



Volume 21 Issue 04



# 2024 Spirit of America Nominations

The Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of Maine Municipalities to

local individuals, organizations and projects for outstanding community service.

The Town will be accepting one page nominations through Friday, May 17, 2024

Nominations will be submitted to the Select Board and recipients will be recognized later in the summer.

Please send nominations to: <u>clerk@readfieldmaine.org</u>; by mail to: Readfield Town Office, 8 Old Kents Hill Road, Readfield, ME 04355 or drop off at the Town Office.

For more information or to see a list of past winners visit: <a href="https://spiritofamerica.website/">https://spiritofamerica.website/</a>

If you'd like to hear from us on matters that are important to you, check out the wide range of <a href="E-Alerts">E-Alerts</a>
you can opt in to!

https://www.readfieldmaine. org/subscribe Monday, April 15th
the Readfield Town
Office & Library will be
closed in observance
of Patriots Day



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



#### Being Prepared

By: Kathryn Mills Woodsum

Readfield celebrated it's 233<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 11<sup>th</sup> with a recognition at our Select Board meeting and the sharing of a cake. Eric Dyer, our town manager, noted that at that time George Washington was our President, Vermont became a state and the Bill of Rights was adopted. It was nice to reflect on our past for a few minutes. The Readfield Historical Society held their annual meeting on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> and provided an interesting program around the unsolved murder of Mattie Hackett in 1905. They are a great resource for the stories of the people and times that make Readfield who we are. Knowing our past provides helpful avenues for charting our future.

Over the years Readfield has had various services for medical emergencies in town. We had private service prior to 1978 when Winthrop Ambulance was founded and began contracted service with Readfield and surrounding towns. We had an excellent volunteer rescue squad for many years that responded to emergencies in quickly. As time progressed the squad disbanded and we contracted with Winthrop for all of our response needs. They continue to serve us with professional and caring patient service even as the industry is struggling to stay afloat both with labor needs and financial funding challenges.

Ambulance services rely on insurance reimbursements, users paying fees for service, and town partnership fees. A recent article in the CentralMaine.com paper titled 'Future of emergency services in central Maine up for debate as Delta Ambulance raises rates' (March 8, 2024) shed many pertinent details regarding the current state of emergency services nationwide. Providers want to continue delivering high quality services in a timely manner but have found that doing so is extremely difficult. Financial issues include receiving no funds for treating a patient on site, either at home or at an accident scene, when the patient refuses transport to a hospital. Without the hospital transfer insurance plans will not pay for any services and the individuals cannot be charged. Even with a transfer the costs of service are not fully covered by insurance. When insurance does cover a portion of the costs the patient is billed for the balance but folks often don't pay which creates lengthy billing processes and collection efforts that are often unsuccessful. This is why providers began billing towns in partnerships so there would be a funding mechanism to keep the provider in business. Some larger towns have their own full-time professional ambulance service which is funded through property taxes. Smaller towns participate in regional ambulance services as we do in Readfield.

A few folks in town have asked the Select Board to find some way to improve response time for services and to provide the services at a lower cost, even suggesting that we create our own service. As stated in the article, the cost to outfit and run one ambulance is approximately \$1 million annually, and any reliable service would have to have multiple vehicles available for their service area. This is not an economically feasible option for any small town to consider. Response times would be far greater, vehicles might not be available and the costs would be many times greater. Our current ambulance service cost is \$56,070 for a year, which is \$21.60 per resident based on our population of 2,597. Projected costs for the coming year are \$61,677, or \$23.75 per resident, though that amount is not firm as of this writing. Delta Ambulance has raised their rate to \$25 per resident this year and expects to be charging yearly increases as their costs are \$40 per capita. Many small rural towns are paying their providers between \$40 and \$70 per resident. The Maine State Legislature has been advocated for years to implement funding aid for rural ambulance services. Insurance companies need to change their methods for reimbursement and their rates in order for small rural services to remain viable. The issues are large and changes must be made to avert a crisis. Overall, Readfield is in a good position with our provider at a very fair cost.

Steve DeAngelis	(207) 931-5001	sdeangelis@readfieldmaine.org
<u>Carol Doorenbos</u>	(207) 446-7535	cdoorenbos@readfieldmaine.org
<u>Sean Keegan; Vice Chair</u>	(207) 446-8725	skeegan@readfieldmaine.org
David Linton	(207) 441-7394	dlinton@readfieldmaine.org
Kathryn Mills Woodsum; Chair	(207) 685-9094	kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org





## Town Manager Report

#### Update on the State of Internet Service in Readfield

A few years back the Town considered creating a municipal broadband network in response to a near monopoly by Charter / Spectrum, poor service levels and speeds in some areas, and a complete lack of internet access in others. The town had an interest in helping our residents secure affordable, reliable, high-speed internet. While there was initial support for the idea, corporate interference and misinformation took a toll on public opinion, along with impacts from the pandemic and other factors.

Years later we find ourselves in a situation that has changed little. Charter / Spectrum still has a near monopoly, internet is still too expensive for many residents (particularly with the recent end of a Federal assistance program), customer service is still lacking for many service providers, and some residents still have few good options. There has been some limited progress, but much of it falls into the category of "two steps forward, three steps back".

- We do have new 5G wireless internet service available in town but it is not available everywhere and is limited in speed. It is worth considering as an alternative to fixed wire service.
- Charter / Spectrum speeds have increased (on paper, not always in practice) but they are still not symmetrical and costs have also increased for many customers.
- The State has made some progress with amending cable TV franchise law to better serve consumers. It is another tool to help municipalities negotiate and support their residents.
- Readfield's Connectivity Committee has reviewed both our existing Franchise Agreement and underlying Ordinance, as well as a proposed update to the Ordinance. At this point they are waiting to see what impacts the changes in State law have and get more information about the early stages of State efforts to provide universal access to internet in Maine
- The State is working to distribute Federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funds through the Maine Connectivity Authority that will, if realized, connect all Maine homes to basic internet. Their current deployment schedule is shown below.



In summary, Readfield remains "stuck in the middle". Fiber service providers don't want to compete with Charter / Spectrum without financial incentives, which Readfield can't access because we are not eligible for grant funds due to our partial service coverage. This means competitive fiber products are unlikely to arrive any time soon. The State is working on connecting unserved households but that will likely take 2-3 years, and will almost certainly not address the need for fiber elsewhere, or the question of affordability. Unfortunately, we are stuck in a waiting game that will address some but not all of our internet service issues.

The Town's Connectivity Committee will continue to monitor developments and bring information and resources forward to Readfield residents.

_	2024-2025 (FY 25) BUDGET & WARRANT PROCESS SCHEDULE As Amended 10/25/20	23
Date	Meeting / Event / Task	Time
09/18/23	Select Board Meeting - Budget process review	6:30 PM
10/16/23	Select Board Meeting - Budge 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	Public Budget Meeting / Hearing - Public Comment and Recommendations on DRAFT Budget	6:30 PM
03/27/24	School Board meeting with Select Boards - About 75% of tax bills is education spending	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 Alfond Center	8:00 AM

#### Notes:

<u>^ Involvement</u> - 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.

<u>Select Board Attendance</u> - 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.

<u>^ Public Budget Meetings</u> - 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.

<u>Departments I</u> - 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.)

<u>Departments II</u> - 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),

<u>Departments III</u> - Includes the following: <u>Community Services</u> (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)

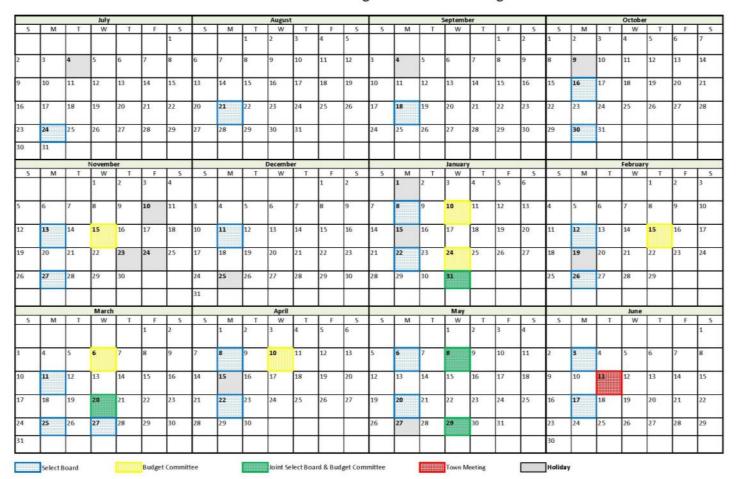
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Select	Board 1	Meeti	ngs ^
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Budget Committee Meetings ^

Joint Select Board and Budget Committee Meetings ^

Statutory Deadlines
Formal Public Hearings ^



#### **April Select Board & Budget Committee Meetings**

Select Board: Monday, April 1 & 22

Meetings start

at 6:30 PM

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

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

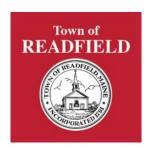
Subscribe to receive Texts and E-Alerts via email from the Town of Readfield.

Be informed of important closures and updates!

Go to www.readfieldmaine.org 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.



# Transfer Station / Beach Combo Stickers are now available at the Town Office & Transfer Station





#### **News from the Animal Control Officer**

If you dog needs their rabies vaccination and you can't get to your veterinarian below are some local rabies clinics:

Tractor Supply, Augusta:

Sundays, April 7, April 21, May 5 & May 19; 1:00 - 2:30 PM - No Appointments Required

Pet Smart - <a href="https://shop.shotvet.com/petsmart/">https://shop.shotvet.com/petsmart/</a> - Appointments online Saturdays, April 20, May 4 & May 18; 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Petco - <a href="https://www.petco.com/shop/en/petcostore/s/veterinary-services">https://www.petco.com/shop/en/petcostore/s/veterinary-services</a> Appointments online; April 6, 11, 20, & 25; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Remember dogs not registered after 1/31/24 are now subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

You will receive a reminder phone call from the animal control officer. If dogs are not registered you could receive a summons. It's all about the rabies shot!

Thank you, Eric Johnson, Animal Control Officer



# Readfield Cemeteries Spring Clean-Up

The Readfield Sexton, Ben Rodriguez, will be starting spring-clean up and is asking for your help. If you have a loved one laid to rest in one of the cemeteries and have left items through the winter

on their lot please go by and pick-up any items you would like to keep by Friday, May 3. The Sexton may throw out any items that are faded, worn or not seasonally appropriate. Road conditions in the cemeteries will continue to be monitored and will be opened for vehicular traffic as soon as conditions allow. If you have any questions or would like to make special accommodations related to the removal of personal items please contact the Sexton at:

Office Phone: (207) 685-1812 / Cell Phone: (207) 931-7682

Email: sexton@readfieldmaine.org

## **April Transfer Station News**



The town of Readfield is set to vote on a revised Solid Waste Ordinance in June. The current ordinance has been updated to include revised definitions of waste categories and further define operations at the town owned Transfer Station. Items that dealt with policy issues have been removed and placed into an Operations Manual, where they can easily be updated as the industry develops and practices change. Both of these documents will be available online and at the town offices of each participating town later in June.

#### Other items of interest:

- ⇒ An updated fee schedule was approved in March with several items becoming no charge as we have contracted with providers to recycle the materials at no cost.
- ⇒ New stickers have been distributed to each town office and are also available at the Transfer Station so be sure to pick yours up during open business hours.

#### **Cardboard Reminder:**



Please have your cardboard sized to <u>3'x3'</u> for easier recycling.

Thank you!

#### 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.

#### 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.

## 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

#### Food Composting

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

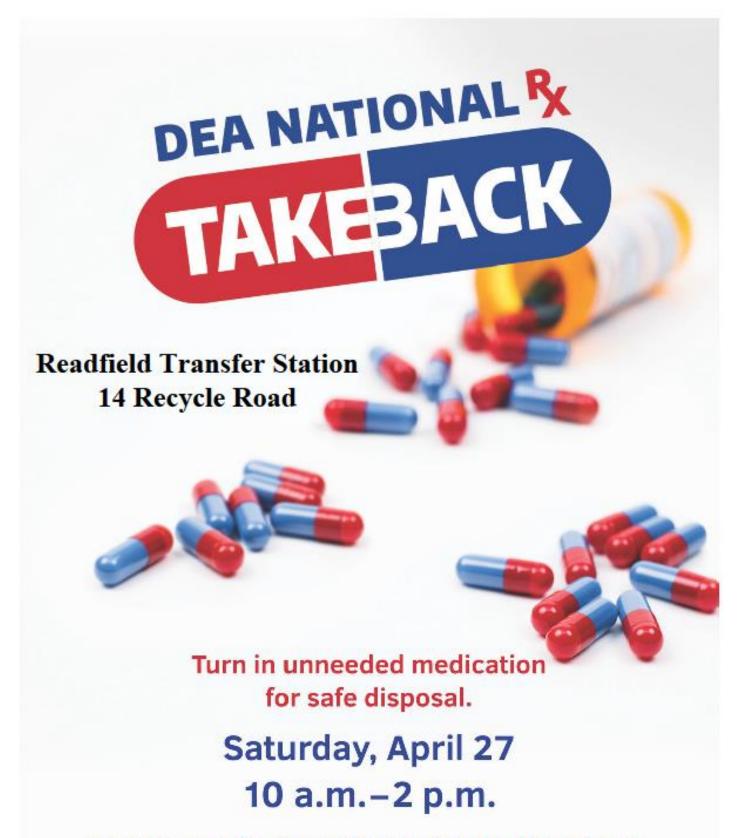


WASTE LESS SAVE MORE



RECYCLE COMPOST

Readfield Solid Waste and Recycling Committee



Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Visit DEATake Back.com for a collection site near you.

## Information from the Town Clerk





#### **State of Maine Online Voter Registration Service**

Maine residents can now:

- ⇒ Register to vote for the first time in Maine
- ⇒ Provide updated information for your existing Maine voter registration
- ⇒ Change your party enrollment

https://registertovote.sos.maine.gov/

#### INFORMATION YOU'LL NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE

If you have a current valid Maine driver's license or Maine State ID, you must provide: \*\*

- Your Maine issued driver's license (DL) or State ID number
- Your legal name as it appears on your Maine DL or State ID card

#### \*\* If you do not have a Maine driver's license or Maine State ID, you must provide:

- The last 4 digits of your Social Security Number
- An image of your handwritten signature (not a signature created with a computer font). *Instructions online*

## Ongoing Absentee Voting

for voters who are/will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self identify as a voter with a disability (or who meet both conditions).

Beginning February 1, 2024, voters who are or will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self identify as a voter with a disability (or who meet both conditions) can submit a written application to request ongoing absentee voter status. This means that after submitting the application, the voter does not need to submit an application for each election; instead the voter will automatically receive an absentee ballot for each ensuing statewide election, municipal election and any other election for which the voter is entitled to vote.

A voter applying for this status must do so in writing using the form designed by the Secretary of State and must originally sign the application and submit it to the Municipal Clerk.

If you are eligible for Ongoing Absentee Voting and would like to enroll please contract Kristin for the application as it is different then the normal Absentee Ballot Application.

More information on voting can be found at:

https://www.readfieldmaine.org/votingelectionstown-mtg/pages/voting-information

### **Readfield Road Committee News**

The Road Committee learned in March that Readfield stands to be reimbursed for most of the \$60,000 spent on repairs after a powerful December storm dropped trees and washed out roads.

The storm brought more than 4 inches of rain and high winds the week before Christmas that knocked out power to more than 400,000 Mainers.

In Readfield, the storm washed out several roads, including Plains and Thunder Castle. The town's two-person maintenance crew, in partnership with Cushing Construction, repaired most of the damage.

Town Manager Eric Dyer informed the Road Committee on March 14 that state and federal disaster-relief funds should cover 80 to 90 percent of what the town spent to repair the damage.

The town manager said that residents who sustained storm-related damage also may qualify for help: <a href="https://www.readfieldmaine.org/home/news/attention-readfield-residents-affected-december-17-21-2023-storm">https://www.readfieldmaine.org/home/news/attention-readfield-residents-affected-december-17-21-2023-storm</a>

In other business in March, the Road Committee endorsed the construction of at least two raised speed tables as part of a sidewalk project planned for Church Road.

The town had proposed the speed tables to slow traffic in the neighborhood. When asked to weigh in on whether to include speed tables in the sidewalk project, Road Committee members said using them would be consistent with one of the project's goals – improving safety. The committee passed a motion to support the inclusion of at least two speed tables in the project. The motion is advisory only.

Readfield voters on June 14 will be asked to raise the required 20 percent local share of the sidewalk project, with the Maine Department of Transportation covering the remaining 80 percent. If the vote is favorable, construction is likely to take place in the summer of 2025.

The sidewalk would begin at the end of the current sidewalk on Route 17 and continue along Church Road to the recreational complex at the old fairgrounds.

The Readfield Road Committee consists of seven appointed members who serve three-year terms. The committee includes current and retired engineers and other technical professionals, who advise the town manager and Select Board on issues affecting the town's transportation system.



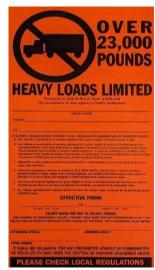
Spring is near and it's a busy time for home improvements. Don't forget to check with Chip Stephens, your Local Code Enforcement Officer, for all your building project and permit needs.

Office: 207-685-3290 Cell: 207-931-7689

Email: ceo@readfieldmaine.org

Office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(Calling first is always best due to changes in schedule and out of office site visits.)



Don't forget to check for posted roads!

## MARANACCOK AREA FOOD PANTRY (MAFP) NEWS

The MAFP would like to share some good news regarding donations made to the pantry. A local resident recently made a \$500 donation in memory of a loved one who passed away. Shortly thereafter residents Steve Weeks and Steven Harrison from Happy Hen Farm in Readfield have started to donate eggs to be distributed with our weekly boxes. Another local family has dropped off fresh fruit a couple of times and our clients are so thankful. The Lions Club via Bunny Parks also helps to keep our shelves full as do the individuals who drop food donations at the town of the couple o



the town office. The pantry volunteers extend their appreciation for all this generosity.

The pantry has seen pretty consistent usage through the winter. We have a couple of new families that pick up every other week or so and a family recently contacted us to thank us for helping them through the winter but they seem to be in a better situation now and no longer need assistance. We wish them well but are available if need be. As a reminder, the pantry is located at Maranacook Middle School for food donations. Monetary donations can be sent to the RSU # 38 Central Office at 45 Millard Harrison Drive in Readfield. Our pick up / distribution day is every Thursday including school vacations, from 3-4 pm in the lower lot at the Middle School.

Again, thank you to all of you who support the efforts of the food pantry committee by helping in any way you can.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Durgin MAFP

## **Conservation Commission News**

By Linnea Koons
Pollinators – What's the Big Deal?

The Conservation Commission continues work on a project this year that may puzzle you. It is to support habitat for pollinators.

First, what's a pollinator and why should we care? Pollinators spread pollen from flower to flower and that allows plants to complete their reproductive cycle creating seeds for the next generation of plants. Think of an apple or a blueberry. There are seeds inside both of them. The reason the part that you eat formed at all is because it is needed to protect the seeds until they can sprout. No pollinators, no apple or blueberry pies.

Pollinators can be: bees, butterflies, birds, moths, bats, beetles, and flies. They need places to live. Not all bees live in beehives. Native bees can live in ground nests, brush piles, and dead wood, among other places. Some butterflies live in trees, others live in meadows, and still more live in marshy areas. What else lives in trees? Bats, beetles, and flies. In fact, flies are especially important pollinators along the edges between a forest and a field. What else lives in those edges? Deer. They aren't important pollinators, but deer are important to people for many reasons. Deer need something to eat. If fruits and browse are eaten up, the deer will leave the area. If too few of the plants they like to eat do not regrow, the deer will stay away. Remember, fruits and seeds require the action of pollinators. And pollinators need places to live. That's called habitat.

How does the Conservation Commission work to support pollinator habitat? Think of the Fairgrounds. It has forest edges for flies and birds, dead trees for bats, birds, and butterflies, marshy areas for butterflies and beetles. Sweat bees (which are effective apple flower pollinators) can live in ground nests in fields. The Commission maintains the trails to allow people to use the area, and to protect the habitats by focusing the people traffic on the trails. The Commission also is considering adding to the variety of habitats with a pollinator garden.

## GRAND OPENING

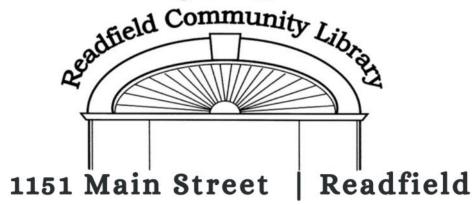
CEREMONY AT 10:00AM

## & OPEN HOUSE

WITH TOURS & REFRESHMENTS 11:00AM - 4:00PM

## to celebrate Readfield Community Library 2nd Floor Renovations

## Saturday, April 6th



## agadheld Community Library

#### APRIL 2024—LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

#### Library Hours

1pm-7pm Saturdays

#### **HOLIDAY CLOSURE**

The Library will be CLOSED on **Monday April 15** in observance of Patriots' Day.

#### **EXPLORE the SECRETS & WONDERS of VERNAL POOLS on April 27th**



Join us for this all-ages special event co-hosted by the Readfield Community Library and Kennebec Land Trust! On Saturday April 27th at **2:00pm**, we will gather at the KLT property "Rosmarin and Saunders" Family Forest" in Readfield. The program will include a reading of the gorgeous picture book *The Secret Pool* by Maine author Kimberly Ridley and Maine illustrator Rebekah Raye, followed by an exploration of the Rosmarin and Saunders vernal pool and all its secrets and wonders led





by KLT land stewards. All participants will receive a copy of *The Secret Pool* to keep, thanks to a partnership with the Maine Humanities Council Discussion Project. Registration is requested, but not required. Please contact the Readfield Library to register: <a href="mailto:librarian@readfieldmaine.org">librarian@readfieldmaine.org</a> or 207-685-4089. Rain date will be Sunday April 28 at 2pm.

Directions to site: From Route 41/17 in Readfield, turn onto Nickerson Hill Road. Travel for 0.6 miles, then turn left (south) into a small parking area. There will be a KLT sign.

#### SPRING SERIES—Morning Run/Walk on the Fairgrounds Trails (April 3, 10, 17, 24)

Jump start your spring fitness routine with a morning walk or run with others in our community, sponsored by the Readfield Trails Committee and the Library. Join us on Wednesday mornings in April—park and meet at the Library at 8:00am and come ready to enjoy the Fairgrounds Trails with others. Walkers and runners of all abilities welcome. Trails are jogging-stroller friendly. Bring your child; bring a friend! The library building will be open from 8:00-8:15am for people to use the bathroom, stretch, and fill water bottles. We will depart at 8:15am for the trails, and walkers and runners can go at their own pace and return to their cars at the library. Bananas/oranges will be available as well. A great way to meet new people and start your day!



#### GAMES, PUZZLES, & LEGOs for KIDS/TEENS on April 17<sup>th</sup> (school vacation week)



A fun and free outing during school vacation! Kids/teens of all ages are welcomed to enjoy games, puzzles, and LEGOs at the Library on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> between 3:00-5:00pm. All materials provided. Snacks too!

#### APRIL LIBRARY BOOK GROUP MEETING on April 29th

Our monthly Library Adult Book Group is open to all! Our April meeting will take place on April 29th at 6:30pm by Zoom. We will be reading the fiction title Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner to discuss together. Note that for the colder 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 book.



#### **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (April 7-13)**



Please stop by during National Library Week to let us know what you appreciate about the Readfield Community Library, and tell us how we can best serve you and the community of Readfield. Note that for National Library Week, we will have special displays of fiction and nonfiction books related to libraries and books, of course!

#### 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).

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

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 to meet through the end of April.



#### SLUGGER'S READING CHALLENGE for KIDS in GRADES K-8



Kids in grades K-8 can READ their way to a FREE early season Portland Sea Dogs game ticket with Slugger's Reading Challenge! We have forms (and books!!) at the Readfield Community Library. **Deadline is April 5**<sup>th</sup>.

FMI: https://www.milb.com/portland/community/readingchallenge

#### 5th Annual POETRY STROLL on April 30th

national poetry month

Please join us in-person, outdoors behind the library on **Tuesday, April 30th from 3-4pm** for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual **POETRY SHARE with an AFTERNOON POETRY STROLL** along the Story Walk trail to celebrate April as **National Poetry Month!** This event is for all ages.

#### **CALLING POETS OF ALL AGES!**

We also welcome advanced submissions of local/Maine poetry to be featured along the Story Walk Trail during the last week of April and for the Poetry Stroll on April 30th. **Submission guidelines for patrons**: Please submit an original poem YOU have written, OR feel free to suggest a favorite poem written by a local/Maine poet for us to feature. We welcome poems from poets of all ages! **Submission deadline is April 15th**. Please submit in person at the library or by email to librarian@readfieldmaine.org.

#### THANK YOU, LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS! ~ National Volunteer Week, April 21-27 ~



We would like to take a moment to say a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of our incredible library volunteers! The Readfield Community Library is a thriving community library quite simply because of the dedication of many truly amazing volunteers who help with circulation, story time, crafts, book displays, special projects and programs, book repair, and more (including our recent upstairs renovations!!). Thank you for your selfless commitment to our library and our community!

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



#### April STORY WALK® at the Readfield Community Library—Big Truck Little Island

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 April is** *Big Truck Little Island* by Chris Van Dusen. Please feel free to walk the StoryWalk® at any time that works for your family, regardless of whether the Library is open.



#### April STORY WALK® at Readfield Elementary School—Wiggle

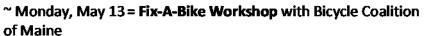
The RES StoryWalk® is always open for all to enjoy! The RES Story Walk is located along the edge of the back soccer field behind the school. **The picture book featured for April is** *Wiggle* **by Doreen Cronin.** 

#### STORY WALK® EVENT on April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Join us as we enjoy the March Story Walk (Library location) together, plus music and crafts, on **Tuesday April 2**<sup>nd</sup> **at 10:00am**! Meet outdoors behind the Library. Check Facebook for any cancellations due to weather. Apologies that we are unable to offer a Saturday group Story Walk this month.

#### SAVE THE DATES! Some upcoming programs in May...

~ Saturday, May 4 = Star Wars Day







#### 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!

#### 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.



#### 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.

#### Readfield Boards/Committee/Commission Openings

(As of March 27, 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 or at the Town Office

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



## **Updates from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

## New boater safety & education requirement effective January 1, 2024

This January, Maine will join 44 other states in requiring some level of boater education for those operating a boat on Maine's waters. The boater education law was recently passed by the legislature, and goes into effect in 2024.

Beginning January 1, 2024, a person born on or after January 1, 1999, may not operate a motorboat of twenty-five (25) horsepower or greater for recreational boating purposes on inland waters of this State or territorial waters, unless that person is 12 years of age or older <u>and</u> has completed a boater safety and education course.

There are a few exemptions, such as for registered Maine guides (hunting, fishing, and recreational guides only), the commercial fishing industry, daily boat renters, and merchant mariners.

The course teaches participants how to safely operate and maintain a boat, Maine boating laws, how to prepare for boating emergencies, environmental concerns including how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, and more. The course may be taken in-person or online.

Learn More: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html">https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html</a>

## ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Registrations

Customers MUST have ONE of the following:

#### **NEW REGISTRATION:**

DEALERSHIP INVOICE

or

COMPLETE BILL OF SALE

#### RE-REGISTRATION:

PREVIOUS REGISTRATION

or

PICTURE OF REGISTRATION STICKERS







For <u>ALL</u> IF&W transactions (hunting/fishing licenses, ATV/BOAT/Snowmobile registrations)

Please be prepared to show photo Id and Proof of Residency.

Thank you for your cooperation

## Readfield Historical Society

House circa sign orders for the spring of 2024 have started to arrive and our next purchase will take place when the minimum number of orders have been received. We have been very pleased with the response and interest in these signs having sold 113 to date. Some include an occupation if unique, the wife's name if she was from an early Readfield family, and/or subsequent long-term or significant owners. The photo included with this article demonstrates such an example. Orders are placed twice a year; the second will be late fall before the holidays. Homeowners receive research notes with their sign and have input on the final wording, based on the research. Contact <a href="mailto:crossings4u@gmail.com">crossings4u@gmail.com</a> or call or text (207) 441-9184 FMI or to receive an order form.

Our annual meeting and program was attended by fifty-five people on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> when Bob Harris and Greg Durgin were re-elected for three year terms. The presentation of our annual recognition award to a deserving volunteer has been delayed until Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at the annual Wine N Cheese.

The program was given by author, Peter M. Pettingill about his book, The Murder of Mattie Hackett. His talk was recorded and can be seen in its entirety on the RHS facebook page. Ellen Bowman preceded Pettingill's presentation by performing the song she wrote about Mattie Hackett. Pettingill's book recounts Mattie's murder and the subsequent investigation and trial. She was working at the Elmwood Hotel at Readfield Corner in August, 1905 when she was murdered near her parents' farm on P Ridge Road, Kents Hill. Pettingill recounted the murder, the year's long investigation and trial in this historical novel, which includes the actual events and characters — many being residents of Readfield, including one of the suspects. Copies of The Murder of Mattie Hackett are available for \$20.00. Contact <a href="mailto:crossings4u@gmail.com">crossings4u@gmail.com</a> or call or text (207) 441-9184 to arrange pick-up or shipment of the book, a S&H cost will be added if sent via U.S.P.S.

RHS will open for the season on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> of Memorial Day weekend and will be open thereafter every Thursday and Saturday through Labor Day weekend. Hours are 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. In the meantime, RHS is open by appointment when weather and temperatures allow. To make an appointment or if you have inquiries about Readfield's history contact <u>readfieldhistorical@gmail.com</u> or (207) 377-2299.

Dale Potter-Clark, Secretary Readfield Historical Society ~ (207) 441-9184 ~ dmclark1@roadrunner.com



#### Photo caption:

RHS has started taking circa sign orders for this spring. Pictured here are Mark B. Smith and Jane Laug with their circa sign, standing in front of an original Jonathan Poor mural in their house on Nickerson Hill.

#### TAX DEADLINES ADJUSTED FOR COUNTIES IMPACTED BY MAJOR STORMS

The Internal Revenue Service and Maine Revenue Services announced tax relief for individuals and businesses in parts of Maine affected by the severe storms and flooding that began on Dec. 17, 2023.

These taxpayers now have until <u>June 17, 2024</u>, to file their federal and state individual and business tax returns.

The IRS and MRA are offering relief to any area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Currently, this includes Androscoggin, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo and Washington counties. Individuals and households that reside or have a business in these localities qualify for tax relief.

The current list of eligible localities is always available on the <u>disaster relief</u> page at IRS.gov.

# 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.

Donation bins are at the Readfield Town Office, Musicians Choice in Augusta & Bailey Public Library in Winthrop. 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





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

## Maranacook Community

#### 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. Held in the Middle School Presentations rotate between student and community lead.

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Bring crafts,

games, and

friends!

Thursdays

cafeteria. Reserved parking in the lower

school lot.

Contact Dan Holman if you're interested! dan holman@maranacook.com 207-500-1737



## Readfield Union Meeting House

It's Spring! Really! The Readfield Union Meeting House and Vestry is gearing up for spring and summer events/ activities. An exciting first time event that the Friends of the Vestry is planning for Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> is a Spring Tea and Silent Auction from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. This fundraiser supports the continued renovation of the Vestry for our use to support community enriching activities.

The menu will feature a variety of tea sandwiches, scones served with homemade clotted cream, lemon curd and

strawberry jam, as well as an assortment of petite desserts. Tea will be served in antique China teacups. In conjunction with the Spring Tea, a Silent Auction will be offered with such items as: Handcrafted Earrings and Necklace Set, Party Boat Ride on Cobbossee Lake, Homemade Scones & Quiche, and a Basket filled with Spring Themed Garden Supplies (This is the perfect time to bid on a special



item for Mothers Day.) For Reservations please call Charlene at 207-293-3150 between 5pm and 8pm. Limited seating, reserve early for this special event. Tickets are \$15.00 We hope to see you at The Spring Tea! Tea Party guests are invited to tour the Readfield Union Meeting House prior to or following the Tea.

The Meeting House is on The National Register of Historic Places and features incredible tromp l'oeil art on the walls and ceiling created between 1866-1868 by Charles Schumacher.

Printed schedules for all planned 2024 events should be available by the end of April. What are we waiting for? We're waiting to see if the planned restoration work at the Meeting House will create any safety issues or the need to adjust a planned event. The schedules will be sent out by email, posted on Facebook, and printed copies will be available at the post office and town office.

On a housekeeping issue, The Board of Directors is looking to hire a note taker to record minutes for our monthly board meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 3:30. A stipend of \$40. is being offered. If you are interested in this position, please call Nancy Durgin at 207-685-4481.

Respectfully submitted by, Nancy Durgin

#### Winthrop Area Rotary Club announces a third Community Build

We had a pretty mild 2023/2024 winter season. Next winter we may not be so lucky, so how do you plan to tackle your home heating bills next winter? Winthrop Area Rotary may have a possible answer for you. In the fall of October 2022, the Club piloted a new project – offering custom built window inserts to local residents and utilizing club members, students and area volunteers to build the heat saving inserts at the Winthrop Middle School. The first year was considered a huge success, building and placing almost 200 windows in local resident's homes. We received so much positive feedback the Club decided to embrace the project for the 2023/2024 season, which we also felt was quite a success at over 200 windows. This, the third year, we estimate we can accommodate approximately 225 windows. The Rotary Club partnered with Window Dressers inserts, a volunteer run organization located in Searsport, Maine to obtain raw materials. If you are at all interested in enjoying a

warmer, draft-free environment this coming winter, its not too early to secure a place on our list of potential customers. Just place your name on the insert list located at *windowdressers.org* and a Winthrop Area Club member will contact you to measure your windows and answer any specific questions you may have. I almost neglected to mention, Rotary offers these window inserts free of charge, accepting donations only from those who feel they can afford to offer one. We will seek to obtain corporate donations to supplement this project.

Marge Livingston, Treasurer, Winthrop Area Rotary Club



#### Parker Pond Headland Preserve Mud Season Trail Closure



Kennebec Land Trust's (KLT) Parker Pond Headland Preserve on Fellows Cove Road in Fayette is temporarily closed to hikers during mud season (March – April/May). Currently, the Fellows Cove Road is only open to homeowners to minimize the impacts on the road.

During mud season, KLT recommends hikers visit the nearby Ezra Smith Conservation Area in Mount Vernon, Torsey Pond Nature Preserve or Rosmarin & Saunders

Family Forest in Readfield or Hutchinson Pond in Manchester instead. However, please help take care of all our local trails by staying off them when they are muddy.

To find driving directions and more information about these beautiful trails visit KLT's website:

https://www.tklt.org/property-list, email info@tklt.org or call 207-377-2848 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

# 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

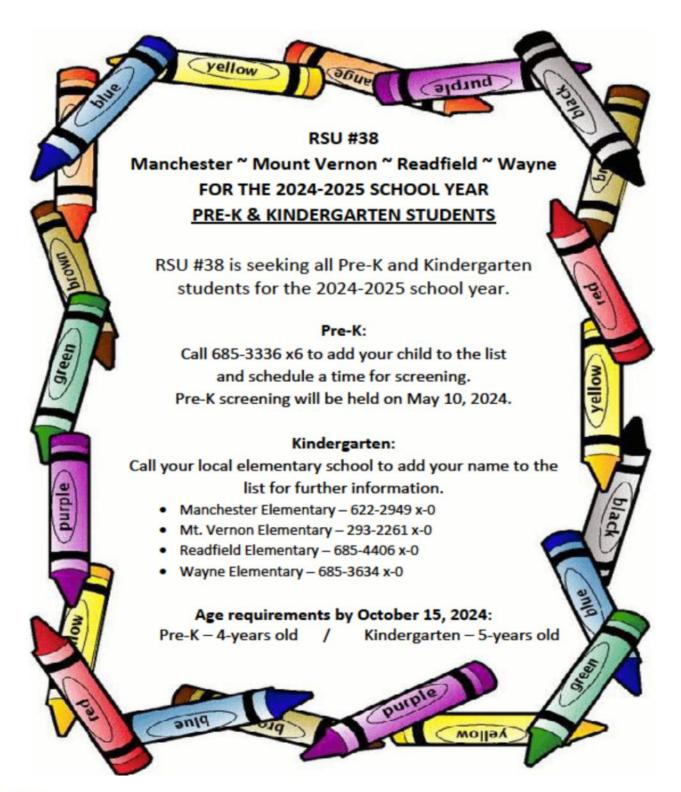
Mount Vernon, ME 04352

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





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



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** 

**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 <a href="https://www.maranacook.org/documents/school-board/budget/fiscal-year-2024-2025/567411">https://www.maranacook.org/documents/school-board/budget/fiscal-year-2024-2025/567411</a> or by scanning the QR code <a href="https://www.maranacook.org/documents/school-board/budget/fiscal-year-2024-2025/567411">FY25 RSU 38 budget schedule approved 1.17.24</a>

#### **Spoken Image:**

Poets & Artists in Conversation

~ a creative collaboration of Maine artists and poets ~



-Sally Wagley

## Join us for the Closing Celebration! April 28, 3-5 p.m. poetry ~ artist talks ~ music ~ refreshments

Artwork & Poems on exhibit throughout April at The Gallery in Readfield Gallery hours: Sun. & Mon. 3-5 p.m. Call Camille 207-522-7325

#### Afternoon Workshop - Making Paste Paper - Sunday, April 21st , 2024 at The Gallery in Readfield

with artist Cynthia Ahlstrin

Making Fabulous Paste Paper! Instructor: Cynthia Ahlstrin

Class Description: Get ready to push up your sleeves and have a ball making paste paper! In this class we will explore the exciting method of using paint, paste and other media to create original hand designed decorative paper that is often used in book arts, collage and in other expressive arts. Students will learn methods of mixing paint, incorporating underlying marks and using the right tools to create professional quality paper with colorful designs and rhythmic patterns. You will love the results!! Most materials are provided. All are welcome, no previous experience is necessary.

Class Time: 1:00PM - 4:00PM ~ Cost of class: \$55.00 Class Max: 6 / Class Min: 5 (will consider running with 4)



#### 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 / Website: readfieldchurch.org

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





## Calling all singers out there! A choir is forming.

Contact Wendy Large at wlbsn@aol.com or 207-685-4211





Our next kindness food box giveaway is scheduled for April 20 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.



#### **Town of Readfield**

www.readfieldmaine.org 8 Old Kents Hill Road Readfield ME 04355

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



# **Town Office Staff Contacts**

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

## **April 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION DEADLINE Homestead Exemption Due April 1	Select Board 6:30 PM	2	3	4	5	6 OPEN HOUSE! Readfield Community Library Grand Opening Ceremony 10:00 AM Open House 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
7	8	9 Planning Board 6:30 PM Conservation Commission 6:30 PM	Age Friendly 9:00AM Solid Waste & Recycling 5:30 PM Budget Committee 6:30 PM Library Board 6:30 PM	Road Committee 6:00 PM	Nomination Papers Due by 3:30 PM  Important DATE!	13
14	Town Offices Closed  HAPPY PATRIOT'S DAY  Deepen purpose and as	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Cemetery Committee 10:30 AM Select Board 6:30 PM HAPPY EARTH DAY!	Planning Board 6:30 PM	Trails Committee 6:30 PM	25	26 May Messenger Articles Due	DEA RX Take Back Day at Transfer Station 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  DEA NATIONAL A TAKESACK
28	29	30				