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Paid Business Advertisements

- **Bus. Card Size $15/mth**
- **1/4 page $25/mth**
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Checks are to be made payable to:

Town of Mt. Vernon.

All ads must be prepaid with ad copy and payment sent to: Newsletter-1997 North Rd. Mt. Vernon, ME 04352
Greetings,

In my last turn at the “The Select Board’s Desk” column I had mentioned that we “started the governance committee back up after a long hiatus. That group is taking a fresh look at the structure of the town and how we run the town”. Sue Herman, along with Katie Farrin and Sandy Wright looked at the last set of recommendations from about 10 years ago. They then interviewed each town official, including all select board members, the treasurer, clerk/tax collector, deputy clerk and select board administrative assistant. They authored a concise report that the select board found to be helpful and informative. A brief summary of their recommendations includes:

- Updated job descriptions for Clerk, Tax collector, Town Office Coordinator (aka Admin Assistant to the select board), and Treasurer.
- Keeping the Clerk as an elected position
- Making the Treasurer an appointed position
- Expanding the hours of the newly titled Town Office Coordinator
- They also helped with some salary recommendations based on the duties of the jobs.

The select board would like to extend our thanks for the hard work that this team did. We all seem to agree with their recommendations. It should be noted that we are trying to keep our small-town office and staff running as efficiently and cost-effective as possible while avoiding going to a town manager style of local government. Frankly, once a small town like ours goes to a larger style of governance, the costs increase significantly. With the RSU 38 contribution being 65 or more percent of our overall budget, we have few budgetary items that we can try to manage costs on. Municipal operations are one area where we will try to keep as lean as possible while being responsive to the needs of residents at the same time.

What’s next? You may recall that we went to two-year terms on the clerk, tax collector, road commissioner, and treasurer some years ago. 2020 is the year for those biennial elections. The last time we wrote new job descriptions for various positions, the legislative body of the town (aka, Town Meeting) approved those documents. Thus, we have decided to hold a special town meeting before March so that anyone running for positions with updates to the job description will be running based on the new set of expectations.

Special Town Meeting I am writing this article a few days before we finalize the warrant for a special town meeting. But I’ll mention a few other articles that we feel are needed on the warrant. Also, we are going to try to have it on a Saturday AM at the Community Center after the always-fabulous community breakfast. Incidentally, did you know that he donations at community breakfasts go towards the upkeep of that town building? Thanks, Community Center board for that!!!! Articles include:

- The Library trustees have been raising a significant amount of additional privately donated funds to do things like replace the ancient roof on the old part and replace 150-year-old siding. So, we are likely to have an article that allows the library to spend this $ on such projects. Please know that we are NOT asking taxpayers to raise or appropriate any taxpayer-funded monies!!
- An article to adopt the new job descriptions mentioned above.
- An article to make the treasurer position an appointed position.
- And an article to make up an anticipated funding shortfall for the transfer station. This is the only planned (as of this writing) expense article, but we can easily handle that from the undesignated fund balance – so no new tax money is needed.

On a related note, I’d like to mention the impending issues around recycling. I think anyone reading this article has also read about the challenges communities across the United States are facing with how to deal with recycling. We all love to recycle paper, cardboard, tin cans, plastics and so forth. Sadly, the markets for many of these commodities are drying up for whatever reason. Currently, we are paying $20 additional or more a ton to dispose of recyclables as compared to trash. We have mitigated that to some extent by asking folks to toss tin cans into a separate barrel and throw glass in the trash. But we remain concerned about recycling costs going higher. We are watching this closely and the transfer station committee will be taking a fresh look at alternatives before we wrap up the 2021 budget this spring.

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Select Board,
Paul Crockett, Chair
Synopsis of Minutes for December 9, 2019

Orndance Review Committee, discussion
Crockett spoke about their previous conversation in regards to the Ordinance committee looking at the positions and having an ordinance of office times for the clerk's position. Sue Herman spoke about having a report by the end of the year. Susan Herman mentioned having a special town hall meeting sometime in January. Crockett concurred, mentioning we will heavily advertise and suggested we have it at the community center. Dyar wants to listen to the ordinance committee report then make a decision on what to do for a special town hall meeting. Crockett asked Wright to see if in the 2016 town meeting we made the decision to have the tax collector and the clerk made it two-year terms. Crockett, 10 years ago the governance committee made some recommendations but the town has only partially met. Dyar mentioned sharing a town manager with some other local towns, possibly hosted by the county.

Jackson made a list for ordinance review: Fireworks, Drones, Accessory Dwelling units (comprehensive plan), Holding Tanks in the Shoreline Zone. Crockett thinks this is something we should look into. Dyar wants us to look into it but not hastily move forward with a new ordinance. Also, look into enforcement and how other towns enforce firework and or drone ordinances. Dyar mentioned he is a believer in having it as a state statute especially in regards to Drones and fireworks. Dyar suggests the ordinance committee speak to Bill Brown in regards to the specifics of the holding tanks.

Speed Zone Review for Route 41, Pond Rd, discussion
Crockett reiterated the reasons why we are discussing the letter: to help support pedestrian safety on the Pond rd. near Camp Laurel. The letter would be sent to MDOT to request they conduct a Speed Zone Review. Motion by Crockett seconded by Jackson to sign the letter Motion passed: unanimous

Snow Plow Contract, discussion
Crockett mentioned the snow plowing contract has an extension clause in the contract and L.K. Dunn & Son current has the contract. Crockett asked what would be the cost? Wright replied the cost for this coming year would be for the fiscal year 2020-2021 $215,000 +$4239.56 Ithiel Gordon Rd for a total of $219,239.56. Motion to approve by Jackson and Crockett Motion passed: unanimous

RJD Contract proposal, discussion
Wright mentioned RJD Assessing sent us a new contract but Wright mentioned the contract did not include quarterlies for the town. Wright suggested we hold off on the contract until we get the final numbers. Selectboard concurred.

Other Business
Motion to appointed Kerry Casey for the Aging in Place committee by Crockett second by Dyar Motion passed: unanimous

Animal Control Officer Concerns
Complaints from two citizens that he animal control officer is not responsive and does not take calls. Selectboard is watching him diligently and monitoring his situation. Crockett mentioned the ACO has lapse certification and they have proposed he get recertified by the state by a certain time.

Synopsis of Minutes for December 23, 2019

Waste Management Contract, discussion
Waste Management contract due to expire September 30th, 2020. Wright went over the changes in the contract including increases and extra fees. Dyar mentioned he would be open to having the contract go out to bid. Wright also mentioned a local town that also uses Waste. Crockett calculated it is about $110 for the ecomaine fee for recycling. Jackson asked if the Transfer Station committee has looked into just recycling paper, Crockett said he has to ask Ken Scheno. Crockett continued by saying he relies on Ken because he works at the Belgrade transfer station. Crockett continued that Belgrade may be interested in taking some of the recycling. Crockett concurred going out to bid could be an option moving forward. Selectboard tabled the discussion so as to be reviewed by the Transfer Station Committee.

Appointments
Motion by Dyar to appoint Malcolm Hardy to the Belgrade Dams Association seconded by Crockett Motion passed: unanimous

Town Policies Proposals
Kasey and Wright presented to the Selectboard Reimbursement and Payroll & Procedures Policy. Jackson had a couple of questions in regard to the policies and clarifications, particularly do we use expense reports? Crockett and Casey responded yes and if any employee is going to get something on behalf of the town, they would hand in a report. Crockett also asked some questions in regard to the policies, particularly adding a bullet point stating that positions with a supervisor should be initialed. These policies will be brought to the next Selectboard meeting to be further discussed. Dyar asked about Payroll and Procedures if Friday is enough time for payroll slips to be handed in. Casey said yes. Jackson asked about clarification for the supervision of handed in time cards. Wright acknowledged and will work on them and send them another draft.

Synopsis of Minutes for January 6, 2020

Proposed Policies: Mileage, and Payroll
Motion by Dyar seconded by Jackson to approve Mileage and Payroll policies Motion passed: unanimous

Recycling Shed Heater
Dyar read the quotes aloud: MTV, Dave's Appliances, and Downeast. Casey had a question on which account this would come out of? Dyar responded it would go against the Transfer Station committee has looked into just recycling paper, Crockett said he has to ask Ken Scheno. Crockett continued by saying he relies on Ken because he works at the Belgrade transfer station. Crockett continued that Belgrade may be interested in taking some of the recycling. Crockett concurred going out to bid could be an option moving forward. Selectboard tabled the discussion so as to be reviewed by the Transfer Station Committee.

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Proposed Policies: Mileage, and Payroll
Motion by Dyar seconded by Jackson to approve Mileage and Payroll policies Motion passed: unanimous

Recycling Shed Heater
Dyar read the quotes aloud: MTV, Dave's Appliances, and Downeast. Casey had a question on which account this would come out of? Dyar responded it would go against the Transfer Station Budget.

Motion to accept MTV Heating proposal for a total $1770.00 by Dyar seconded by Jackson. Motion passed: unanimous

Budget Plan for Fiscal year 2020-2021
Motion to tabled till next meeting: 01-20-2020 by Dyar seconded by Jackson Motion passed: unanimous
“Through books you will meet poets & novelists whose creations will fire your imagination. You will meet the great thinkers who will share...their philosophies, their concepts of the world, of humanity...you will learn about events that have shaped our history...All of this knowledge is yours for the taking...Your library is a storehouse for mind and spirit.” Neil Armstrong

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see the schedule of all of the February Frolix activities in Mt. Vernon & Vienna. Here is a list of the Frolix events that will take place at the library:

**Saturday, February 1st, 9AM: Chair Yoga.** Join Ann Parker, Mt. Vernon yoga instructor, who works with Maine General and other institutions, for some gentle movement. Ann is great at helping people learn a routine of fluid, healthy, balanced mobility – this class will focus on how to do it from a chair! Call us at 293-2565 to sign up.

**Tuesday, Feb. 4th (snow date Feb. 11), 10AM: Koffee Klatch** with our wonderful AARP volunteer David Fuller, who will talk about various benefits available to seniors that many might not know about, and he’ll go over why filing Maine Income Tax is important.

**Starting Wednesday, Feb. 5th, at 10AM: Our stellar volunteer Kelly O’Neil will lead story hour (and crafts)!** Bring your young ones and enjoy a good morning mid-week with Kelly! The dates for February Wednesdays are: Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.

**Mondays, Feb. 10th & 24th, at 1PM: Knit or crochet at the library.** There will be small yarn projects you can finish in one session, and you can learn from others in the group. While you work, there is always lots of good conversation & laughter.

**February 19th, Wednesday, 1PM: Sledding** is scheduled behind the library. We will have hot chocolate at the library. Snow date is Feb. 20th.

**Feb. 29th, Saturday, at 3PM: Our Grand Finale’ for February Frolix!** The amazing musician and music teacher Greg Hatt (and a couple of his talented students) will give a concert and sing-a-long for all ages here at the library! Bring your singing voice, and join in with this lovely group. We’ll have some treats from some local young folks!

If there is bad weather on any of these days, please call the library ahead of time to see if we are open (if a snow date isn’t listed), 293-2565. And, you can check our library Facebook page (Dr. Shaw Memorial Library), we usually can post there if we need to cancel.

Tax Help days are coming up. There are still a couple of open appointment times in March, if you would like to sign up. Call us at 293-2565 for information. Many thanks, as always, to our volunteer tax guru, David Fuller, who sets this up every year.

A local resource for elders in the Maranacook district is the Senior Café – weekly gatherings for senior citizens, hosted at Maranacook Middle school, each Monday from 9-11AM. They offer muffins, coffee, and a chance to connect with others in the area. The middle school students are often involved, serving as greeters & sometimes sharing projects they’ve worked on in class. If you would like to meet and visit with others, to get you through the winter, please join them each Monday morning.

We have been expanding our Graphic Novel collection for middle and young adult readers. This genre has become so popular in the past few years—the stories move quickly, and so much is told through dialog between characters, as well as their facial expressions and the depiction of their place in the immediate environment drawn around them. The collection is in the YA room. Let us know if there are good authors or series you’d like us to add.

Remember to check our website at [www.drshawlibrary.org](http://www.drshawlibrary.org) for lists of new items added to the collection, as well as some (somewhat random) reviews. And, like our Facebook page so you can get the latest postings on closings due to weather, as well as goings-on around the Metroplex.

I am reading Roland Merullo’s newest novel, *Once Night Falls*, the story of a small village on Lake Como in Italy during WWII, and the dire lives of those who participate in resistance, or just try to stay alive. What are you reading as we inch our way through the winter? This time of year, I always remember the old adage: on Groundhog’s Day, have half your wood and half your hay.
January 23, 2020

Dear Parents, Community Members and Staff,

The RSU #38 Board of Directors has started their budget meetings, preparing for the FY 2021 school year.

I encourage you to attend the budget workshop meetings (listed below). It is important that the Board hear from citizens as they work to develop a budget that focuses on "Promoting student success in all areas, as we strive for academic excellence while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

All information disseminated at the budget meetings will be posted on the RSU #38 budget website page https://www.maranacook.org/o/rsu-38/page/FY-21-budget-documents In addition, the budget workshop meetings are recorded and will be available for viewing on this website. I encourage you to review the information provided and to forward any questions you may have pertaining to the budget by clicking on the “Submit Budget Questions or Comments” link, or by emailing me directly at jay_charette@maranacook.com.

RSU #38 – FY21 Budget Workshops
Maranacook Community High School
Student Center (unless otherwise noted)
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

February 5 Regular Business Meeting & Budget Workshop
February 26 Budget Workshop
March 4 Regular Business Meeting & Budget Workshop
March 11 Budget Workshop –Joint Meeting with Local Select Boards re: draft FY21 budget; budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making
March 18 Budget Workshop
March 25 Tentative meeting – Budget Workshop
April 1 Regular Business Meeting and Budget Workshop
April 15 Regular Business Meeting – vote on Budget
May 13 Annual Budget Meeting, MCHS gymnasium, 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Jay Charette
Superintendent of Schools
I was puzzled last week by this political poster at the corner of Castle Island Rd and Rte 27: “Reject Big Pharma”? And what’s “1”? I suspected a referendum question and was aware that the new school vaccination law had been put on hold until a veto referendum could be held, and I wasn’t sure when or if “1” was it. I hadn’t heard of any other referendums, so I went hunting on the internet and by gory it is about that school vaccine referendum indeed! The vote on the recall is to be held state-wide on March 3rd. This is an important public health issue, so I think it appropriate for me, who, as town health officer, is charged with Vienna’s and Mt Vernon’s populations’ health, to write about it.

The medical background

Infectious disease epidemics occur when disease germs are passed from person to person easily (hence “communicable”) and threaten people’s health and lives. The following immunizations are currently required for children to attend public school in Maine. All but tetanus are communicable, which means they are caught from those around us, who are already infected and spreading the disease:

• Measles (rubeola), a potentially fatal disease in young and/or sickly children, especially in developing countries where it has a 2-10% mortality; in rare cases it can cause an encephalopathy (brain inflammation) 20 years later in adults who had cases as children. Maine had its first measles case in 20 years in 2018, and a 2nd last year. Right now, there are measles epidemics spreading across the country with nearly 1250 cases reported nationally last year, the most since 1994. The closest cases are in Massachusetts; last year New York state had the most in the US. That recrudescence of measles nearby probably played an important role in pushing the Maine legislation (LD 798) allowing vaccination exemptions only for medical reasons through this past year. Vaccines were developed and have been widely available since the 1960s.

• German measles (rubella) doesn’t bother the children infected much, causing only mild rash and fever, but it does cause serious birth defects in the unborn fetus if pregnant mothers are not immune already. The last case in Maine was in 2008. Vaccines were developed and available in the 1960s.

continued on next page...
• Chicken pox (varicella) makes infected people, usually children, very sick with bad fever and rash which can get secondarily infected with staph and strep germs; in teens and adults it can cause bad lung scarring. In 2018 there were 252 Maine cases, and 72 in 2019. Vaccines were developed and available in the 1990s.

• Mumps, still relatively rare since widespread vaccination has been achieved, at least for now. It causes fever and salivary gland swelling, occasionally a viral meningitis, but in teens and adults can cause testicular inflammation and damage, pneumonia, joint damage and even pancreatitis. There were 5 Maine cases of mumps in 2019. Vaccines developed and available in the 1960s.

• Polio has been nearly completely eradicated in the world with the exception of some pockets in India and the far East. However, a traveler from those regions could cause an outbreak. Unlike the others, it is spread not by respiratory droplets but by the “fecal-oral” route. Public swimming pools or dirty hands used to be the most common source before the vaccines became available in the 1950s.

• Whooping cough (pertussis) is tolerated fairly well by anybody over age 2 or 3, although it may cause persistent cough (“cough of a 100 days”), which continues spreading it. The big danger is mortality in young children, especially newborns up to 6-9-months, who are too young to vaccinate but run out of their mother’s immunity (given them via the placenta before birth or through breast milk), or whose mothers have no immunity to give because they weren’t vaccinated themselves. Half of children under 3 months with whooping cough require hospitalization and some die every year in the US, none in Maine yet that I know of. In 2018 there were 446 Maine cases, and 327 in 2019. Vaccines were developed and available in the 1940s.

• Diphtheria is pretty rare now after 80 years of effective vaccinations, beginning in the 1940s, but a few pockets of persistent disease exist in homeless populations which pose a continuous epidemic threat.

• Meningococcal meningitis, a bad, disabling, often fatal disease, occurs in epidemics, often when young adults are crowded together, as with army recruits or college students. Maine had 4 cases last year. Vaccines available since 1950s, but the combination of all 4 common meningococcal types in one vaccine became available only in 2005.

• Tetanus (lock jaw), caused by germs in dirt, does not cause epidemics. Usually a fatal disease in the un-immunized. Just last year tetanus nearly killed an unimmunized farm boy in Oregon. But it has been quite rare since vaccinations began during WWII and shortly thereafter in schools.

Currently Maine law requires all public and private schools to assure that all students have had the following immunizations, with some students exempted for medical reasons, like other diseases which could worsen because of the shots (see below).

Required for kindergarten entry:
- 5 DTaP \(^1\) (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis [whooping cough])
- 4 Polio
- 4 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella [German measles])
- 1 Varicella (chickenpox) or reliable history of having had the disease

Required for 7th grade entry:
- 1 Tdap
- 1 Meningococcal conjugate (MCV4)

Required for 12 grade entry:
- 2 Meningococcal conjugate vaccinations; only 1 dose, if 1st given after 16th birthday

The politics of it all

“Community immunity” is an important aspect of successful vaccination strategies, as is clear in population studies of epidemics in highly vs less highly immunized communities. These studies have demonstrated fewer and less extensive epidemics once vaccination rates achieve 94-96% levels, presumably because there are no longer enough unimmunized people to sustain ongoing cycles of infections. Preventing disease in 95% of individuals has the spin off benefit of decreasing disease likelihoods in the remaining unimmunized 5% once the 95% rate is achieved. That has allowed a few, <5%, not to be vaccinated for religious or medical reasons ever since these laws were established beginning in the 1940s. Back then the shots were only for diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough. Gradually 6 more have been added to the list, all of which have reduced greatly the incidence of these diseases. In addition, several other vaccines are now available and recommended for children for diseases that don’t cause epidemics. Examples are the pneumococcal and Hemophilus vaccines against germs that live in our respiratory tract and cause significant injury and death in children and adults from overwhelming respiratory tract infections. The same is true for hepatitis, and perhaps Rotovirus now. About 20 years ago in Maine, a third exemption option was legally added for parental “philosophical” reasons. That exempted number has grown to about 5% alone, which now, on top of the medical and religious exemptions, has put Maine over the critical 5-6% number (see bar graph below). This increase in exemptions, combined with the growing whooping cough epidemic in...
Maine, large national measles epidemics in the past few years, and the difficulty with defining justifiable religious exemptions have led to the new Maine law in April 2019 to eliminate all exemptions except medical ones.

Different states have different approaches to these exemptions (see map below). Many have or are contemplating greater exemption restrictions.

1 Capitalized letters indicate higher doses given to usually younger children, sometimes the elderly with less vigorous immune responses; lower case use reflects lower doses for older more immunocompetent people

Figure 7: Non-Medical Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2014-2018

Things have changed a lot since “the good old days.” Twenty years ago, I began seeing whooping cough cases for the first time in my professional life, right here in Kennebec County. Children now get many more vaccinations, and because of that, many fewer serious illnesses. A good thing, since we have many fewer children around. When I started practice in Maine in 1972, the state had 25,000 births per year. Smaller family size has cut that number to around 12,500 now. Many other medical risks have been reduced over these decades. Child car seats and safer cars have...
dramatically reduced traumatic injury and death for adults and children. Medical advances save many more children and adults. All these improved survivals have allowed more and more people to reach their old age, a "squaring off of the survival curve", as epidemiologists call it when the survival curves look more and more like a rectangle than a right triangle (compare 1900 with 1997 in the graph). A big part of this "squaring off" is due to improved immunizations against childhood diseases, eliminating that awful 20% mortality in the first 5 years of life one sees on the 1900 graph line.

So, the existential question is: do individual parental rights to reject immunization of their own children trump effective immunization for the whole community, when the consequence is that these individual choices are bringing back old days-type epidemics. There is understandable parental reluctance about more and more childhood immunizations, and their not wanting those vaccinations to be a requirement for a public education. The referendum #1 sign gives no explanation of these complicated issues; its only plea, to "reject big pharma", is particularly puzzling. Pro and con donations certainly don't look like "big pharma" is in the game, about $65,000 for the con and $350,000 for the yes vote on #1 on December 31. Plus, virtually all these childhood vaccines are provided free to children through State and Federal mass purchases. The Federal Center for Disease Control works closely with the vaccine manufacturers to assure high quality and improve and supply vaccines quickly when changes are needed. As Dianne Clay of Litchfield recently said in the Kennebec Journal,

"...we pay outrageous prices for many important medications. However, the drugs that are putting a strain on the family budget are not vaccinations for our children. No one should be advocating for us to stop using these medications that have kept us safe all these years. These signs are misleading."

I think we need more, not less or misleading, information, to understand the issues. I am impressed that the combined medical and religious exemptions policy did keep the exempt number under 5% for a long time. It is the "philosophical" exemptions that have risen intolerably high. I have learned that the legislators heard no objections from organized religion representatives in their public hearings. So, lacking a third option to eliminate only the "philosophical" one, I will vote for trying out the new law and vote No on Referendum question #1 on March 3 to protect all our children.

It has been a long road from the days of many serious common diseases, to the present where immunizations offer significant protections, but only imperfectly, unless all participate. If we are to live, work, and play together, we cannot allow immunization opt-outs, any more than we can allow driving on the wrong side of the road. Parents falsely hoping to protect their own children by avoiding vaccinating them appropriately, jeopardize their health and that of all our children.

Helpful references:
https://ballotpedia.org/Maine_Question_1,_Religious_and_Philosophical_Vaccination_Exemptions_Referendum_(March_2020)

2 Question 1 not about "Big Pharma”. Kennebec Journal, Tuesday January 28, 2020, pA5.
Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes of Troop 2096 recently completed a book drive in support of the Little Free Library located at and maintained by the Mount Vernon Community Center.

Over 200 books were collected - mostly children's titles, but several adult options as well.

Troop 2096 serves 26 girls from Mount Vernon and Vienna, grades kindergarten through seven, with six volunteer Leaders.
VALENTINE GAME NIGHT!

Friday, February 14

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER 6-8PM

BRING YOUR VALENTINE OR JUST YOURSELF!

VALENTINE SNACKS AND COFFEE

BRING ANY GAME YOU LIKE.

PLAY SCRABBLE, BACKGAMMON,

JOIN THE ULTIMATE YAHTZEE TEAM OR PLAY CRIBBAGE.

BOARDS AND CARDS PROVIDED.

DON’T KNOW HOW TO PLAY CRIBBAGE? YOU CAN LEARN!

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

CALL PAT RAWSON 293-2597
On November 18, the Mt. Vernon-Vienna Giving Tree went up at Flying Pond Variety completely covered with wishes. The tree was laden with tags! However, our many elves made short work of filling each and every wish.

Last year’s “Traveling Tree”, a table top tree with wishes traveled between the Library, the Community Center for Saturday breakfasts and the annual Tree Lighting and festivities.

So many of you returned to the tree more than once, alerted your friends and neighbors and one by one, the tags disappeared! As the gift giving day approached, every tag was taken and every Christmas wish was granted!

This was truly a community effort. It began with Matt Dunn graciously having the tree set up at the store. The Vienna Fire Department gave up their Community Room for the two weeks of Santa’s workshop. A high school advisee group came to the workshop and helped to wrap and sort gifts and many, many people offered to help.

The Vienna Methodist Church and the Dunn’s Corner Baptist Church took tags for individuals and families. Many individuals including drivers from Neighbors Driving Neighbors delivered thirty-three Cheerful Gifts. All of them felt so good about doing this and reported most often the visit was more meaningful than the gift!

Thirty-six children received warm clothes, new jackets, snow pants, boots, books, games and toys. Twenty-two families received gift cards for heating oil and groceries and thirty-three Cheerful Gifts brought Christmas cheer!

On behalf of them, the thirty-six children and their families, thank you for helping to keep them warm, fed, happy and safe.

With much love, Santa’s elves
HiSET/Diploma Classes Ongoing Year-round

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<td>Beginning Ukulele</td>
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<td>International Travel Group</td>
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<td>Essential Oils</td>
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<td>Reiki 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDL Class B - Dump Truck or Bus</td>
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To register, or for more details and to view all classes, go to:
http://maranacook.maineadulted.org
Or call the Adult Ed office at 685-4923 x1065 for more info

FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES

The AARP Tax-Aide program provides free Federal and State tax return services. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained, tested and certified by the IRS to prepare returns for low and moderate income taxpayers, with particular focus on those over 60, but all are welcome!

Low income taxpayers should note that the only way they can receive the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Sales Tax Fairness Credit is to file a Maine Income Tax return. Even if you pay no income tax you may be eligible for these credits. These may be worth several hundreds of dollars, depending on your circumstances.

The free tax services are provided by appointment only by calling after January 1 and are available at the following sites:

The Dr. Shaw Memorial Library in Mount Vernon (call 293-2565 when the library is open on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays). Tax dates are Saturdays February 22, March 7 and March 21.

The Cohen Community Center in Hallowell (call 626-7777 Monday through Friday, 9:00 – 1:00). Tax dates are Mondays and Thursdays, January 30 through April 13.

The Buker Community Center in Augusta (call 582-3053 after 5:00 pm). Tax dates are Mondays and Fridays, January 31 – April 13.
HELP MOUNT VERNON CELEBRATE
INDEPENDENCE DAY, 2020 &
THE BICENTENNIAL OF MAINE STATEHOOD

PLEASE DONATE FOR THIS YEAR’S
FIREWORKS DISPLAY!

Fireworks are planned for after the concert at the Community Center, 9:30 pm, Saturday, July 4th

Contributions for the July 4th fireworks go to the special Fireworks Fund of the Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Tom Ward at 293-1016.
The Food bank is located at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon Village and is open each Saturday from 9:30am-11:30am.

If you have a need, do not hesitate to come to the food bank. To have the best selection of produce and baked goods, we recommend that customers arrive by 11:20.

Should you need assistance on days of the week other than Saturday, please contact Helen Wilkey at 293-2351 or Betty White at 480-1525 and she will arrange to have someone help you. Anyone wanting to mail a donation to the Food Bank they could send it to: The First Baptist Church Food Bank, 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon, ME 04352. Phone: 293-2141
The Vienna Union Hall Association

The Vienna Union Hall Association is making plans! On February 15, we are proud to support the Aging Place Committee by providing intermission treats for the Sandy River Players concert. Come join us!

On March 15, from 4:30-6 pm, we will be hosting a chili and chowder supper at the Vienna Community Center. Come join your neighbors and enjoy not only chili and chowder but pies from local bakers!

And finally, we are looking for volunteers. We are a small but mighty group of volunteers who want to bring a range of performers to the Union Hall but also build community. If you have time and interest, we would welcome you; contact us at viennaunionhall@gmail.com.

The Vienna Union Hall Association

Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation, Inc. (CPC)

DO YOU SOMETIMES NEED A TOOL YOU DON’T HAVE AND WISH YOU DID? THE AARP GAVE A $1,000 GRANT TO THE CPC’S NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM TO CREATE A TOOL LIBRARY IN MOUNT VERNON.

It will be open in 2020 in the basement of the town office and will have HOUSEHOLD TOOLS and GARDEN TOOLS.

Is there a tool you occasionally need but don’t have? Let the CPC know which one by emailing Sandy Wright at scwright@fairpoint.net.
Bearnstow Announces 2020 Faculty and Workshops

Summer Programs at Bearnstow
June 21–26: **A Natural History Week at Bearnstow 2020**
June 28–July 11 (two weeks): Ruth Grauert and Véronique MacKenzie: “Shape/Space and Time/Motion”
July 12–18, Bebe Miller and Angie Hauser: “Solo/Duo Dancing; A Choreographic Practice”
July 19–25, Peter Kyle and Scott Giguere: “Slow Tempo”
July 26–August 1, Jessica Nicoll: “Seeing What Is: Exploring the Creation of Site-Conditioned Art”
August 2–8, Claire Porter: “Writing and Moving, a Creativity Retreat”
August 9–15, Janis Brenner: “Moving, Sounding and Acting: Improvisation into Choreography”
August 16–22, K.J. Holmes: “Combining Disciplines for Creative Performance”

Free Dance Classes at the Mount Vernon Community Center
Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. from July 1 through August 15

Free Presentations and Performances at Bearnstow
Every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. from July 3 through August 12 in Bearnstow’s Main Hall

Bearnstow Dancers in Concert, final concert of the summer season
Saturday, August 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Union Hall in Vienna, Maine, admission $8

Bearnstow is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax-deductible contributions are gratefully accepted. Bearnstow is located at 84 Bearnstow Road in Mount Vernon. Please visit [www.bearnstow.org](http://www.bearnstow.org).
Mt. Vernon & Vienna Plan February Frolix

Do you feel stuck in the house during the winter? The Mt. Vernon Age Friendly Committee, along with several other groups in Mt. Vernon and Vienna, have planned a number of events to get you out and enjoying winter in our towns.

Chair Yoga – Sat., Feb. 1, 9 a.m. at Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Ann Parker will help us get fit in 2020. Call the Library (293-2565) to reserve a spot.

Koffee Klatch – Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m. at Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. David from AARP Tax Aid and Brooke from Spectrum Generations will provide information on benefits that seniors and others may not be familiar with.

Story Hour – Wednesday, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 10 a.m. at Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Head librarian Alice will read a story followed by an appropriate craft or other activity.

Snow Shoeing – Friday, Feb. 7 at 10 a.m. Meet at the Community Center for shuttling to Ezra Smith WCA for snow shoeing led by Kirsten from KLT. Snowshoes will be available for borrowing.

Pot-Luck – Friday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m. at the Vienna Grange. Program is on aging at home.

Celtic Fiddler Owen Kennedy – Saturday, Feb. 8, 2 p.m. at the Community Center. Typical Scottish foods will be served after the concert.

Learn to Knit/Crochet – Monday, Feb. 10 and 24, 1 p.m. at Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Supplies for a valentine project and patient teachers will be provided.

Game Night – Friday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. at the Community Center.

Valentine’s Day Dinner – Friday, Feb. 14 5 p.m. at Olde Post Office Café. Music by Tom Giorodono. Call for reservations.

Concert, Sandy River Ramblers – Saturday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. Community Center. Join the fun.

Sledding – Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. behind the Library. Hot chocolate at the Library.

Tax Aid – Saturday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Call the Library (293-2565) for an appointment to have your taxes prepared.

Skating – Sunday, Feb. 23, 1 p.m. at the Town Beach. Hot chocolate at the Community Center.

Leap Day Brunch – Saturday, Feb. 29, 11 a.m. at the Community Center. When it’s too hard to get up for a 9 a.m. breakfast. Bring your appetite.

Grand Final Concert and Sing-A-Long, Greg Hatt and Students - Saturday, Feb. 29, 3 p.m. at Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Bring your voices, enjoy a treat.

Check the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library Facebook page for weather cancellations.

View Events in Calendar format on next page
February Frolix

Get out and enjoy winter in Mt. Vernon and Vienna with these great activities through the month.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>10 am Koffee Klatch, Lib. Learn about benefits for Seniors many of us don't know about. Why you should file your Maine Income Tax.</td>
<td>10 am Story Hour, Lib. Craft or other activity to follow.</td>
<td>10 am Snowshoeing, CC. for shuttle to Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Are 6 pm Potluck, Vienna Grange. Program is on aging at home.</td>
<td>9 am Breakfast Café, CC 6:30 pm Game Night, CC 5 pm Valentine's Day Dinner, Olde PO Café, music by Tom Giorodono. Call for reservations</td>
<td>9 am Chair Yoga, Lib., call 293-2565 to reserve a spot. 9 am Breakfast Café, CC 11:30 Lunch North Vienna Methodist Church</td>
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<td>1 pm Learn to Knit or Crochet, Lib. Have you always wanted to learn but never got around to it? Small project can be completed during session.</td>
<td>8 am Juliet's, Vienna Grange. Women's potluck breakfast.</td>
<td>10 am Story Hour, Lib. Craft or other activity to follow.</td>
<td>10 am Snow date for Koffee Klatch.</td>
<td>10 am Game Day for Snowshoeing 6 pm Snow date for Sledding</td>
<td>9 am Breakfast Café, CC 6:30 pm Concert, Stan Keach &amp; Jan Simons AKA Sandy River Ramblers, CC. Snacks</td>
<td>9 am Breakfast Café, CC 10 am AARP Tax Prep, Lib. Call 293-2565 for appointment.</td>
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<td>1 pm Skating, Town Beach. Hot chocolate at CC.</td>
<td>10 am Story Hour, Lib. Craft or other activity to follow. 1 pm Sledding, behind Lib. Hot chocolate at Lib.</td>
<td>1 pm Snow date for Sledding.</td>
<td>2 pm Pub Trivia Contest, Olde PO Café, game free, Beverages &amp; Yummies for sale</td>
<td>9 am Breakfast Café, CC 10 am AARP Tax Prep, Lib. Call 293-2565 for appointment.</td>
<td>11 am Leap Day Brunch, CC; when it's hard to get up for 9 am Breakfast! 3 pm Concert &amp; Sing-A-Long with Greg Hatt &amp; students at Lib. Bring your voice, enjoy a treat.</td>
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Belgrade
Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
Main St, Belgrade Lakes
(United Methodist)
Church Office: 495-3599
Rev. Bill Meyer
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
(nursery care provided)
Children’s Sunday School during Worship
Wednesday – Adult Bible Study

Mt. Vernon
Dunn’s Corner Baptist Church
Wings Mills Road, Mt. Vernon
Church Office: 320-5902
Pastor Daniel Johnston
9:30 a.m. Sunday School classes
toddler to adult
10:30 a.m. Worship service,
Nursery is available
Jr. Church for children up to age 10
during worship service.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. Prayer meeting
- the HOUR OF POWER
Youth group Young Adults 4
Christ both Jr. & Sr. groups
meet 2 p.m. every Sun. at the
church, Sept. to June
Jr. ages 8-12; Sr. ages 13-18

North Vienna
United Methodist Church
572 Tower Road, North Vienna
Laura Church, Pastor
Church Office: 293-3710
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
Sunday School
Creation Station, an after-school, faith-based, arts-intensive program for any children in grades K-6. Meets on Wed. afternoons from 3:30-5:00 following the MSAD #9 school calendar.
Youth Group for any youth grades 6 & up meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

North Wayne
North Wayne Church
(non-denominational)
10 Church St., Wayne
Pastor Jon Olson
Church Office: 293-2502
jolson@fairpoint.net
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship;
Coffee, refreshments & conversation
follow each service

Readfield
United Methodist Church
1564 Main St., Route 17
Pastor Myung Eun Park
Church Office: 685-4211
office@readfieldchurch.net
“...extending God’s open arms in fellowship and mission.”
10 a.m. Sunday Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery Care

Vienna
Vienna Baptist Church
116 Main Street, Vienna
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Pastor Everett Maxim
293-3061

Winthrop
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
Friends Meeting House
219 Winthrop Center Rd. (Rt 135S)
Winthrop
Rev. Susan Berry Taylor, Vicar
AmmaTaylorSt.Andrews@gmail.com
Church Office: 395-2015
Sunday Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
coffee hour fellowship afterwards