, our donated small gift bags with tokens of our appreciation for each non-seasonal employee along with thanks for jobs well done.

The wind and rain storm of December 18th brought considerable damage to property and roads in our state as well as in our town. Our Fire Department was present throughout the storm and in the following days protecting us all. They handled alerting drivers of road hazards, clearing trees from roads to open access for emergency vehicles, assisting with water diversion, calls for assistance from residents, and many other tasks. Our maintenance team was out cutting, clearing and chipping tree debris from our town roads, and assisting with building needs while the power was out. Our town office staff and librarian were available throughout to provide assistance and warming places. Our transfer station opened to accept tree debris even when they didn’t have power to accept other waste streams. Committee volunteers were out clearing debris on our trails and others were assisting folks in town. Everyone pitched in and did what was needed and brainstormed ideas to help others. Neighbors helped others clear a path to move across roads that were littered with debris, had folks over to visit and warm up and to charge their devices, all while taking care of their own storm issues. Local contractors answered the call to repair road damage and clean up debris. CMP stayed on top of the incredible amount of damage to our power system and coordinated a massive repair project involving thousands of workers from around the country coming to Maine to repair and rebuild our power grid. It was a gift indeed that these workers gave us, whether they hail from Maine or states far away, to work 17-hour shifts with 7 hours to sleep for 6 consecutive days. In spite of the damage, dark and cold days, and inconvenience, there is much to be thankful for as noted above, and especially for our small town where folks help each other out in times of need.

The coming year will undoubtedly present challenges for us and I am thankful for the expertise and assistance of so many folks in our town who will be involved in planning ahead for the coming year to keep Readfield a vibrant place to live. Budget season has begun which involves every committee, board and commission in town (a group of over 100 volunteers) and all the town employees. Please stay informed by reading the Messenger, utilizing the town website, signing up for text and/or email alerts, talking with those who volunteer and by reaching out to the town office for information. Our goal this year is to maintain current services, to continue developing projects already considered, and to complete projects already underway. Hopefully any new projects can wait for another year.

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Select Board Contacts



News from the Town Manager

Storm Follow-Up

What a whirlwind we had last month, both literally and figuratively! We were all trying to prepare for the holidays when the storm of December 18 and 19 violently interrupted our plans; downing trees, cutting power, flooding basements, and leaving many roads inaccessible for hours and days at a time. This was a major storm event that teetered on the edge of being a full-fledged disaster. We have unfortunately been subjected to 50 and 100 year storms every six months it seems. When events like this occur it is valuable to look at what happened, what could happen differently, and how to better prepare our homes and our community for future events.

Fire Department volunteers were instrumental in the Town's immediate emergency response - keeping roads open and responding to calls for assistance. Town Maintenance staff helped clear trees and brush and began documenting damage to infrastructure. And of course neighbors helped neighbors! During the storm and in the following days the Town Office remained open 24/7 as a warming center and the Library helped out with extra hours and services later in the week. I want to thank municipal volunteers, staff, and members of the community for their tremendous response during and after the storm!

We had a number of emergency calls for basement flooding and a lot of situations where people did not have backup power and really needed it. We struggled with if or how we might help in these circumstances. Unfortunately the Fire Department and Town Staff cannot provide or run generators for residents and cannot provide or run sump pumps. This is due to the significant risk and liability associated with performing these activities. If your property was impacted by flooding or you were impacted by a lack of backup power, please take steps to address these issues because there are limits to the help that the Town can offer and responding to these calls also takes people and equipment away from other essential public safety needs. With rare exception every home in Readfield should have a backup generator, and every home with a basement should have a sump pump.

Once things quieted down we began to engage with private contractors to clear debris from the roadside and also saw volunteers help clear many of the recreational trails in town. The question of who is responsible for maintaining or removing trees came up a lot after the storm, and does after most big storms. While there are sometimes exceptions the following things can safely be said in most cases:

- Property owners own the trees on their property, including those near the road within the road Right of Way and always have the right and option to cut, trim, and remove trees.
- The Town has the option of managing trees within the Right of Way, but is exclusively concerned with trees that are obstructing the roadway or otherwise present an immediate danger.
- Old and even damaged trees are not always a danger and are addresses on a case-by case basis. If there is a question about whether a tree needs to be removed or not we will often split the cost of the work with the property owner.
- The Town cannot cut or remove trees outside of the Right-of Way.

Town staff and local contractors have removed a lot of debris following the storm but we will not be able to take care of everything, particularly if it is not an immediate hazard. I appreciate the patience and understanding of residents as we continue to pursue the clean-up, and the work done by residents to help clear brush and tree debris from their properties

In closing I want to again thank everyone for working together during and after the storm and remind residents to treat serious situations like this with due caution as they are happening more. Be prepared, stay off the roads unless you have to, do not move cones or cross downed power lines, and help out!

[Additional Resources on Page 12](#)

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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November							December							January							February							
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March							April							May							June						
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 Select Board
 Budget Committee
 Joint Select Board & Budget Committee
 Town Meeting
 Holiday

January Select Board & Budget Committee Meetings

Select Board: Monday, Jan. 8th & 22nd
Budget Committee: Wednesday, Jan. 10th & 24th
Joint Select Board/Budget: Wednesday, Jan. 31st

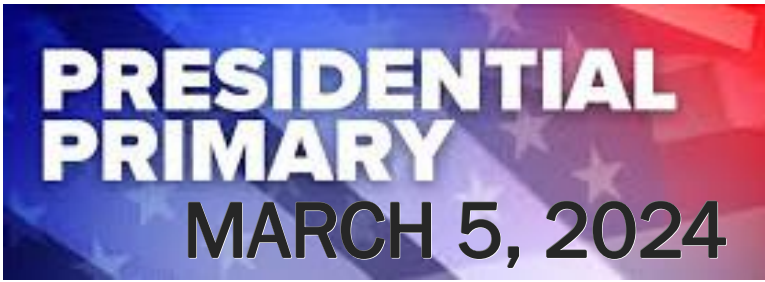
Starting at 6:30 PM unless otherwise stated



Thank You

For all the donations to the giving tree!





Absentee Ballots will be available the beginning of February to those eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary. See below regarding Semi-Open Primary Voting.

Kents Hill School, Alford Athletic Center, 1617 Main St, Readfield
Polls Open 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

- Effective January 1, 2024, Maine is transitioning from a closed primary system to a **semi-open primary**. This means that unenrolled voters can now participate in the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary and June 11, 2024 State Primary.
- ⇒ Voters enrolled in a specific party can only vote in that party’s primary. Unenrolled voters can vote in ONE primary of the party of their choice.
 - ⇒ The **Democratic** and **Republican** parties are the only parties that will hold primaries on March 5th. The Green Independent and Libertarian parties will not be participating.
 - ⇒ Voters enrolled in a qualifying party (Forward, No Labels or People’s) do not have an option to select a ballot. They must either enroll in a qualified party or become unenrolled to participate in the primary.
 - ⇒ Voters that change or withdraw their enrollment **within 15 days** of the election are ineligible to participate in the primary.
 - ⇒ A voter must remain in a party for 3 months before changing parties or unenrolling. Voters must do so at least **15 days before the primary** in order to be eligible to vote in the primary.

To request your absentee ballot:

- ⇒ Online: <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>
- ⇒ Complete the form on the next page or at the Readfield Town Office during regular business hours - You may also vote in person once ballots are available
- ⇒ Call the Town Office at 207-685-4939 and talk to a clerk; voice messages/ emails cannot be accepted and we need to speak to the voter who is requesting the Absentee Ballot

If you have any questions; please contact Kristin, Town Clerk at 207-685-4939 or clerk@readfieldmaine.org

2024 Federal/State/Local Election Schedule

March 5	<u>Presidential Primary</u>
	• Democratic Party Primary
	• Republican Party Primary
June 11	<u>State Primary Election</u>
November 5	<u>General (Presidential) Election</u>

Readfield Town Meeting & RSU #38 Referendum Vote will be held on Tuesday, June 11th along with the State Primary Election



Application for Absentee Ballot March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary

Absentee ballots will become available and will be provided to voters beginning in early February.

<u>Application Received</u> (Date/Time)
<u>Ballot Sent/Delivered</u> (Date/Time)
<u>Enrollment</u> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

An absentee ballot request must be received by the Municipal Clerk by the close of business on **Thursday, February 29, 2024**, unless special circumstances exist.

Voted absentee ballots must be received by the Municipal Clerk by 8 p.m. on March 5, 2024.

1. Full Name of Registered Voter Requesting the Ballot _____
2. Residence Address of Voter _____

(Street Address)
(Municipality)
3. Voter's Date of Birth / / - / / - / / /

m m d d y y y y
4. Contact Information – **Please complete. Clerk will use only to notify the voter if there is a problem with the application or ballot.**
 Daytime Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

5. **Ballot requested:** A voter not enrolled in a political party may participate in a party's primary without enrolling in the party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one primary election. Indicate the party for which you want to receive a ballot. NOTE: A voter enrolled in a party will receive the ballot for that party regardless of the party indicated below.

Democratic **Republican**

6. Method of Delivery of Ballot to the Voter
 - a. Issued to Voter (Application Required if voter will vote **Outside the Municipal Clerk's Presence**)
 - b. By Mail to this Address _____
 - c. By Immediate Family Member of Voter
 Designated Here _____

(Name)
(Relationship to Voter)
 - d. By this 3rd Person (Designated by the Voter) _____

(Name)
(Telephone #)

7. Signature of Voter OR Immediate Family Member of Voter _____ Date _____

Note: If an immediate family member of the voter is completing this application, the relationship to the voter must be provided in 6(c) above. The absentee ballot can be delivered to the immediate family member in person or mailed to the address provided in 6(b).

8. Signature of Immediate Family Member Returning the Ballot _____
 Relationship to Voter _____
(Complete Section #8 Only if Ballot was Delivered to the Voter or a Different Immediate Family Member of the Voter)

AIDE CERTIFICATE: (Must be Completed if Applicant was Assisted as Designated Below)

If the voter received assistance in reading and/or signing this application, the person who assisted the voter must complete and sign this certificate.

I helped this voter: **read the application** **sign the application** **read and sign the application**

Signature of Aide _____ Printed Name of Aide _____

Town Manager 360 Review - Public Comment

The Town Manager is being evaluated at this time by the Select Board for his regularly scheduled annual review.

Members of the public are invited to constructively comment on his performance in relation to their expectations of a Town Manager on behalf of Readfield.



Comments are accepted on both an attributed or anonymous basis and will not be directly shared with the Town Manager, but will be summarized and combined with other public comment for discussion during the review process. Attributed comments will be given more consideration than anonymous ones. Your input will remain confidential in either case and will help inform the Select Board in the evaluation process.

Residents wishing to provide constructive comment for the Town Manager's Annual Review can complete the [Public Comment Survey here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83YK8LJ) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83YK8LJ>), they may also email Select Board Member [Steve DeAngelis](mailto:sdeangelis@readfieldmaine.org); (sdeangelis@readfieldmaine.org) or deliver comments to the Town Office directly or by mail in a sealed and marked envelope to: Town of Readfield, Attn: Steve DeAngelis, Town Manager Evaluation, 8 Old Kents Hill Road, Readfield ME 04355

Responses should be submitted prior to 3:30 pm on Friday, January 12, 2024

Thank you!

Readfield Boards/Committee/Commission Openings

(As of December 23, 2023)

- Cobbossee Watershed District: 1 Alt. Member (2024)
- Connectivity Committee: 3 Members (2025)
- Conservation Commission: 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: 2 Alt. Member (2026 & 2027)
- 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

January Transfer Station News



Our three towns spend over
\$390,000
to dispose of trash each year!

What can you move from trash to recycling?

Transfer Station Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday
& Friday

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

What's wasted in our trash?

Paper/cardboard	Food	Plastic	Textiles	Yard	Metal
21%	18%	16%	6%	4%	3%

We're too **GOOD** for the trash



Cardboard Reminder:

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

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.



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

Recycling Through Re-Use

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.

Food Composting

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



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.

WASTE LESS
SAVE MORE



RECYCLE
COMPOST

Readfield Solid Waste
and Recycling Committee

Conservation Commission News

These Trails Don't Just Clear Themselves, You Know!

By Linnea Koons

There are miles of well-maintained trails on town-owned land that are open to the public to walk, snowshoe, and ski. Torsey Pond Nature Preserve and the Fairgrounds are just two of these properties. They are the subject of this article because they are so easy to get to. How do these trails stay open and useable? It's thanks to the volunteer work by past and present members of the Conservation Commission and Trails Committee.

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at what happens.

Torsey Pond Nature Preserve: Four of us met at the parking lot on the first Saturday morning of December (Howard Lake, Greg Durgin, Jerry Bley, Linnea Koons), each bringing an assortment of tools and lumber. This was in response to an email sent by someone who had hiked the trails and noticed the need for repairs.

First, we repositioned the information kiosk and stabilized the uprights with rebar. Then we carried a pressure-treated 6x6, chainsaw, spikes, and various other tools down to the duck blind to fix the step into the blind. I left after depositing the chainsaw and bag of power tools and Howard, Greg, and Jerry went to work. The result was a spacious platform on 2 supports made from a 6x6 with a 4x4 on top. That's Jerry testing it out in the photo on the left, below.

The Fairgrounds and Community Pathway: Once again, a Conservation Commission member sent out an email about cleaning up blocked trails, this time following the storm on the Sunday and Monday before Christmas. Once again, past and present members of the Conservation and Trails Committee met on the Saturday before Christmas and volunteered their time, talents, and efforts to clear trails. The group included Howard Lake, Greg Leimbach, Paul Bessette, Jackie Drouin, Rob Peale, Bob Marvinney, Kyle Marvinney, Eric Dyer, Peter Davis, Steve Hayes, Jerry Bley, and Greg Durgin. More than 10 trees had been uprooted, split, or had dropped large branches on over 1 ½ miles of trails. A group of 4 blowdowns in the photo in the middle can be seen from Church Rd. The remains of the widowmaker in the righthand photo are just beyond it. All cleanup was completed by the volunteers that day. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen!



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

COME LEARN ABOUT PLANS FOR THE FAIRGROUNDS COMMUNITY PARK

PUBLIC MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 6:30 pm / READFIELD TOWN OFFICE

At last June's Town Meeting, Readfield residents voted to proceed with developing a plan for the Readfield Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds Working Group has spent the fall developing the plan (shown above) that includes:

- * a softball field
- * a basketball-sports court
- * open meadows
- * walking trails
- * expanded parking
- * space for community events
- * multi-use sports field
- * pollinator garden
- * accessible parking, paths and facilities

Come learn more about the project and plans to make it a reality.



Recovery Resources from the December Storm



Maine DHHS Extends Deadline for SNAP Recipients to Apply for Help Replacing Food

Recipients now have until January 18 to apply for benefits to replace food lost as a result of the December Wind Storm

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced that Maine people who lost food purchased through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a result of the December storm now have until January 18, 2024, to apply for benefits to replace that food.

How to apply for SNAP benefits to replace lost food:

- ⇒ SNAP recipients who lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to a power outage, flooding, or other misfortune related to the storm may be able to receive benefits to replace that food.
- ⇒ Losses must be reported to DHHS by January 18, 2024.
- ⇒ SNAP recipients should fill out a simple form available on the DHHS website at maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms and email it to farmington.dhhs@maine.gov. Paper forms are also available at local DHHS offices.

The replacement benefit amount is the lesser of the total value of the food purchased with SNAP that was lost, or one month's benefit.



Maine Department of Environmental Protection

1-800-482-0777 or call 211

These questions will help you determine if you should call Maine DEP.

1. Did your basement flood **AND** do you have oil heat, or did you before your current method of heating?
2. Do you have an oil tank in your house, even if you don't use it?
3. Does your home or basement smell strongly like oil?
4. Did your tank move, whether it leaked or not?
5. Can you see oil on the water, either pink or rainbow sheen?
6. Look at the outside of the house for oil tank fill and vent pipes, are they crooked?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, give the Maine DEP a call and have a Responder come and look at your situation. There is no cost for Maine DEP to visit your home. Maine DEP has responders staged statewide ready to assist because of the impact of this storm, please understand that it may take a little extra time for Responders to get to where you are. When speaking to dispatch at the number above, provide detailed information and MDEP Responders will help. Long term exposure to oil can be bad for your health.

Oil that isn't cleaned up properly can damage the environment. The Maine DEP has funding that may help pay for the cleanup of oil in your home or on your property. The Maine DEP crews and has resources to help you dispose of oily debris that, if not properly disposed of, can affect you, your neighbors, and the environment.

Please share this information with your neighbor, family, or anyone who may be affected by this flooding event.

For more information visit www.maine.gov/dep/

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES IN READFIELD on DECEMBER 9th

Presented by Readfield Historical Society and Readfield Union Meeting House

Photos by Mike Laberge



Eric and Sarah Dyer and their two children (pictured at left) were dressed in Victorian attire as they welcomed people into their circa 1846 home on December 9th. Seven different groups of fifteen gathered in the Dyer's front parlor over the course of the day, where Eric and Sarah talked about the history of their home and how families used to celebrate a Victorian Christmas. There, the Dyers had decorated their home to portray a Victorian Christmas, one of six Readfield Corner village locations included on a "Christmas through the Ages" tour. Other eras and locations represented were a 1700s Moravian Christmas at the Union Meeting House; a Colonial Christmas at the circa 1800 Dr. Samuel & Patience Currier house (Community Library); the 1940's, WWII period by Chris Montagna at the home of Doug and Carol Doorenbos, who also hosted a 1950s Christmas at their Iron Fence Inn. The final stop was Christmas Today at the circa 1910 home of Rick Wilson, which was adorned with his Byer Christmas carolers and tree decorations he has collected from throughout the world. All the hosts dressed in time appropriate costumes and shared lessons on how people would have celebrated the holiday in those respective times. The buildings were decorated and complemented with customary music and offerings of beverages and sweet treats. Seven groups were

shown the way from one location to the next by costumed guides – sometimes singing Christmas carols en-route.

The Moravian Christmas was described by Henry Whittemore of Readfield (*pictured at right*), who explained its origin was in Eastern Europe and introduced into the U.S. by Moravian immigrants in the mid 1700s. As a youngster, Whittemore attended a Moravian school in Bethlehem, PA where he became familiar with their traditions such as "love feasts," special music and church services. A "pyramid tree" was among the decorations on display, embellished with fruits, nuts and objects from nature. The wooden, triangular structure with shelves was used for years by the same family instead of a freshly cut tree every year, explained Whittemore. Finally, candles were lit as the traditional Moravian hymn "Morning Star" filled the church and guests enjoyed a sampling of love feast refreshments.



For the Colonial period Jackie Drouin (*pictured left*) portrayed the year 1817 as Patience Currier, wife of Dr. Samuel and mother of eight. Melissa Small, town librarian stepped in as the eldest Currier child, Isabella and Ellen Bowman played Colonial music on a stringed instrument as guests sang "Joy to the World." There were no Christmas trees in Colonial times, Small explained. Adults gave one modest gift to each of their children but there was not yet a Santa Claus in the Colonies. Christmas was a time for adults not children, when the adults feasted, drank and visited.

At the Dyer home guests were told about the advent of the Christmas tree in the U.S. during the Victorian era, following the lead of Queen Victoria whose German born husband, Prince Albert introduced it into England from his home country. The custom soon caught on in America and other customs also became popular during the Victorian era such as gift giving by Santa Claus, Christmas cards and some of the music that remains popular to this day.



Chris Montagna of Manchester (*pictured upper left*) shared items from his WWII collection including homemade tree decorations, vintage toys, magazines, newspapers, music, a WWII Army uniform and stories from his own family. A banner with two blue stars hung in a window which, he explained would have meant there were two sons serving in the military. Gold stars indicated a son had died in the War. Rationing was established by the government in the attempt to reserve resources for the War effort. Ration stamps were distributed to each family and redeemed when they purchased limited quantities of items such as gasoline, sugar, meat and dairy. People at home planted "Victory Gardens" to supplement their own needs as much as possible rather than depleting commercial supplies. Montagna related that bacon grease was even saved because it was used in making ammunition. From WWII the tour progressed to the 1950s, hosted by Carol and Doug Doorenbos (*pictured middle left*). They explained the 1950s was an era of prosperity when GI loans made it possible for millions of returning soldiers to buy or construct new houses. Toys such as Barbie and Ken, matchbox cars, hula hoops and transistor radios became popular. Commercially produced Christmas decorations became available, including those made of metal such as aluminum trees and tinsel. Televisions entered every home as did catchy, effective advertisements. New cars became available again as domestic production had halted during WWII while metal was reserved for military machinery.



Above: Rick Wilson's home was the last stop on the tour, where he displayed decorations he has collected from all over the world.

Right: Flo Drake was dressed in Moravian type attire as she greeted at the Union Meeting House

Attendees came from Readfield and several surrounding communities and beyond to enjoy the event. Life-long Readfield resident Sandi Potter Clark said, "It was an amazingly fun day. So much thought was put into it by so many people. Folks who opened their homes and welcomed us in deserve extra special thanks." Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith traveled from Newcastle for the tour so he could visit his roots in town, dating back to the 1700s. Michael Ray Parks, age 14 convinced his parents to come, saying he has been interested in Readfield history since he was first introduced to it in the 3rd grade. Les and Betsy Priest of Readfield enjoyed learning of the builders, first residents and how some homes have been saved from destruction. Kathryn Woodsum of Kents Hill said, "Each of the six locations held a special treat with the decorations, costumes, snacks, and the period history... A last stop at the Union



Meeting House vestry for a hot luncheon was an excellent conclusion."

The December 9th event was co-sponsored by the Readfield Historical Society and the Readfield Union Meeting House. Christmas through the Ages was founded by members of the North Anson Historical Society and from them it was passed on each year to other historical societies in Kingfield, Phillips, Farmington and Winthrop who passed it on to Readfield Historical Society this year, and they invited the Readfield Union Meeting House to join them in the effort. Boxes of costumes, decorations, recipes and more are passed on to the organization that takes over the event the following year, which in 2024 will be the Vassalboro Historical Society.

MARANACCOK AREA FOOD PANTRY (MAFP) NEWS

Not quite sure if this article is a year end summary of pantry news or a look to our future. I guess either way it is important to acknowledge what happened and what is current so here goes.

We entered our 3rd year of support for those in our five town community who needed food assistance with a workable balance in our account. The number of families in need continued to fluctuate weekly with several families notifying us that their particular situations had improved to the level where they no longer needed weekly assistance; to adding new families and individuals either on a weekly pick up basis or as their needs dictated. To reflect this trend, our holiday meal boxes totaled 24 in November which was about the same as last year, but our December numbers decreased by 10 boxes from December 2022.

In the fall our balance increased by over \$1,000 as donations arrived in memory of pantry committee volunteer Ralph Eno. With the loss of Ralph's help, a community member stepped in to assist and we welcomed Candy Sykes. Another addition of monetary support came from Readfield Masons who sent us a check for \$3,500.00 from their Heritage Days community breakfast. As recently as last week, members of the Lions organization dropped off a huge food donation from a grant they secured to help families impacted by the recent storm that included those devastating winds and flooding. A huge thank you to Lion Bunny Parks, Lion Kristin Parks, and Lion Deb Maddox from District 41 Maine.



Donations come in all shapes and sizes as you might imagine: the local guy who stops sometimes when I am out in my yard and hands me a \$100 dollar bill for the pantry to a resident who recently dropped off a box of Needhams for the working committee members. Then a couple of weeks ago a dilemma arose. We weren't sure a thank you note would get to the North Pole to thank the fellow who dropped off a box of food wearing a Santa hat. When we asked him his name so we could thank him he simply said "You know me. I'm Santa" So thank you Santa for supporting our community and we hope you see this if you are still flying around Readfield, Maine!

So in closing, thank you to all the thoughtful and caring individuals and families who support the pantry or plan to in 2024. Your numbers and names are way too numerous to list after almost four years but here are some that represent many others and organizations: Maranacook Education Foundation, Farmer Kev, Bonnie, Kathryn, Joe, Cricket, Al, students and staff in RSU #38, Phyllis, Katie, John, Marianne, Greg L., Anne, Rick, Darcy and a cast of hundreds. My gratitude continues to go out to the amazing committee volunteers who do all the heavy lifting and put in their valuable time to support those who need it.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL AND MAY PEACE AND GOOD FORTUNE FIND YOU!

Respectfully submitted MAFP (Greg Durgin)

Maranacook Food Pantry
Every Thursday ~ 3:00-4:00 PM

Readfield Union Meeting House



The Union Meeting House and Vestry closed out 2023 with a very successful event called Christmas through the Ages, a walking tour event that was co-sponsored with the Readfield Historical Society. The Kennebec Journal/ Morning Sentinel published on Saturday December 23rd a three quarter page of pictures covering the event. Please take the time to Google the article for more details.

The Union Meeting House presented the 1847 Moravian era for this event. The apse displayed a 26 pointed Moravian star, also called the Advent Star, symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem. This sect's traditions of love of family, friends, and food was presented by community member Henry Whittemore, who grew up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a town where the Moravians first settled.

The RUMH Board of Directors cannot leave 2023 without once again thanking our community for the support they have shown in our continued restoration efforts of the RUMH and to the renovations to the Vestry building. Plans are now being developed for potential uses of both buildings beyond the usual summer series events. Thank you Jim Tukey, Board VP, for assembling an energetic committee to work on this plan.

So what's on the schedule for 2024?

Actual work on the tower and belfry by Preservation Timber Framing (PTF) should be happening in the spring. A Letter of Intent by PTF last year secured 2024 time for our project. The Board of Directors and our community have been waiting a long time for this project to happen. The Board is also grateful to our former board president and historian Marius Peladeau for leaving a large sum of money to the Meeting House in his will. With his gift and the generous donations of pledges and donations by the many supporters of the RUMH, we hope to include the spire, too, in the project.

As board president, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the hundreds of hours that RUMH Board Members have given in their efforts to preserve our community's historic building and to bring the vestry back to a usable community space.

May you all have a happy, healthy, and safe 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Durgin

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK

We all hope you had a wonderful holiday. All the volunteers at the food bank would like to thank all who supported the food bank in one way or another throughout the year, especially during the holidays. We live in a very generous and caring community.

We will return to our normal schedule. We will be giving out full pantry items on the first and third Saturdays of the month. However, customers may come in every Saturday for fresh fruits, vegetables, bread and pastry items. During the winter months if there is inclement weather on Saturday, please call the Food Bank to make sure we are open.

Again, we are located at the First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon at 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon. Our hours are Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141.

Donations can be dropped off at the Readfield Town Office





JANUARY 2024—LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

Library Hours

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

WARMEST THANKS...

Extra Library Hours | Thanks to 6 incredible library volunteers who opened the library on the Thursday and Friday after the big storm (days we are not usually open!) for people to have a warm place to charge devices, use the WiFi, have a cup of tea/cocoa, and keep kids busy with crafts and puzzles. Much appreciated!

Community Tree Lighting | Thanks to local business “Mr. Ds Christmas Trees” for donating our beautiful community tree, to Brenda for the lovely wreath, and to the Library Board elves (and their partners) for helping with tree setup, organizing the event, decorating, and cookies and cocoa (led by Head Elf Deb!). Also, special thanks to Mr. Scarpone and the Maranacook Middle School Carol Singers, to Readfield Elementary Parent Association for helping with setup, to Readfield Union Meeting House for lending luminaries to light our way to the Town Office, and to Santa for visiting with the children.

Hanukkah Books & Activities Event | Thanks to Deb and Jackie for bringing food, Nick for the incredible live fiddle music, Pat for organizing the kids activities, and Elaine for helping flip the latkes! It was fun to play the dreidel game, listen to Hanukkah music, and eat yummy latkes!

Recycled Gift Crafting Event | Thanks to Ellen B. for help with gathering materials for our recycled gift crafting event. Kids enjoyed these Christmas, Hanukkah, and Solstice crafts throughout the month of December!



IMPORTANT! LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Library will be CLOSED on the following days:

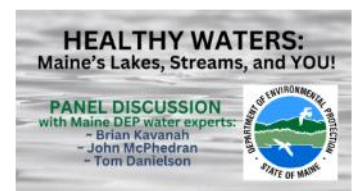
- Monday, January 1st in observance of the New Year's Day holiday
- Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The front large front room renovations are complete, with one exception...the cleaning of the floor. We are looking for volunteers to help—this requires getting down on the floor and using a LOT of elbow grease. Please let the Librarian know if you are available in the first 2 weeks of January to donate a few hours to help with this project. We are so appreciative of the hard work that the town maintenance staff and volunteers have been doing to get the upstairs space ready! Unbelievably, more than 10 volunteers have contributed 75+ hours to painting and cleaning efforts. Amazing!!! We still have electrical work and painting to complete in the 2 back rooms. We will let everyone know by special announcements when the “Grand Opening” event will be held.

HEALTHY WATERS: Maine's Lakes, Streams, and YOU! Panel Discussion on January 18th

This event has been rescheduled from its original October date! State of Maine water experts will participate in this informative and interactive panel discussion on Healthy Waters in Maine on Thursday January 18th at 6:30pm at the Readfield Town Office at 8 Old Kents Hill Road. Please join these experts from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection—Brian Kavanah (Director, Bureau of Water Quality), Tom Danielson (Biologist in the Aquatic Toxicology Program), and John McPhedran (Biologist in the Invasive Aquatic Species Program)—to learn about the work they do, the current state of Readfield's/Maine's



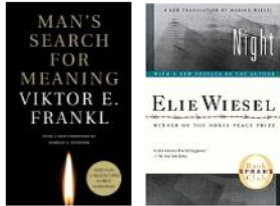
waters, why the health of Maine's waters is important, and ways individuals can play a part in maintaining healthy waters. Plenty of time for questions and answers! This event is free and open to the public and will be held in person, but a Zoom option is also available. No registration is needed for the in-person event; but if you would like to attend by Zoom, please register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdumvqz8uEtav1Fk1S_n7TN-jl8UVk4YC

This event is part of the Library's 2023 Environment & Sustainability Program/Speaker Series and supported by a Maine Public Libraries Fund Grant.

January LIBRARY BOOK GROUP MEETING

Our monthly Library Adult Book Group is open to all! Our January meeting will take place on January 29th at 6:30pm by Zoom. We will be reading 2 books in January to discuss together – *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. Note that for the fall and winter months, we are meeting by Zoom rather than in person. Please call 207-685-4089 or email librarian@readfieldmaine.org if you would like to participate and/or need a copy of the books. There will also be an (optional) opportunity to discuss these 2 titles with local middle school students in February as part of a Community Read and Discussion Project. See below.

COMMUNITY READ & DISCUSSION PROJECT with Middle School students



The Maranacook Community Middle School Acadia Team students will be examining the Holocaust and issues related to refugees—they will be taking a look at the past and thinking about connections to current issues and events. As part of this project, they will be reading 2 books and inviting community members to be a part of student-led discussions of these titles. The 2 books are *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Man's Search for Meaning (Young Readers' Edition)* by Viktor Frankl. The Community Discussions are scheduled for Thursday, February 8th at 9:30-11am in person at the Middle School, with a virtual evening option through Google Meets that evening. The snow date will be Thursday February 29th. If you are interested in reading these 2 books and discussing them with young people, please let Melissa know ASAP, and we will get you copies of the books. We look forward to these community discussions with the young people in our community!

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the "New Year Gnome"

Hey kids! Find the "New Year Gnome" on your next visit to the library, and win a free book (your choice from a box of gently used books), along with a chance at a raffle prize! The gnome will be hiding somewhere amongst the library stacks during the month of January. He will move around frequently!



ROBERT BURNS NIGHT 5th Annual Celebration on January 25th



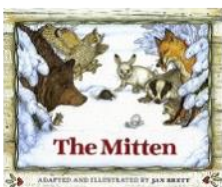
Please join us to celebrate the Scottish poet's birthday again this year! Please stop by the Library on Thursday, January 25th (Burns' birthday) from 6:30-7:30pm for hot tea, mulled cider, Scottish treats, music, and some poems!

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! (Note the first Tuesday of each month includes the Story Walk outside, weather permitting).

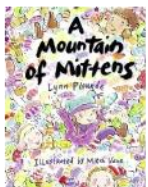


STORY WALK® --Two sites in Readfield for families to enjoy in January!



January STORY WALK® at the Readfield Community Library—*The Mitten*

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 January is *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, sponsored by Lori Clark and Family. Please feel free to walk the StoryWalk® at any time that works for your family, regardless of whether the Library is open. And, be sure to stop by the Library to pick up the take-home craft that accompanies the story.



January STORY WALK® at Readfield Elementary School—*A Mountain of Mittens*

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 January is *A Mountain of Mittens* by Maine author Lynn Plourde.

STORY WALK® EVENTS on January 2nd and 27th

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

~ Tuesday January 2nd at 10:00am

~ Saturday January 27th at 2:00pm

DONATION THANKS!

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank all of those who made generous donations to the Readfield Community Library in memory of Barbara Lord. Many thanks to Barbara's family for giving to the community in this special way to honor and remember Barbara.

BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY cards—with great online access to news and digital content!!

Did you know that any Maine resident is eligible for a Bangor Public Library card, which provides online access to:



- *The New York Times*
- *The Wall Street Journal*
- CloudLibrary NewsStand—digital magazines/newspapers—over 7,000 titles in 60+ languages
- CloudLibrary—eBooks and digital audiobooks, but a larger collection than your RCL card provides

Did you also know that you can apply for and receive a Bangor Public Library card in person at the Readfield Library? No need to go to Bangor! Stop on by if you are interested!

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!



SNOWSHOES AVAILABLE TO BORROW (when the snow arrives!)



A reminder that when the snow arrives, we have snowshoes! Child- and Adult-sized snowshoes are available to borrow at the Library. We also have poles! And, Readfield has so many wonderful trails to explore!! 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.

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 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS—SAVE THE DATES!

TAKE YOUR CHILD to the LIBRARY DAY—Saturday, February 3rd

Enjoy cookies, cocoa, crafts, music, and more from 10am-4pm! Also, we will host a group Story Walk event outdoors behind the Library at 2:00pm.

AUTHOR EVENT with Tim Caverly—Thursday, March 7th at 3:00pm at the Town Office

Allagash-New England's Wild River with author and humorist Tim Caverly; the show includes music as well as scenic and historic photos from our 'northern forest.' Attendees will virtually canoe the world-famous river, discover forgotten logging history and learn about Native American archaeology. Hear first-hand about the lore, legends, and characters that Tim experienced during his 32-years while a Maine Park Ranger.

AUTHOR EVENT with David Florig—Thursday, March 21st at 6:00pm at the Town Office

David's new book, ***The Stones of Ailsa Craig***, is a work of historical fiction, set in 1890s Scotland and present-day Belfast, Maine. It is a mystery, of sorts, centered around the 60 million year-old island of Ailsa Craig in Scotland (home to the finest curling stone granite in the world) and the ancient Scottish sport of curling. Sometimes dark, sometimes light, the novel is full of curling history and anecdotes, Scottish history, and Maine history. It explores themes of obsession, vengeance, and justice.



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. 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.

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

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

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

This message is from the Age-Friendly Committee of Readfield



**READFIELD
RESOURCES**
(Current as of April, 2023)

**EMERGENCY
9-1-1**

Kennebec County Sheriff Office 623-3614
Maine State Police (Non-Emergency) 624-7076
Maine Resource Guide/Assistance 2-1-1
Maine Relay Service (Hearing/Speech) 7-1-1
Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

Readfield Community:

Adult Education 685-4923 ext. 1065
Animal Control Officer 931-7684
Community Library 685-4089
Food Pantry (Maranacook) 685-3128
Food Pantry (Mt. Vernon) 293-2351
Neighbors Driving Neighbors 860-0677
Post Office 685-9220
Readfield Historical Society & Museum 377-2299
Senior Café @ Maranacook 500-1737
Town Office 685-4939
Transfer Station 685-3144
Union Meeting House 685-4537

Regional Resources:

Aging & Disability Resource Center. . . 1-877-353-3771
Central Maine Medical Center/Lewiston . . . 795-0111
Department of Health & Human Services . . . 287-3707
(MaineCare/Medicaid/SNAP/Emergency Assistance)
Elder Abuse Hotline 1-800-624-8404
Hannaford To-Go/Winthrop 377-3150
KVCAP (HEAP/Transportation) 622-4761
Legal Services for Elderly 1-800-750-5353
Maine Attorney General 626-8800
Maine General Hospital/Augusta 626-1000
Maine General Express Care/Winthrop 377-1450
SEARCH (Catholic Charities Assistance) 530-0137
Social Security 1-800-772-1213
Spectrum Generations/Cohen Center. 626-7777
Togus/Veterans Affairs 623-8411

The mission of Readfield's Age-Friendly Committee is to identify information and resources to help support our aging citizens to remain healthy, safe and comfortable in their homes for as long as possible.

<https://www.readfieldmaine.org/age-friendly-community-committee>

News & Notes from the Readfield Trails Committee

Hello Readfield Trail Enthusiasts,

I hope you will all continue to experience our many trail opportunities during the winter months. For those of you that have snowshoes or skis we hope you will use them for your trail activities when multiple inches of snow are present 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. It is not fun to hike on such a surface and it can promote erosion. 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.

I would like to thank the 11 volunteers including tractor operators who showed up the weekend following the recent damaging storm to clear blow-downs off the Fairgrounds Trails and the Community Pathway (see below). These trails are now open again for unimpeded use. As of this writing we know there are at least a dozen large pine trees down across the Carlton Pond Trail. However, it is possible to find your way around these so the trail is still open. We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer to help us clear them hopefully some time soon. Also feel free to let us know if you find any storm damage on our other town trails.

Trails Committee representatives continue to represent trail users interests on the Fairgrounds Working Group developing the concept plan for additional recreational development on the Fairgrounds property. In November we identified a location for a multi-sport court that will include basketball, pickleball, and perhaps other uses. The concept plan for the Fairgrounds also includes a softball field, improvements to our trails, re-designed parking, a pollinator garden area, and access to electricity and water. The trail improvements will significantly improve accessibility. There will be a public meeting on January 17 to again solicit comments from the public on the proposal. No town property taxpayer funding will be used for materials or construction. Donations and private and/or public grants will pay for this work pending both voter and grant approval.

Our trail maps (not including the Morrill Road Connector Trail) continue to be available at the town office and on-line

(https://www.readfieldmaine.org/sites/readfieldme/files/uploads/readfield_trails_2019_map.pdf).

Kennebec Land Trust trail information, including trails in Readfield, can be found on their website at <https://www.tkltr.org/>

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 in the interest of water supply and wildlife protection.

Please call or email me if you would like to join our committee, volunteer for trail work, or comment on trail conditions,. Rob Peale; rnreadfieldgov@gmail.com, 207-458-4259



Surry Hill Full Moon Snowshoe Hike Thursday, January 25, 5:30 PM Fayette

Join Kennebec Land Trust staff and volunteer property stewards to take advantage of the full moon for a hike or snowshoe at the Surry Hill Conservation Area on Thursday, January 25 at 5:30 PM. Please bring what you need to be comfortable for a night walk in winter, including a headlamp or flashlight, snowshoes, warm clothes, water, snacks, etc. The family-friendly hike will be approximately two miles long. For more information or to RSVP, contact Marie at mring@tklt.org or 207-377-2848



Directions: Turn south on Tom Surry Road from Route 17, opposite the Fayette Central School. In about 0.4 miles, the town-maintained road ends, and on your right is a town turn-around. The entrance to the Surry Hill parking area is at the north end of this town turn-around.

Important Notice

2024 License Updates

Crossbow Permits are no longer needed and have been removed as an item for sale

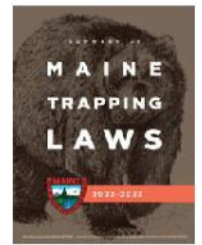
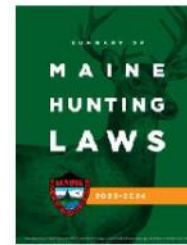
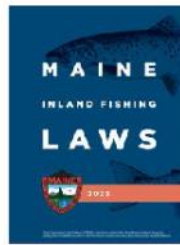
Pheasant Permit price has increased to \$27.00 and Agent Fee increased to \$2.00

Superpack price has increased to \$207.00 and Agent Fee remains \$2.00. Now includes one Expanded Archery Either Sex permit

For more information regarding this, please contact Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife at
207-287-8000

www.maine.gov/IFW/

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Laws of the Maine Outdoors



SCAN ME



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

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

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

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY
new year
2024



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/>

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

Registered Maine Guide Training

15 iPhone/iPad Vision Accessibility Features

Cooking With BoomerTECH Adventures

Create & Deliver Online Zoom Courses

Digital Tools for the Beginning Memoir Writer

Fantastic Photo Finishes-Organize & Edit Images with Your iPhone/iPad Photos App

Hidden Gems Lurking in Your iPhone and iPad

Introduction to iPhone Basics

Introduction to Mac Basics

Introduction to Zoom Basics

Maximize Your iPad's Potential

More Hidden Gems Lurking in Your iPhone & iPad

Taking Awesome Pictures With Your iPhone/iPad Camera

Unlock Safari's Secrets on Your iPad in Just Five Lessons

Start Date

1/23/2024

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

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

<https://maranacook.coursestorm.com/browse>

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

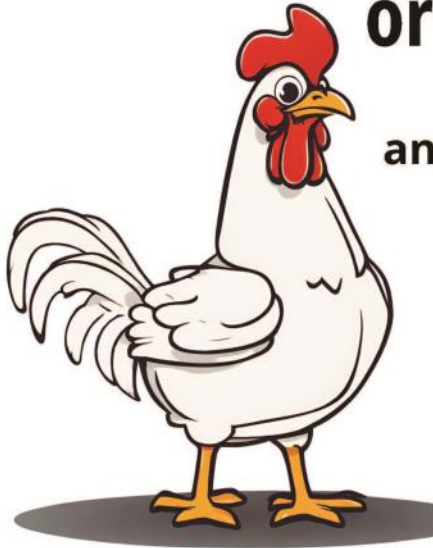


Manchester Lions Club

BBQ Chicken and Mashed Potatoes

or Shepards Pie Dinner Drive Thru

Both meals include green beans, biscuit
and chocolate cake with peanut butter frosting



For More Information call

Lion Deb 207-441-9906

Pre-Orders are encouraged!

Date: Feb 3, 2024

Time: 4pm - 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

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

Our next kindness food box giveaway is scheduled for January 20th 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.



207-685-4211

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

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.



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

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day Town Offices Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Cemetery Committee 10:30 AM Select Board 6:30 PM	9 Conservation Commission 6:30 PM Planning Board 6:30 PM	10 Age Friendly 9:00AM Solid Waste & Recycling Committee 5:30PM Library Board 6:30 PM Budget Committee 6:30PM	11 Road Committee 5:00 PM Fairgrounds Working Group Meeting 6:30 PM	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Town Offices Closed	16	17 Fairgrounds Working Group Public Meeting 6:30 PM	18	19	20
21	22 Select Board 6:30 PM	23 Planning Board 6:30 PM	24 Budget Committee 6:30 PM Trails Committee 6:30 PM	25	26 February Messenger Articles Due	27
28	29 Connectivity Committee 6:30 PM	30	31 Joint Select Board & Budget Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Last Day to Register Dogs before late fee			