



# Readfield Messenger

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



Volume 21 Issue 03



## Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Kents Hill School, Alford Center,  
1617 Main Street, Readfield

Polls Open 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

**SEMI-OPEN PRIMARIES:** This year marks the beginning of Maine’s shift to Semi-Open Primaries. If someone is enrolled in a specific party, they may only vote in that party’s primary. If someone is unenrolled (has no party affiliation), then they can vote in any ONE party’s primary of their choice. Only those in the following parties will be able to vote in the upcoming election: Democratic, Republican & Unenrolled - for more information: <https://www.readfieldmaine.org/votingelectionstown-mtg>



### Nomination Papers **now available** for the June 11, 2024 Municipal Town Meeting

Due Date: Friday, April 12 by 3:30 PM

Select Board                    2 – 3 Year Terms

RSU #38 Board                2 – 3 Year Terms

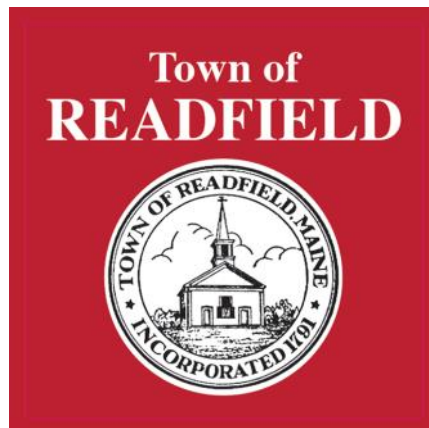
Local School Board        1, 2 & 3 Year Terms

Daylight Savings Time begins March 10<sup>th</sup>

Change your **CLOCKS...**



Change your **BATTERIES!**



**\*\*NEW\*\***



Transfer Station / Beach Combo

Stickers are now available at the Town Office & Transfer Station

More information can be found on page 8

# CORNER

**Spring Is In The Air**  
 By: Kathryn Mills Woodsum

It appears that Spring may be arriving early this year as evidenced by our local roads already being posted for heavy loads. The work of the town continues on our annual cycle which places us squarely in the middle of budget season. All volunteer town boards, committees and commissions along with town departments have presented their requests to the town manager and budget committee and they have been reviewed and discussed. The budget is being fine tuned and prepared for our first public hearing on Wednesday March 20th where residents can express their thoughts and ask for revisions. This is the time where changes can be considered and made prior to the warrant articles being written. Please review the Budget Committee minutes and their agendas or contact the town office for more information. They have a tab on the town website under Boards and Committees where you can find all of the latest information. The following two public hearings in May are informational only and no changes can be made by that time; only discussion for or against an article.

The Budget Committee met with the Select Board in January to review and discuss the Capital Investment Plan, known as the CIP. This plan lays out the known and expected capital costs exceeding \$10,000 per item for the next five years. The primary purpose of this budgeting tool is to effectively level the costs year-to-year so there are no large increases or decreases from the municipal budget to the tax rate in the town. Readfield has been utilizing this tool for 15 years and find it very useful planning and scheduling needed projects. It is essentially a long-term budgeting tool similar to what people use in their own personal planning. This worksheet is also available online under the Budget Committee.

The Church Road Sidewalk project continues to move along with a hearing held in February where 50%-plans were introduced. The engineers have incorporated many of the ideas that had been expressed in previous meetings and through written comment. The project will now be developed into a warrant article for this year's town meeting vote. There have been several town votes on this project beginning in 2017 and this year's is the culmination of 7 years of work and collaboration with Maine DOT and the federal Bicycle and Pedestrian program to increase safety for folks utilizing our roads and trails for travel. Information on this important town project can be found on the town website under Departments, then Road Commissioner. More information will be coming in the town warrant.

The Fairgrounds Community Park working group has finalized the plans for additional improvements to the fairgrounds property and has entered the fundraising stage of the project. The plan was approved by voters at our last town meeting to proceed with further refinement of the plans with all funding to come from sources other than local taxes. Half of the funding will be from a federal program through the Land & Water Conservation Fund. We are currently applying for assistance from the Innovative Readiness Training program of the National Guard through the Defense Department and for a grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation. These efforts will be supported by local donations from residents and businesses through a fundraising drive currently being developed for pledges. Stay tuned for more information and ways that you can become involved. Go to the town website under Boards & Committees then Fairground Working Group for all the latest news. The latest plan is under the agendas section dated January 17th. The final vote for project approval will be on this year's town warrant.

Please enjoy all the town has to offer as the weather becomes warmer. Sports programs for children, trails and sidewalks for walking, and lots of committee meetings where you can meet other residents and enjoy making a difference in your community.

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<b><u>Carol Doorenbos</u></b>	(207) 446-7535	cdoorenbos@readfieldmaine.org
<b><u>Sean Keegan; Vice Chair</u></b>	(207) 446-8725	skeegan@readfieldmaine.org
<b><u>David Linton</u></b>	(207) 441-7394	dlinton@readfieldmaine.org
<b><u>Kathryn Mills Woodsum; Chair</u></b>	(207) 685-9094	kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org

**Select Board Contacts**



# Town Manager Report

## Browntail Moth Control

We still have a few more weeks of winter ahead of us but there are some things we can do to make our lives better when spring does finally arrive. Residents should be aware of and manage for Browntail Moth activity. The State of Maine is becoming more engaged with this and has added Browntail Moth information to their 2-1-1 program resources. You can also find information through the [Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry](#).



The Town of Readfield currently has a “no-spray” policy for publicly owned property. However, we will pursue physical control efforts where appropriate, including spring-time removal of overwintering nests. If you see any suspect nests on Town of Readfield property please report them to Town Staff.

On your own property please consider taking similar control measures by identifying and removing browntail nests. The late winter months are a great time to do this. Here are the “Four R’s” to keep in mind:

1. **Recognize** browntail winter webs (see photo below). Check the tips of tree branches for palm-sized (2-5 inches long) webs tied to the leaf stem with white silk. Browntail strongly prefer to make their webs in oak, apple, crabapple, cherry, birch, poplar, shadbush, and rose bushes.
2. **Remove** browntail winter webs. Use hand snips or an extendable pole pruner in areas within reach of the ground and away from hazards such as powerlines. Protect your eyes and skin during removal as toxic caterpillars may still be present. After removal, destroy webs:
  - Obtain burn permit and burn them in a contained fire, or
  - Soak them in a bucket of soapy water for a few days before disposing
3. **Recruit** professional help when you can't remove winter webs. [Licensed arborists](#) or Recruit professional help when you can't remove winter webs. Licensed arborists or FAA-certified drone operators can help remove webs during the winter. Licensed pesticide applicators may be able to use pesticides on trees with browntail during early spring to reduce browntail populations.
4. **Reach Out** if you find browntail in your neighborhood. The more neighbors, businesses, and others that work together to respond to browntail, the better the results.



*(Left) Browntail webs that have been removed from a tree; note that they are at the tips of branches and are palm-sized. (Right) Browntail web still attached to the tip of a branch; note that on a sunny day, the white silk surrounding the web makes the web easier to find in a tree.*

**2024-2025 (FY 25) BUDGET & WARRANT PROCESS SCHEDULE** As Amended 10/25/2023

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
03/15/24	Deadline for legal review of the proposed warrant	N/A
03/20/24	<b>Public Budget Meeting / Hearing - Public Comment and Recommendations on DRAFT Budget</b>	6:30 PM
03/27/24	<b>School Board meeting with Select Boards - About 75% of tax bills is education spending</b>	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	<b>Public Hearing - Public Comment and Information on COMPLETED Warrant</b>	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	<b>Public Hearing - Public Comment and Information on COMPLETED Warrant</b>	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	<b>Town Meeting - 8am to 8pm, Kents Hill School Alford Center</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>

**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** (Cobossee 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:**

<span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;"> </span> Select Board Meetings ^	<span style="background-color: #FFD700; color: black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Budget Committee Meetings ^	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;"> </span> Statutory Deadlines
<span style="background-color: #90EE90; color: black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Joint Select Board and Budget Committee Meetings ^	<span style="background-color: #C0C0C0; color: black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Formal Public Hearings ^	

July							August							September							October							
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30	31																											
November							December							January							February							
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March							April							May							June							
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31																					30							

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

## March Select Board & Budget Committee Meetings

Select Board: Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

Budget Committee: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Public Budget Meeting/Hearing: Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

*Meetings start  
at 6:30 PM*

### E-Alerts Subscription & Text Alerts!

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

Subscribe to receive Texts and E-Alerts via email from the Town of Readfield.

Be informed of important closures and updates!

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

Pick the type of notifications you would like to receive by checking the categories.

(Texts alerts are only sent via Urgent Alerts of Closures and Notifications.)

*Your contact information will be treated as confidential information and not shared.*

# Early Spring Weather Town Roads Posted

During the spring local roads weaken and they need to be protected. As temperatures warm and the ground thaws, soil under pavement and gravel becomes saturated with water, making the surface unstable. As a result many roads cannot support heavy loads. This spring is arriving early, and bringing road condition issues with it.

To protect our roads from serious damage - and subsequent repair costs that have to be paid for by taxpayers, the Town of Readfield has posted heavy load limits on vehicles over 23,000 pounds through April 15 unless removed earlier. Our roads are posted in accordance with Title 29-A MRSA 2395.

Here are a few tips to help navigate posted roads:

The Maine DOT has a great video on road posting and weight limits. It helps explain the need and value of protecting our infrastructure.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_bXdznMgwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_bXdznMgwk)

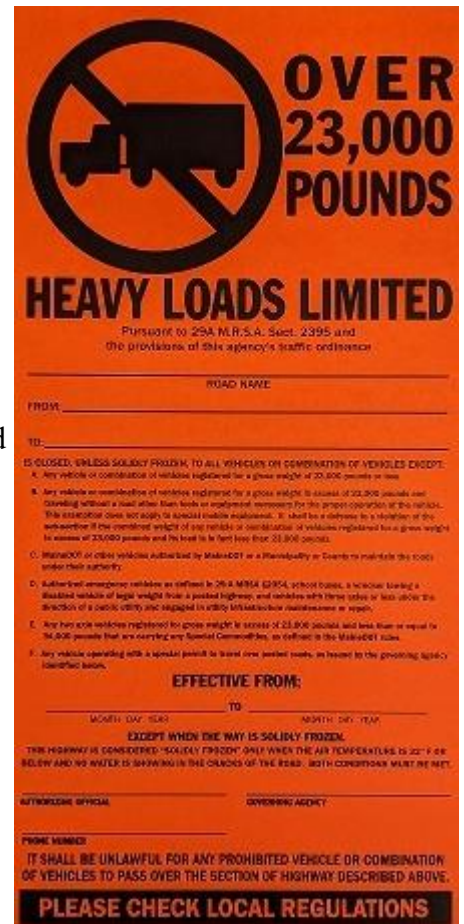
- Weight restrictions do not apply to certain materials like heating oil and propane, animal feed, and other necessities.
- Weight restrictions do not apply if the road is solidly frozen - this means that during a significant portion of the posting period heavy loads are able to travel in the early morning with just a little advanced planning.
- If you are ordering appliances from any box store be sure to let them know at the time of purchase that your local roads are posted and they will need to use a smaller delivery vehicle.

The Town does sometimes allow for exemptions under extraordinary circumstances. This will require permission from our Road Commissioner or Deputy Road Commissioner. The Road Commissioner can be reached by calling 685-4939 or 931-7680 or by email. An exemption certificate will be issued to anyone with permission and must be kept in the vehicle during travel.

- If someone is caught traveling on a posted road (in a vehicle weighing more than 23,000 pounds) without permission they may be issued a fine and may be subject to possible restitution to the Town for damages to the road. To report weight limit violations, contact the Town Office or Road Commissioner.

Thank you in advance for helping to protect our roads, maintain road access, and save tax dollars on unnecessary road repairs!

*Eric Dyer, Road Commissioner*



## News From Animal Control Officer, Eric Johnson



Vaccines for rabies will be given every other Sunday starting March 10th at Tractor Supply. The cost is \$44.00

If you have not registered your dog for 2024 you will be getting a phone call from the Animal Control Officer.

*Proof of current rabies and spay/neuter is required to register your dog (unless on file at Town Office).* If you are no longer the owner/keeper of a dog please let the town know so our records are up to date.

# March Transfer Station News

## FREE Battery Recycling

The Transfer Station can now recycle even more battery types. Better yet, it'll still **FREE!**

We're now working with a national not-for-profit organization, [Call2Recycle](#)



Just bring your single-use and rechargeable batteries in and give them to an attendant, and we'll take it from there. This includes those single-use alkaline batteries we used to simply dispose of in our trash.

It also includes rechargeable tool batteries. It does not include any damaged, or defective batteries, batteries weighing more than 11 pounds, or batteries over 300 watt hours-like those that power e-scooters, e-bikes and larger outdoor power equipment.

If you have any questions, just ask us at the transfer station.

Thank you for working with us to reduce the overall waste stream and recycle as much as possible.



### Cardboard Reminder:

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

## 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.



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

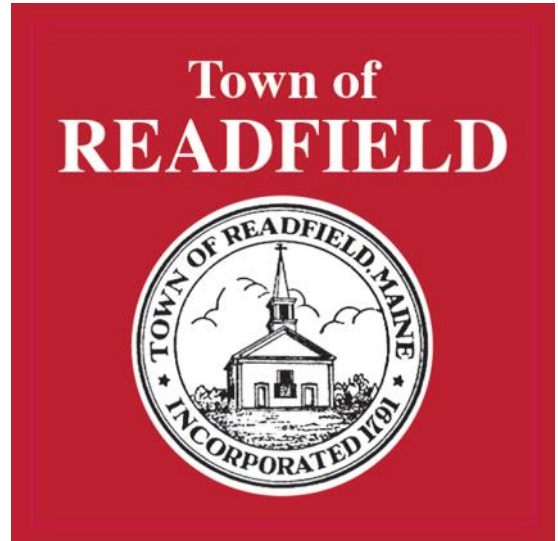
Readfield Solid Waste  
and Recycling Committee

# **Readfield Transfer Station and Beach Stickers**

**The NEW Readfield window stickers are your pass to the Transfer Station AND the Town Beach.** Using a single sticker and no longer requiring a separate beach application should make accessing these two public facilities easier!

Here's how it will work:

- Residents and non-resident taxpayers will replace their current window stickers or add new ones at the Town Office, the Transfer Station, or Beach.
- Eligibility will be verified by Town Staff by checking for an existing sticker or
- proof of current Readfield vehicle
- registration. Other forms of verification will be looked at if necessary for non-resident taxpayers.
- There will no longer be a separate Beach Application, but - all Beach Rules will continue to apply and non-resident beach guests are still expected to pay the appropriate fee.
- **Placing the sticker on your vehicle is your acknowledgement and commitment to follow the rules of the Transfer Station and Beach.**
- Access to Town facilities can be revoked by Town Staff for inappropriate use or behavior. Beach Rules are included on the reverse side of this sheet and Transfer Station Rules are available at the facility.
- Window stickers can be issued for multiple vehicles but we ask that they only be requested for those intended to be used for Transfer Station and Beach access.
- **Window stickers MUST be adhered to the front windshield** and not on a hanger, on the dash, etc.
- Non-residents and transient visitors will still be able to get temporary passes to both the Beach and Transfer Station, again for a fee if applicable.
- Fayette and Wayne residents who use the Transfer Station will also be issued new stickers, but they will be different colors and have their own town seal on them. They will not have access to the Readfield Town Beach without paying for a special non-resident pass.



**Questions are best directed to Town Office Staff at 685-4939**

You will receive a list of the beach rules when you receive your sticker.

***Want to stay up to date on current events in Town? Sign up for E-alerts and Text communications at [www.readfieldmaine.org](http://www.readfieldmaine.org)!***



READFIELD REC

# YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL



THE SUCCESS OF OUR  
YOUTH SPORTS DEPEND  
ENTIRELY ON OUR  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT,  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
COACHING

## ROOKIE LEAGUE

Baseball/Softball  
AGES 7-8 **\$60**

## MINOR LEAGUE

Baseball/Softball  
AGES 9-10 **\$75**

## MAJOR LEAGUE

Baseball/Softball  
AGES 11-12 **\$75**

**Evaluations will be held 03/09/2024 - Details TBD**

**T-Ball (Co-Ed) \$35/child**

Register online or at the Readfield Town Office by  
03/08/2024 to avoid a \$10 late fee

Questions/Concerns? Contact Readfield Rec Department Email: [readfieldreccom@gmail.com](mailto:readfieldreccom@gmail.com)  
or Matt Lajoie, Baseball Commissioner, (207)592-1398



[Click Here to Register Online](#)  
or Scan the OR code



## 2024 Readfield Recreation T-Ball/Baseball/Softball

Questions/Concerns Contact: Readfield Recreation  
Matt Lajoie at 207-592-1398 / [readfieldrecom@gmail.com](mailto:readfieldrecom@gmail.com)

Registration fees are as follows (Maximum Family Fee \$150.00)

**Registration Deadline: March 8<sup>th</sup>; \$10.00 late fee added per child starting March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Age*	League	# Per League	Age*	League	# Per League
5-6	T-Ball (Co-ed)	\$35			
7-8	Rookie Baseball	\$60	7-8	Rookie Softball	\$60
9-10	Minor Baseball	\$75	9-10	Minor Softball	\$75
11-12	Major Baseball	\$75	11-12	Major Softball	\$75

Shirt Sizes: YOUTH XS S L XL XXL / ADULT S M L

Players Name (first/last)	Date of Birth	Gender	Grade	Shirt Size
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Players Name (first/last)	Date of Birth	Gender	Grade	Shirt Size
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Players Name (first/last)	Date of Birth	Gender	Grade	Shirt Size
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The success of our program depends on volunteers. Please mark the activity you could help with:

- Team Coach   
  Asst. Coach   
  Help/Other   
  No

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: Please indicate anything you feel the organizers/coaches should be made aware of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Release of Liability

The undersigned hereby releases and holds the Readfield Recreation Association, its agents, and volunteers, from any and all claims, suits, actions, and damages arising out of, connected with, or resulting from participation in this activity. I understand the inherent risks and dangers in participating in these activities, and I accept the responsibility of my child(ren).

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

----- OFFICE USE BELOW -----

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Emailed to Rec: \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION

36 M.R.S. §§ 681-689

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

## SECTION 1: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

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

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

## SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

**DECLARATION(S) UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY.** I declare that I have examined this return/report/document and (if applicable) accompanying schedules and statements and to the best of my knowledge and belief they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge. A person who knowingly files false information for the purpose of obtaining a homestead property tax exemption is guilty of a Class E crime.

Signature of Homestead Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

### SECTION 1.

Check the appropriate box related to each question. You must check all three boxes to qualify for the Maine homestead property tax exemption. If you have moved during the year and owned a homestead in Maine prior to your move, enter the address of the homestead you moved from on line 1b. Your ownership of a homestead must have been continuous for the 12-month period ending on April 1. If you did not check all boxes in this section, you do not qualify for the homestead property tax exemption.

**Line 1a:** "Permanent resident" means an individual who has established a permanent residence. A "permanent residence" means that place where an individual has a true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment to which the individual, whenever absent, has the intention of returning. An individual may have only one permanent residence at a time and, once a permanent residence is established, that residence is presumed to continue until circumstances indicate otherwise.

A person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who is permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base in this state is deemed to be a permanent Maine resident. A person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States does not include a member of the National Guard or the Reserves.

**Line 1b:** "Homestead" means residential real property owned by an individual or individuals and occupied by those individuals as their permanent residence. Residential real property held in a revocable living trust for a beneficiary who occupies the property as his or her permanent residence also qualifies as a homestead.

An owner of a life estate is considered the owner of the property for purposes of the homestead exemption; however, the owner of a life lease is not. A resident homeowner who is subject to foreclosure and subsequently purchases the home back from the municipality is considered to have no interruption in homeownership for purposes of this exemption.

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

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

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

For More Information visit:

<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/faq/homestead-exemption-program>

**Completed forms must be filed with the Assessor by April 1st**

Rev. 10/22

**You only need to complete this form once, not every year. Have questions call 685-4939**

# PROPOSED READFIELD COMMUNITY PARK LOOKING FOR FOLKS TO HELP MAKE IT A REALITY!

Over the past year, a group of dedicated Readfield residents, with diverse interests, has been working hard to come up with a consensus plan for a proposed Fairgrounds Community Park. The plan calls for the construction of a softball field and basketball court (also to be used for pickleball), recreational facilities that are greatly needed in our community. The plan also includes accessible trails, a pollinator garden and expanded parking. The existing baseball field, when combined with the new softball field, provides a space that can be used for other sports such as soccer, as well as community events. Importantly, the plan also preserves important meadow habitat and the existing walking trail system.

The Fairgrounds Community Park plan developed by the Fairgrounds Working Group will be put forward for approval at June Town Meeting. The proposal does not seek any funding from local property taxes. Instead, the goal is to seek federal grants matched by private contributions from foundations, businesses and individuals.

To make this happen, we need a new group of residents willing to lead a fundraising campaign for the Fairgrounds Community Park. The Working Group created the vision, now we need people to help make that vision a reality.

No matter what your interests and skills, your participation is welcome. Be a part of making Readfield an even better place to live in the future.

Simply drop off your name and contact information at the Town Office. We'll plan on an initial organizing meeting in April.



# Readfield Boards/Committee/Commission Openings

(As of February 29, 2024)

- 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](http://www.readfieldmaine.org) or at the Town Office

Call 207-685-4939 or email [clerk@readfieldmaine.org](mailto: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](mailto:neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com)

web: [neighborsdrivingneighbors.org](http://neighborsdrivingneighbors.org)

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



## MARCH 2024—LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

### Library Hours

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

### **Save the Date! April 6<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening of Library Upstairs**

With all the incredible work being done by volunteers, our town maintenance staff, and the electrician, we are closing in on having all renovation work completed upstairs. So, we are scheduling an **April 6th Grand Opening Event** with details to follow! Please **save the date of April 6<sup>th</sup>** to stop by the library and see the new upstairs space!

### **AUTHOR EVENT with Maine Author & Outdoorsman TIM CAVERLY—Thurs, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**

Join us for a presentation entitled **Allagash-New England's Wild River!** Narrated by **author and humorist Tim Caverly**, the show includes music as well as scenic and historic photos from our 'northern forest.' Audience members 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!



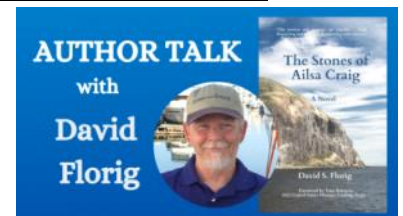
This **Author Event** will take place **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the Readfield Town Office at 8 Old Kents Hill Road**. The event will include time for Q&A. Tim's books will be available for sale and signing after the presentation; cash, check, and cards accepted. This event is free and open to the public, and is **sponsored by the Readfield Community Library and Readfield U** (a free pop-up University). This event is part of the Library's Environment & Sustainability Program/Speaker Series and **supported by a Maine Public Libraries Fund Grant**. **Registration for the in-person event is helpful**, but not required at: <https://sites.google.com/view/readfieldu/registration/online-registration-form?authuser=0> (choose class option 3).

**About the Author:** Tim Caverly has spent his life in Maine's outdoors. While in college, Tim began working as a ranger at Sebago Lake State Park for the State Parks and Recreation Commission. After Sebago, he continued his employment with the Department of Conservation with assignments as a manager of Aroostook and Cobscook Bay State Parks as well as a regional supervisor of the Allagash Region; which included the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor. Tim was supervisor of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway for eighteen years. In 1999, Tim retired from the Department after a 32-year career. Tim currently resides in Millinocket and, with the support of his wife Susan and Golden Retriever Sandi, has self-published 12 books that range from children to adult. You can also check out Tim's stories in his monthly column in *The Maine Sportsman*.

FMI: <https://allagashtrails.com/>

### **AUTHOR EVENT with Maine Author & Curler DAVID FLORIG—Thurs, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm**

Have you ever wondered about the **sport of curling**? What is with the ice, the stone, and the broom that has captured the curiosity and interest of millions of fans around the world and why has the sport now found its place in the Olympics? Join **Maine author David Florig** as he introduces his new **historical novel, *The Stones of Ailsa Craig***, set in present-day Belfast, Maine, and 1880s Scotland. Although the sport of curling provides the context, the novel centers around one man's loss, loneliness, obsession, and search for justice. Sometimes dark, sometimes light, the novel is full of curling history and anecdotes, Scottish history, and Maine history. *The Stones of Ailsa Craig* also features a foreword by United States Olympic curler Tara Peterson. The book will appeal to fans of historical fiction and mysteries.



This **Author Event** will take place **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the Readfield Town Office at 8 Old Kents Hill Road**. The event will include readings, a curling stone made from 60-million-year-old Scottish granite, and plenty of time for Q&A. Books will be available for sale and signing as well; cash and check accepted. All ages are welcome to this free event, which is sponsored by the Readfield Community Library and Readfield U (a free pop-up University). The event will be held in-person, but a Zoom option is also available. **Registration for the in-person event is helpful**, but not required at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/readfieldu/registration/online-registration-form?authuser=0> (choose class # 10).

**Registration is required for Zoom attendees at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tzApcOitpjiosH9JkbUYNBHXXx1vBEXQ2mlgq>

**About the author:** David Florig is a member of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, as well as a member and past-president of the Pine Tree Curling Club in Portland. *The Stones of Ailsa Craig* is his debut novel and is an homage to Belfast, Maine; the glorious Maine coast; and the ancient Scottish sport of curling. David lives in Ocean Park, Maine with his wife of thirty-five years, Nancy, and their ill-mannered rescue dog, Molly Malone. FMI: <https://www.davidflorig.com/>

## HELP NEEDED: Circulation Desk Volunteers

Do you have 2 hours each week (or every other week) to contribute to your community? We are in need of Saturday volunteers to help at the Library's circulation desk. We are looking for folks with a helpful and courteous nature and excellent customer service skills! We will train you on our library management software. Hours would be 10am-12noon or 12noon-2pm or 2-4pm on Saturdays. Please let the Librarian know if you are interested in joining our team of incredible volunteers!



## FURNITURE WANTED



The Library is looking for a few furniture pieces for our soon-to-be-open upstairs space. In order to be budget- and environment-friendly, we would like to consider gently used items before purchasing new. We are looking for a few small wooden side tables, a large harvest-style table or large wooden dining table, wooden chairs (with no arms), wooden writing tables, and large area rugs. If you are doing some spring cleaning or renovations and might consider a donation, **please contact Melissa and send along photos and dimensions by March 10<sup>th</sup> to [librarian@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:librarian@readfieldmaine.org).**

## Weekly "LOVE TO STITCH" Group Continues on Tuesdays 1-3pm

Do you enjoy stitching crafts such as quilting, knitting, cross-stitching, crocheting, embroidering, etc.? Would you enjoy doing so in the company of others to share ideas and conversation? Please bring your stitching project along to our "Love to Stitch" group which meets Tuesdays 1-3pm at the Readfield Community Library. We will have coffee and tea available. All levels of experience welcome. This group will continue at least through the end of March and maybe longer.



## MARCH LIBRARY BOOK GROUP MEETING



Our monthly Library Adult Book Group is open to all! Our March meeting will take place on **March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm by Zoom**. We will be reading the fiction title ***The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Maine Author Monica Wood** to discuss together. Note that for the winter months, we are meeting by Zoom rather than in person. Please call 207-685-4089 or email [librarian@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:librarian@readfieldmaine.org) if you would like to participate and/or need a copy of the book. Special note: Author **Monica Wood will be at our Library on June 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss her new book coming out in May**. If you have not read anything by her, here is a chance to do so before her Author Talk in June!!

## 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).

## KIDS RAFFLE WINNERS!

Congrats to Ben for winning a Spirograph set for the "find the gnome" raffle drawing in January! Congrats to Ladd for winning the \$15 gift card to Oliver & Friends Bookshop for the "find the heart person" raffle in February! And thanks to the generous patrons who have contributed these prizes for some library FUN for the kids in our community!

## PRINT/COPY FEE INCREASE

The Library's printer/copier is available for use by all, and has been for many years. It is the one service for which we do charge. For many years, this fee has been 10 cents per page. In order to align with fees set by the Town and to help meet increasing costs for printer ink and paper, we will be increasing our fee to 25 cents per page beginning on March 1. Thank you for your understanding.



## CALLING POETS OF ALL AGES!



National Poetry Month is in April, and we are hoping to celebrate at the Library with poetry featured along our Story Walk trail during the last week in April. Please submit an original poem YOU have written, OR feel free to suggest a favorite poem written by a Maine poet for us to feature. We welcome poems from poets of all ages! **Submission deadline is April 15**. Please submit in person at the library or by email to [librarian@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:librarian@readfieldmaine.org).



## THANK YOUS!

- Thank you to all the families who attended **Take Your Child to the Library Day**. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> year participating in this national event! We are especially grateful to the 13 volunteer students from Kents Hill School who helped the children with crafts and games, read stories, and played music (cello/piano)!
- **Great turnout for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Full Moon Snowshoe Hike!** Thanks to Readfield Trails Committee members Greg and Steve for helping lead the group hike! So great to have the opportunity to enjoy our incredible local trails together, along with an amazing Snow Moon! Thanks also to Library Board members Jackie, Jen, and Pam for making the event happen, and to Deb, Susan, Pam, Jen, and Jackie for all the cocoa and goodies enjoyed afterwards by the hikers!
- Thank you to the 20 adults in our community who read *Night* and *Man's Search for Meaning* and volunteered their time to participate in discussions with local Maranacook Middle School students. Thanks to the Acadia Team for inviting us to this **Community Read and Discussion Project**, and to the Maranacook Education Foundation for making this project possible!

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

### March STORY WALK® at the **Readfield Community Library**—*Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*



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 March is *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* by Skye Silver, sponsored by Betty and Bob Peterson.** Please feel free to walk the StoryWalk® at any time that works for your family, regardless of whether the Library is open.

### March STORY WALK® at **Readfield Elementary School**—*Mingo the Flamingo*



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 March is *Mingo the Flamingo* by Pete Oswald & Justin Thompson, sponsored by Rick Wilson.**

## STORY WALK® EVENT on March 5th

Join us as we enjoy the March Story Walk (Library location) together, plus music and crafts! Meet outdoors behind the Library. Check Facebook for any cancellations due to weather. Apologies that we are unable to offer a Saturday group walk this month.

~ Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

## 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* and/or *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!



## MAINE STATE PARKS—Vehicle Pass Available to check out YEAR-ROUND



Visit a Maine State Park for FREE with the Vehicle Pass from the Library! Checkout period is for one week. This pass is offered in 2024 by an anonymous donor in memory of local resident **Will Harris**, who for many years donated the pass to the Library so that Readfield residents could enjoy the great outdoors and Maine's beautiful State Parks.



## Fayette's Starling Hall Annual Online Auction is our largest fundraiser of the year!

**Bidding starts March 1st 2024!**

We are thankful to receive so many donations of valuable items for us to auction off. And we are so proud of the multiple local vendors who have donated to the auction!



Please visit the site often and check for added items All proceeds from this auction are being dedicated to Starling Hall renovations. Starling Hall is the oldest building in Maine known to be built to function specifically as a grange hall. First constructed in 1878 with a dedication ceremony on March 8th 1879, the original structure was enlarged to its present dimensions of 32 feet by 65 feet in 1891. Our goal is to bring the structure into compliance with today's code required for the building to be fully used as a public facility. Much work has been done but much more is needed.

Please bid high and often on these quality items. Auction Ends April 12th 6:00 am  
We will have over 100 items up for Auction!

**Auction items can be picked up on Saturday April 13th from 730am -12pm At our Breakfast and Bake Sale or call Lori at 207-576-9830**

*Your Friends Of Starling Hall*

Visit our Facebook page here [www.facebook.com/fayettemaine](http://www.facebook.com/fayettemaine)

Auction website is: <https://new.biddingowl.com/FOSHOnlineAuction>

# RESONATE!

**Instruments in any condition –  
overused/underused/lost & lonely!**

Inspired by the musical responsiveness from a local child, challenged by leukemia, after I brought him a uke...I've launched an initiative called RESONATE! Where I hope to deliver to kids/teens grappling with critical illness, instruments of their choosing.

A donation bin is at the Readfield Town Office and another location is forthcoming. Your input and musical contributions are welcomed. I'm planning to also pick up instruments directly from donors.

A couple in Lewiston donated two clarinets and started the momentum.

Here goes --- Pass the word! Thank you! Ellen Bowman



## 2023 Property Tax Payment Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that the 2nd half of the 2023 property taxes were due by **Friday, February 23, 2024** (unless you are in tax club).

If you are a new property owner in Readfield and have not received a tax bill or have questions on your taxes please give us at call 685-4939



## Readfield U is here again!

Learn something new.

Meet new friends.

Learn more about your community

Free classes and get-togethers throughout the month of March.

Getting tired of winter? – Join in the fun of Readfield U, a pop-up “university” for the month of March right here in Readfield. Below is the schedule which is also available at the Town Hall, library or post office.

For full details of each class and information about the presenters go to [www.readfieldu.org](http://www.readfieldu.org)

**An Overview of Climate Resilient Farming Practices Used in Maine** *Nicholas Rowley* This class will focus on farming practices that Maine farmers are adopting to buffer climate changes, including soil health, tillage and cover cropping.

**Mon. March 4: 2:00-3:00 p.m.** *Ages: High school/Adult* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**Chair Yoga** *Ann Parker* Accessible to most people, including those who may have been inactive for some time or have physical limitations. No prior experience is necessary. This practice meets you where you are!

**Tues. March 5: 10:00 -11:30 a.m.** *Ages: Young adult to seniors* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**AUTHOR EVENT Allagash-New England’s Wild River with author and humorist Tim Caverly.** Sponsored by Readfield Community Library. Hear first-hand about the lore, legends, and characters Tim experienced during his 32-years while a Maine Park Ranger. Includes music and photos.

**Thurs. March 7: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** *Ages: Any interested* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**An Hour of Community Dialogue about the Israel Hamas War** *Camille Davidson* Bring a question you’d like to ask and Camille and Scott will lead a discussion at The Gallery.

**Fri. March 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m.** *Ages: Teen/Adult* **The Gallery, 1138 Main St. Readfield** (Beside Post Office)

**The Benefits of Joining a Local Farm’s Crop Share Program** *Trent Emery* This is for anyone interested in a healthy and cost effective diet of locally grown and delicious produce.

**Mon. March 11: 2:00-3:30 p.m.** *Age: Adult* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**Introduction to Tai Chi for Health and Balance** *Ann Parker* Tai Chi for Health and Balance has been shown to relieve pain, improve physical movement, strength, flexibility and balance. This mind-body practice is suitable for all.

**Fri. March 15: 10:00-11:30 a.m.** *Ages: Young adults -seniors* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Across Generations- Kennebec Land Trust** *Theresa Kerchner*

**Mon. March 18: 6:30-7:30 p.m.** *Ages: Middle school - Adult* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office,** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**How to Solve the New York Times Crossword Puzzle** *Mary Denison* We will look at different tricks and wordplay that are used and then we will all solve a Monday NYT’s puzzle completely. Bring a sharp pencil with an eraser.

**Tues. March 19: 6:30-8:00 p.m.** *Age: Any interested* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**Kents Hill School: A Third Century of Excellence** *Chris Cheney* Join Head of School Chris Cheney as he shares Kents Hill School’s past - 200 years of continuous co-education and the strategic vision for the future.

**Weds. March 20: 10:00-11:30 a.m.** *Ages: 18+* **Kents Hill School, Bibby and Harold Alford Dining Commons** 93, Kents Hill Loop Road

**AUTHOR EVENT with David Florig** Sponsored by Readfield Community library. *The Stones of Ailsa Craig* is a work of historical fiction, set in 1890s Scotland and present-day Belfast, Maine - centered around the 60 million year-old island of Ailsa Craig in Scotland and the ancient Scottish sport of curling.

**Thurs. March 21: 6:00 -7:30 p.m.** *Age: Late Teens/ Adults* **Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office** 8 Old Kents Hill Road

**Growing Lavender Successfully in Maine** *Kathy Landrum* Lavender is a perennial herb that can be challenging to grow in Maine. Find out which varieties do well here and best practices for planting and sustaining their growth.

**Fri. March 22: 2:00-3:00 p.m. Ages: 16+ Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

**Introduction to Permaculture Landscape Design** *Kathy Landrum* Permaculture landscape design is a way of organizing and prioritizing your outdoor surroundings, so they become more efficient and satisfying.

**Fri. March 22: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Ages: 16 + Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

**The Aging Continuum: A Physical Therapist's Perspective** *Mary Ellis* A 45 minute talk on the "normal aging process", followed by 30 minutes of seated gentle movement, a break, and 15 minutes of open question time

**Sat. March 23: 9:30-11:00 a.m. Ages: All Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

**The Beans of Readfield Maine** *Dale Potter-Clark* The Beans were significant landowners, manufacturers, town officials and farmers in Readfield from 1780 into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Come and learn more about them.

**Sun. March 24: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Age: Any interested Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

**Creative Paper-Folding** *Cheryl Clark and Nan Bell* Participants will work through the steps to create 3-dimensional paper objects, using origami and other techniques. Bring scissors and two-sided tape.

**Mon. March 25: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Any age interested Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

**Smart Eating, Healthy Living: Preventing & Managing Diabetes through Diet** *Brenna Nelson, RD, LD, CLC*

Empower yourself or your loved ones with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed dietary choices to prevent or manage diabetes. An interactive presentation *Ellen Bowman, LCPC*, will also share her work from a support group for children with diabetes.

**Weds. March 27: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Age: 18+ Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

**Readfield in the Good Old Days** A panel of longtime Readfield residents will share recollections of their lives in this community. Organized by Ed Dodge and moderated by Dale Potter-Clark

**Sat. March 30: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Age: Any interested Gile Hall, Readfield Town Office 8 Old Kents Hill Road**

#### WAYS TO REGISTER:

- Sign up online at [ReadfieldU.org](http://ReadfieldU.org) **OR**
- Send an e-mail to [ReadfieldU@gmail.com](mailto:ReadfieldU@gmail.com) giving your name, phone number and the class/classes in which you are interested. **OR**
- Send a letter through the mail giving your name, phone number and the class/classes in which you are interested to Maggie Edmondson, 186 Chase Rd, Readfield ME 04355 **OR**
- Call 685-4797 and leave the above details on the answer machine.

*Your registration will be confirmed after it has been received and you will be notified of any cancellations due to weather or insufficient registration.*

*For last-minute inquiries about registration call 685-4797*

Some of your neighbors offering "classes" have asked for a maximum or minimum number of people to be registered in order to run them, so we encourage you to sign up ahead of time.



Readfield U is sponsored by  
Readfield's Age-Friendly Committee

# 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](mailto: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*

## 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*

## Join us for Free Movie Friday 6:00 March 15 "RISEN"

**Enjoy a soul-stirring, epic Easter movie, popcorn & candy**  
Readfield United Methodist Church  
1564 Main Street, Readfield

# 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](mailto:dan_holman@maranacook.com)  
or  
207-500-1737

Tel: 685-4064



Visa/Mastercard

**KEN'S DRAG IN AUTO INC.**  
*Rt. # 135, Readfield, Maine*

Used Auto and Truck Parts • Auto Repair  
Used Cars and Trucks • Buying Junk Cars

Ken Edgecomb

Mark Edgecomb

# Readfield Historical Society

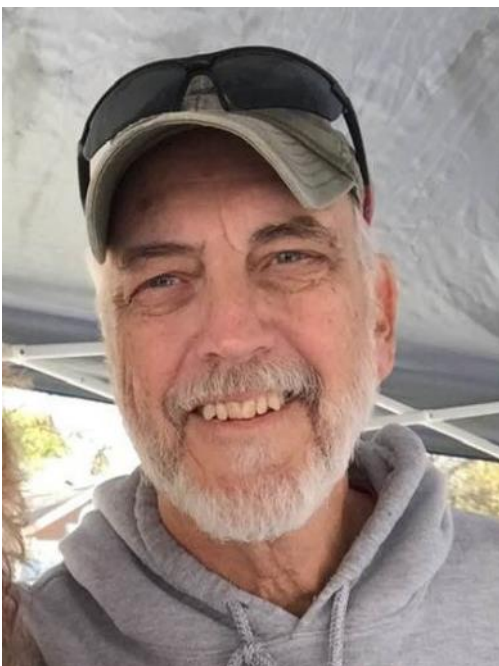
## READFIELD PROGRAM ABOUT THE MURDER OF MATTIE HACKETT

The Readfield Historical Society (RHS) will hold its 2024 annual meeting on Saturday at 1:00 p.m., March 16<sup>th</sup> at Gile Hall, 8 Old Kents Hill Road. Following a brief business meeting, election of officers, and the annual recognition of a (hopefully surprised) volunteer, a program will be given by author, Peter M. Pettingill about his newly released book regarding the August, 1905 murder of Mattie Hackett.

Hackett was a recent Kents Hill School student and working at the Elmwood Hotel in Readfield Corner that summer when she was murdered near her parents' farm on P Ridge Road. A year's long investigation ensued, which Pettingill recounts in his historical novel The Murder of Mattie Hackett. Diligently researched and vividly detailed, the book delves into the people involved, the political and social factors that drove the case, and the mysteries that still surround Hackett's murder over a century later. The book spans more than a decade, from the time of Hackett's murder in 1905 through the investigations and eventual trial of a Readfield woman in 1912. Pettingill took great care to examine the suspects, witnesses, personalities, setting, and time period that contributed to the unfolding real-life drama. The Murder of Mattie Hackett is an engaging read for true crime fans and history buffs. RHS historian and genealogist Dale Potter-Clark related, "Anyone who has heard stories about this murder from their grandparents or older Readfield townspeople over the years will learn a good deal from the significant information the book divulges, much of which is assuredly unknown to anyone alive today." Peter Pettingill will be available to sell and sign his book at the event.

The Readfield Historical Society was established in 1985 to preserve the rich history of Readfield and its people through research, community outreach, the preservation of artifacts, textiles, documents and photos. Their museum and archives at 754 Main Street is open during the summer months and by appointment as weather allows. FMI about the annual meeting or other RHS offerings contact [readfieldhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:readfieldhistorical@gmail.com), phone (207) 377-2299 or visit them on Facebook.

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



Author, Peter Pettingill will speak on March 16<sup>th</sup> about his new book, The Murder of Mattie Hackett.

Mattie Hackett was 17 years of age when she was murdered in Readfield in August, 1905. The mystery remains unsolved to this day.



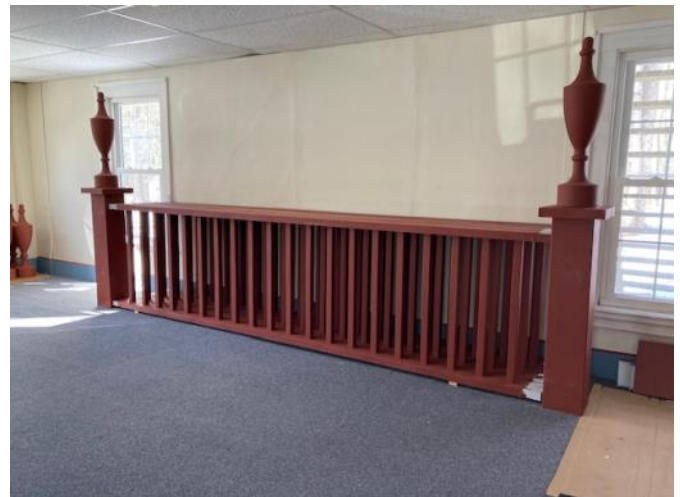
# Readfield Union Meeting House

This month's article will be a pictorial of the most recent project in the restoration process of the Readfield Union Meeting House (RUMH). Mid-Maine Millworks fabricated the 12 urns and balustrade rails that will top the belfry. Actually, many people did not know that such structures existed on top the RUMH.

There are strict guidelines that must be followed for any work completed on buildings that have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Original materials and construction methods are supposed to be used. In April, Preservation Timber Framing will be starting the tower and belfry restoration. Towns people will be seeing lots of activity.



Joe & Lisa McSwain of Mid-Maine Millworks, Nancy Durgin, and Jim Tukey - RUMH Board Members





# Manchester Lions Club BBQ Chicken or Pulled Pork Dinner Drive Thru

Both meals include  
baked beans,  
coleslaw and  
dessert



## For More Information call Lion Deb 207-441-9906

Pre-Orders are encouraged!

### Date: April 6, 2024

### Time: 4pm - 6pm

**\$12**

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

TOTAL PAID \$ \_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

FOR DELIVERY, PLEASE  
INDICATE ADDRESS:

CONFIRMED BY: LION  
\_\_\_\_\_

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





*A Caring School Community Dedicated To Excellence*

RSU #38 – FY25 Budget Workshops Maranacook  
Community Middle School & Zoom 6:30 – 8:30  
p.m.

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- March 6\*** Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop –  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85958452789>
- Special Education
  - Operations & Maintenance
  - COVID grants overviews
- March 20** Budget Workshop – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83583752043>
- Co-and Extra-Curricular
  - Transportation
  - Miscellaneous Cost Centers/Accounts (Adult Educ., Food Service, Health Center, Professional Development/Assessment/ Curriculum, Systems Admin., Debt Service)
- March 27** Budget Workshop – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400711335>
- Annual Report from Auditor Ron Smith; Joint meeting with local select boards re: draft FY24 budget; budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making
- April 3\*** Regular Business Meeting and Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84716295402>
- April 10** Workshop Meeting – vote on Budget (2<sup>nd</sup> week of April) –  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86102978316>
- May 8** Annual Budget Meeting, Middle School Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.  
\* Regular Business Meeting in addition to budget workshop

**June 11 – Budget Validation Referendum at individual town polling locations**

Budget documents are available by visiting <https://www.maranacook.org/documents/school-board/budget/fiscal-year-2024-2025/567411> or by scanning the QR code below



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK

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

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

We also have a small supply of clothing and miscellaneous items.

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

Donations can be dropped off at the Readfield Town Office

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

## Readfield United Methodist Church

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

Email: [office@readfieldchurch.net](mailto:office@readfieldchurch.net) / Website: [readfieldchurch.org](http://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 March 16 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 on our website or you can call or email the office.

## March 2024

- March 9 Movie called “Risen” with be played at the Torsey Church at 6:00p.m.  
**You are invited to join us for Easter Week**
- March 24 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- March 26 Bible study 10:00 a.m.
- March 27 Crafts, Adults at 10:00 and Kids at 4:00
- March 28 Learn about Maundy Thursday at 7p.m.
- March 29 Good Friday at 7p.m.
- March 31 Easter Service begins at sunrise 6a.m. at the Jesse Lee Church Then breakfast at 8:30 at the Torsey church. Followed by Easter Service at 10.

## KENNEBEC LAND TRUST'S 2024 CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES

### Maine Mammals and Their Habitats

The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) is pleased to announce the dates and speakers for its annual conservation lecture series. This year's in-person program is **Maine Mammals and Their Habitats** (see [www.tkl.org/lyceum/](http://www.tkl.org/lyceum/)). All programs are free and open to the public.

KLT's 2024 Lyceum will take place at the **Winthrop High School Performing Arts Center in Winthrop** (212 Rambler Way, Winthrop, ME 04364).

**Monitoring Maine's Fisher and Marten Populations , Shevenell Webb**, Wildlife Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Thursday, March 14, 6:00 -7:30 PM

*Shevenell Webb* will review what we know about fisher and marten, how MDIFW is gathering information to strengthen the management of these species, and what the early results of MDIFW's camera studies show.

**Deer in Maine, Past to Present, Nathan Bieber**, Wildlife Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Thursday, March 21, 6:00 -7:30 PM

*Nathan Bieber* will talk about the history of deer populations in Maine from pre-colonial times to the present, the status of white-tailed deer in Maine, and the data supporting the management of white-tailed deer.

**Bats of Maine , Cory Stearns**, Small Mammal Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Thursday, March 28, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

*Cory Stearns* will discuss bat biology, MDIFW's bat monitoring project, the status of Maine's eight bat species, and what landowners can do to benefit bats.

**For more information, contact KLT**

331 Main Street PO Box 261 Winthrop, ME 04364 207.377.2848 [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org)



## DISASTER ASSISTANCE

To apply and get answers to your questions, call:

# 1-800-621-3362

**711 or Video Relay Service (VRS): 1-800-621-3362**

### Please have the following available:

- Your address with zip code
- Condition of your damaged home
- Insurance information, if available
- Social Security number
- Phone number where you can be contacted
- Address where you can get mail or email address to receive electronic notifications

**Direct Deposit:** Disaster assistance funds can be sent directly to your bank account. Please provide your bank account type, account number and bank routing number.

**Stay in touch with FEMA:** When you apply, you will receive a FEMA registration number. Save it. You will need the number whenever you contact FEMA.



**Online registration  
also available**



**DisasterAssistance.gov**  
ACCESS TO DISASTER HELP AND RESOURCES

Disaster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status.



# Town Office Staff Contacts

## Town of Readfield

www.readfieldmaine.org

8 Old Kents Hill Road  
Readfield ME 04355

Phone: 207-685-4939

Fax: 207-685-3420



Town Manager, Eric Dyer: [manager@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:manager@readfieldmaine.org)

Finance Officer, Teresa Shaw: [finance@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:finance@readfieldmaine.org)

Town Clerk, Kristin Parks: [clerk@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:clerk@readfieldmaine.org)

Code Officer, Chip Stephens: [ceo@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:ceo@readfieldmaine.org)

Front Desk Clerk, Anjelica Pittman: [info@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:info@readfieldmaine.org)

Maintenance, Matthew Seems: [maintenance1@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:maintenance1@readfieldmaine.org)

Animal Control, Eric Johnson: 207-931-7684

Sexton, Ben Rodriguez: [sexton@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:sexton@readfieldmaine.org)

Assessor, David Ledew: [assessor@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:assessor@readfieldmaine.org)

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Readfield U/An Overview of Climate Resilient Farming Practices Used in Maine 2:00 PM	5 Presidential Primary @ Kents Hill School 1617 Main Street 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Readfield U/Chair Yoga 10:00 AM	6 Budget Committee 6:30PM	7 Fairgrounds Working Group 6:30 PM Readfield U/Readfield Community Library Author Event 3:00 PM	8 Readfield U/An Hour of Community Dialogue about the Israel HamasWar @ The Gallery 9:30 AM <i>Last day to register for spring ball before late fee</i>	9
10 	11 Select Board 6:30 PM Readfield U/The Benefits of Joining a Local Farm's Crop Share Program 2:00 PM	12 Planning Board 6:30 PM Conservation Commission 6:30 PM	13 Age Friendly 9:00AM Library Board 6:30 PM	14 Road Committee 6:00 PM	15 Readfield U/ Introduction to Tai Chi for Health and Balance 10:00 AM	16
17 	18 Cemetery Committee 10:30 AM Readfield U/ Conservation & Outdoor Recreation Across Generations-Kennebec Land Trust 6:30 PM	19 Connectivity Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Readfield U/How to Solve the New York Times Crossword Puzzle 6:30 PM	20 <b>Public Budget Meeting/Hearing 6:30 PM</b> Readfield U/Kents Hill School: A Third Century of Excellence @ Kents Hill School 10:00 AM 	21 Readfield U/Readfield Community Library Author Event 6:00 PM	22 Readfield U/Growing Lavender Successfully in Maine 2:00 PM Readfield U/Intro to Permaculture Landscape Design 3:30 PM	23 Readfield U/The Aging Continuum: A Physical Therapist's Perspective 9:30 AM
24 Readfield U/The Beans of Readfield Maine 2:00 PM 	25 Select Board 6:30 PM Readfield U/Creative Paper-Folding 2:00 PM	26 Planning Board 6:30 PM <b>April Messenger Articles Due</b>	27 Trails Committee 6:30 PM Readfield U/Smart Eating, Healthy Living: Preventing & Managing Diabetes through Diet	28	29	30 Readfield U/ Readfield in the Good Old Days 2:00 PM
31						