Town of Mount Vernon
Community Newsletter

TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

Animal Control Officer
Trish Davis @ 491-0410

Cemetery Sexton
Robert Grenier @ 293-2916

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector
Andrew Marble @ 293-2636
mtvernonceo@gmail.com
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief
Dana Dunn @ 293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance
Paul Crockett @ 293-2532
paul@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer
Daniel K. Onion @ 293-2076

Rescue Director
Pat Rawson @ 293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner
Lee Dunn @ 242-5828

Tax Assessor
Roger Peppard
3rd Thursday of each month
assessor@mtvernonme.org

Transfer Station
Carole O’Connell @ 458-1425
Sat & Sun 8:30 am – Noon
From Memorial Day thru Columbus
Day also open Wed from 3-7 pm

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Dr. Shaw Memorial Library
293-2565
Website: drshawlibrary.org
Email: Drshaw@shaw.lib.me.us
Open Saturdays 10am-3pm and Wednesdays from 3-6 pm
Curbside service available during these hours and also on Monday afternoons & Wednesday mornings.
Call or email ahead for this service and we will arrange a pickup time.

Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours
Retail Window
Monday–Friday 7-10 am
Closed from 10-11 am
Open from 11am to 1 pm
Saturdays from 9-11 am

Newsletter
All articles to be submitted by 25th of each month to
mtvnewsletter@gmail.com

Paid Business Advertisements
◊ Business Card Size $15/month
◊ 1/4 page $25/month
◊ 1/2 page $45/month
◊ Full page $90/month

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office
Phone: 293-2379
Fax: 293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org
Mondays 9am-5 pm
Tue, Wed, & Th 7am-3pm

Town Clerk & Tax Collector
Heather Wheeler @ 293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk
Amanda Wheeler @ 293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer
Kerry Casey @ 293-2379
treasurer@mtvernonme.org
Mondays & Wednesdays 10-12

Select Board
selectboard@mtvernonme.org
Mac Hardy, Chair @ 293-4646
mac@mtvernonme.org
Sherene Gilman @ 293-2388
sherene@mtvernonme.org
Paul Crockett @ 293-3000
paul@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant
Melanie Gay Knox @ 293-1105
melanie@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Meetings are held every other Monday at the Town Office @ 1997 North Road
Warrant @ 6:30 pm
Regular Town Business @ 7:00 pm
It must be easy for the Unity, Maine town officials to discuss the concept of “unity” within their township. It just flows out naturally. It is a little bit more difficult to explain the importance of unity in Mt. Vernon. It is best that I give you examples.

Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers!! Mt. Vernon is privileged to have a dedicated army of volunteers who give their time and hard work to making Mt. Vernon an example of what it takes to help unify our Town. These various committees, whether Town, State, or Federally sanctioned provide many services through our Library, Community Center, Fire Department, or the multitude of Town Committees that are serving you, the citizens of this Town, in many ways. They work tirelessly to address the Towns social, educational, safety, economics, and well-being “every day” so that you feel you have made the right choice living in Mount Vernon. Please, give a thank you for those around you who are the volunteers that serve so that all of us can understand and feel the importance of unity.

The budget process for the 2021-22 year is now in full swing. We are addressing the process earlier this year with the Budget Committee and the Selectboard receiving budget requests and Zooming with various departments, when necessary, together. Once this phase is done the Budget Committee and Selectboard are then going to work independent of each other until April 5th when the Budget Committee will meet to share their budget ideas. Through April, the Selectboard will then be working on finalizing the budget, putting together the Town Report, and getting it off to the printers in early May.

Currently our mil rate is at 17.5. Based on our present Town’s valuation this means that every mil increase, at this rate, raises about $240,000. As a means of comparison, Belgrade’s mil rate is 14.75 and each mil increase raises $556,690. Why the big difference? Belgrade has a broad tax base with many businesses, and lots of valuable shorefront property that increases their Town’s valuation. Also, keep in mind that 64% of our tax dollars go to RSU#38 for our schools and children’s education, 6% goes to the County to support the County Government including the Sheriff’s Dept. and jail system. The remaining 30% of our tax dollars goes to support our Municipal Government which includes our public works and roads, fire department, library, cemetery maintenance, transfer station, winter plowing, recreation department, elections, town employees and salaries, and services that we contract with. Put this all together and you can see the time and effort that must go in to keeping Mt. Vernon a sustainable place where you want to live. Each of us as citizens needs to do our part, no matter how small or large, to help wherever we can.

It looks like we are all going to be struggling with COVID-19 for a good part of 2021. All of us, regardless of our beliefs, need to realize that roughly 80% of the deaths are the elderly. You can support the elderly by please wearing masks and socially distancing whenever you are out in public. There is no greater feeling of unity than to be out in public when we need to shop for groceries, etc. and see all those around us wearing masks and keeping their distance. Thanks to all of you who are working hard to keep all of Mt. Vernon’s citizens safe.

Mac Hardy—Select Board Chair
January Select Board Minutes Highlights

Selectboard agendas and full minutes can be found @ www.mtvernonme.org

January 4, 2021

⇒ Broadband Group to become an official town committee. The Town has signed an MOU with the group and as such can appoint the membership.

⇒ Committee members will have to be appointed and sworn in. The responsibilities of a town committee will be outlined and distributed in the future.

⇒ The Economic Development Committee has been recognized as an official town committee.

⇒ Contracts for review include Off Road Plowing, Plowing for Maine Roads, and Savage Computers. Selectboard will reach out and get feedback from all three vendors.

⇒ Mt. Vernon’s share of the Belgrade Lakes Dam Committee will be $2,944.62. Mount Vernon has 7% shore frontage and over 5.4 miles of frontage within the Belgrade chain.

⇒ Budget requests were sent out with a due date of February 1st. FICA must be figured for employees on payroll as well as considering the new paid leave law. Treasurer will generate a list of departments affected and they will be notified. Separate line items will be put in budgets for FICA and Treasurer will keep a spreadsheet of employees eligible for paid leave time. Budget Chairman Farrin will share electronic version of budget for distribution. Minimum wage has increased, so another last-minute adjustment to incorporate in existing budgets.

⇒ Due to COVID-19, signatures are not required on petitions unless additional money is requested.

⇒ Channel 7 slideshow is being updated - look for it soon!

⇒ A mail slot will be installed in the front lobby of the Town Office as well as a new bulletin board.

⇒ Generator at the Fire Department to be connected to the Community Center. Chairman Hardy met with CMP, Fire Chief, and town electricians to discuss. More to come.

⇒ Chairman Hardy will ask Jason Beckler, Assistant Fire Chief, if he is willing to take on vacant position of Emergency Manager.

⇒ Printer to be purchased for Selectman’s Office for $759 and an additional $260 for annual maintenance and fees
FEMA money acquired from 2017 washout was discussed. $117,066.94 in carryover will be discussed in contract section.

Executive Session from 7:13 to 7:33 to discuss personnel matter.

Budget process was discussed and various methods of how that could be done. Treasurer suggested budgets need to hold steady and keep to status quo or less. Census data will be out April 1 and will impact cost sharing. Melanie will get that information when available.

Cottle Hill Bridge needs repair and Chairman Hardy asked Road Commissioner to come up with figures on cost of upgrading. Engineers from the State of Maine will be consulted. If bridge repairs cost $500,000, bonding would be required. More to come.

Road closings included: Moore Hill Road to Transfer Station driveway to the North Taylor Road; 34 Cottle Hill Road to 267 Cottle Hill Road; and 2284 Echo Lake Road to Mt. Vernon town line.

Special Town Meeting was requested by Treasurer Casey as she needs to appropriate more money for elections due to Municipal Accounting. Additionally, there is a need to expend money received from a grant to non-town committees. MMA has advised Treasurer to hold funds until next summer or to hold a special town meeting. More to come.

Mileage question on 2020-2021 plowing extension year. Chairman Hardy will discuss with Road Commissioner.

Off Road Plowing contract discussion regarding shoveling, sanding, etc. and possible position for a Handyman. More to come.

Request on how to get Energy Innovation Act on Town Warrant to show support for clean energy. Two options include (1) Citizen Petition needing roughly 10% of last gubernatorial election; or (2) approach Selectboard with the idea and ask to be on the warrant.

Cable Franchise Renewal Contract is past renewal date. Selectman Crockett is working on this and will update Selectboard at next meeting.

Ordinance Review Committee discussion regarding electronic document vs. paper. Susan Herman, Chair of Ordinance Review Committee informed Selectboard that small changes had been passed last year. Selectboard will determine if changes have been made and if not update the document

Governance Committee may be asked to come up with a list of pros and cons as it relates to appointed vs. elected employees and whether a Town Manager or CEO should be considered for Mount Vernon. More discussion to come.

TRIO, the town’s computer software, wants town to upgrade. Lots of questions. More to come.
“I don’t have to look far to find treasures. I discover them every time I visit a library.”

Michael Embry

We are open to 5 people at a time for brief visits on Wednesday afternoons 3-6PM, and Saturdays 10AM-3PM. We ask that all visitors wear masks and practice distancing. We also provide curbside service anytime we are at the library, even if we are not open (Mondays 3-5PM, and Wednesday mornings 9-12). Our patron computers are available for use, and we wipe down the keyboards after each patron has finished. Give us a call at 293-2565 or email us at DrShaw@shaw.lib.me.us if you have any questions about access to the library.

We have received 71 new books through the Children’s Book Project grant award from the Pilcrow Foundation, and were selected to be sponsored through two additional awards, one from an anonymous donor, and another generous donation from Mr. Hal Berenson & Mrs. Laura Ackerman of Colorado. These new books are recently published fiction and nonfiction, and range from picture books to books for juvenile and young adult readers. The retail value of the grant was $1,152.76. The grant required a two-to-one contribution, and our community contributed $250. With that contribution and the Pilcrow Foundation $500 match, we were able to select $750 of new hardcover books. We are thankful for our Friends of the Library for setting up and maintaining a continuous book sale which went toward this contribution. We also want to thank the Eleanor Philbrick Trust for the Arts, which supplemented the effort. With so much learning happening at home this year, we hope families will take advantage of this wonderful collection of new books. The unexpected donation of 24 more books from the additional awards are all related to math & science. We’ll feature titles from this new collection on our Facebook page and website once we finish cataloging them. Please come check them out!

Our wonderful local AARP Tax Help guru David Fuller and one of his colleagues are once again accepting appointments for elders and low-income folks from the area who could use some help with filing their state and federal taxes. This year all appointments are on Tuesdays (February 16, March 2, and March 16) so that we don’t have too many people in the building at the same time. We still have some slots available, just call and leave a message for us and we’ll get back to you to schedule an appointment. Masks will be required when you come into the building, and we will set up spaces for social distancing.

We’ve been getting lots of book donations in recent months – thank you. Some of our patrons have been running up to the sale room in the Clayton Dolloff room to browse the shelves, and take home a good stack of reading matter. If you want to donate, it helps if you call ahead of time, and please don’t leave boxes or bags outside – we’ve lost some materials to weather damage. We appreciate nonfiction that is not too dated (and we can’t use encyclopedias or other series), and any books that are in good physical shape and not too old or musty. We hope to have a real book sale this summer, or at least next year! Meanwhile, feel free to come take a look and grab whatever looks promising! Hardcover and trade paperbacks are $1.00, and mass market paperbacks are 50 cents.

We’ve had more library patrons signing on to Hoopla, our subscription streaming service for audiobooks, ebooks, music, and TV shows & movies. Let us know if you want to sign up – it is a very easy process, you can view materials on your TV or laptop or phone, and all you need is an email address and the barcode number from your library card. We are happy to be able to provide this service, especially in the midst of winter and our time of sheltering at home and social distancing!
Some free online games to keep you amused and engaged during the winter months can be found at: https://guideforseniors.com/blog/senior-online-games/ They link to online games from AARP, chess, jigsaw puzzles, word games, Sudoku, and more.

Sap season will soon be upon us! To prepare, you can borrow a few books for various age groups:

**Tom Herd.** *Maple Sugar: from sap to syrup the history, lore, and how-to behind this sweet treat.* 641.33HER

Books for juvenile or middle readers:

- **Sugaring season,** by Daine L. Burns  J 664 BUR
- **Sugaring Time,** by Kathryn Lasky  J 633.6 LAS
- **Ininatig’s Gift of Sugar: traditional native sugarmaking,** by Laura Waterman Wittstock  J 338.1 WIT

**Picture books:**

- **Curious George Makes Maple Syrup,** by CA Krones  PB F REY
- **Sugaring,** by Jessie Haas  PB F HAA
- **Maple Syrup From the Sugarhouse,** by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton  PB F KNO
- **The Sugaring-off Party,** by Jonathan London  PB F LON
- **Thanks to the Animals,** by Allen Sockabasin  PB F ME SOC

Our Yarn Cooperative group of knitters and crocheters still meets via zoom. If you want to join, please contact Amy Jajliardo via email at: jjlrdomom@gmail.com

I just finished Matt Haig’s newest novel, *The Midnight Library* – such a good story. Once my neighbor has finished it, we’ll enter it into the library collection. Put it on your TBR list – definitely a nice read! And it features a school librarian, so… Meanwhile, I am looking forward to reading some of the juvenile fiction series that were included in the Pilcrow grant: Jason Reynolds “Track” series about kids in an elite middle school, and a series by Karina Yan Glaser about the VanderBeeker family of young kids who get into all sorts of fascinating shenanigans. One of them plays the violin! Okay, two more of the Pilcrow books that have drawn me in are a nonfiction picture book by Carme Lemniscates, entitled *Seeds,* and a gorgeous juvenile nonfiction about microbes called *Unseen Worlds,* by Helene Rajcak. What are you reading as the days lengthen and our thoughts turn to tapping the maples and putting together supplies for planting seedlings soon?

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**Gardening(ish) with Anna Libby**

The snow is falling as I write this, but some seeds I ordered just came in the mail and I know I’m not the only one daydreaming about the coming spring. If you feel like you just can’t wait to start gardening again, a little backyard sugaring project might be just the thing to help you pass the time.

Soon enough, the days will be warmer but the nights will still dip below freezing. When you see a nice stretch of that weather coming up, it’s time to tap your sugar maples! (Some folks tap their red maples too – it will work fine, but requires extra boiling!) If you haven’t tried it before, you can get started with just a couple taps and only a little equipment.

You’ll need some taps and buckets (your local hardware store will likely have some in stock), a drill and 7/16 inch bit, and a way to boil your sap down to syrup. If you only have a couple few trees to tap, you can make do with some pans and an outdoor fireplace. For details, (and even a video) on how to tap a tree if you haven’t before, I recommend the Cooperative Extension’s bulletin: **Bulletin #7036, How to Tap Maple Trees and Make Maple Syrup—Cooperative Extension Publications-University of Maine Cooperative Extension**

Website: umaine.edu
Maine’s dramatically worsening COVID19 Epidemic, and the public health interventions it has prompted, have reminded me of my childhood during the 1950’s polio epidemics. Polio infections had been medically identifiable as a cause of summer epidemics in the US beginning in the early decades of the 20th century into which I was born. Polio became more rampant after World War II, so that by the early 1950’s, thousands of mostly children and young adults were sickened, paralyzed and even dying each year.

I remember how frightened my parents were when my 4-year-old little brother got sick with headache and bad cold symptoms in August of what must have been 1953. On a house call I watched the local physician diagnose him with polio, just as my parents had feared, given the raging epidemic filling the local hospital. Movie theaters, swimming holes and pools, and summer camps had been closed because of the disease. We kids were discouraged from playing with others. The papers published daily disease rates. My brother’s fevers lasted several days in the hospital and a spinal tap showed “proof” it was polio. Now I realize that meant they found mostly lymphocytic white blood cells consistent with viral meningitis, and not the polymorphic white cell types of a bacterial meningitis. Other viral infections, we now know, can look the same, but in the midst of a known polio epidemic, if it walks and talks like polio, it’s probably polio.

After being monitored for paralysis development that never appeared, he came home a week later. But we all knew a few kids and young adults in our community, who weren’t so lucky. We also now know that many had the disease without knowing it, while others went on to need iron lung breathing support for weeks or months, and some of those suffered permanent partial paralysis and/or death.

Those were scary times, much like now. Why did it happen in the summer? How was it spread? Could you become infected from germs in the air, from flies, or from asymptomatic people? Towns sprayed the streets with DDT, futilely trying to kill presumed ambient virus, with unknown environmental and health consequences. Ironically, it turned out that the disease worsened as public hygiene, especially sewage management and water supplies, was improved. It is spread by the fecal/oral route, by the ingestion of water with even slight sewage contamination. The incubation period could be up to three weeks, which made where it came from harder to figure out. In the first half of the century, as communities stopped dumping sewage into rivers, fewer children caught it in their first year of life, when they still had the benefit of their mothers’ own childhood-acquired polio antibodies, transferred to them through the placenta before birth. So, if children became infected before they were one, they’d have a very mild case and were immune when exposed again later in childhood or young adult years. The older they were before they met the virus, the sicker they would likely get.

People were desperate for protections to be developed and available. In early 1954, the first doses of Dr. Salk’s killed vaccine were administered to children in selected towns across the country. That trial reduced the incidence of disease by 2/3, according to the early studies. The next year, lined up in the school gym by the same family doc who’d cared for my brother the year before, I recall getting my first of a three-shot series, one of the 4 million kids immunized in 1955. By 1956, most children and young adults had been immunized. No one was much worried about side effects and few were seen. A later live attenuated vaccine (Sabin) was used instead well into the 21st century because it could spread to the immunized and hence better cover a whole population. But it was eventually withdrawn after some of those indirectly vaccinated went on to develop polio symptoms from the vaccine itself; it has been replaced with the original SALK vaccine. Nowadays, the virus is found in only a few hot spots of the world where public health programs continue to try to eliminate it from the globe.
All this is to say, we can’t expect instantaneous results and normalcy by this spring or summer from the initial COVID vaccinations. The first two released vaccines now being disseminated, do appear to be very effective, but many people, by survey, have expressed reluctance to get vaccinated either on general principles or because it is “new” (which it actually isn’t entirely, since the methodology has been used to treat several cancer types). And we don’t yet know how long immunity will last, for years like the polio vaccine, or just months, as with influenza. Perhaps more likely, it will like flu shots, since we’re already seeing new reports of viral genetic changes having worsening clinical impacts. The process of diagnosing, developing vaccinations and treatments, and disseminating those methodologies is happening gratifyingly quickly right now. But the polio history predicts that handling the COVID pandemic adequately, to allow normal living again, will take years with many twists and turns.

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 not 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.

COVID-19 measures will be in effect at all sites. Taxpayers may be asked health-related questions. Masks will be required. Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible. Regular cleaning and sanitizing will take place. In order to meet site safety guidelines, it is likely that there will be fewer Tax Counselors at most sites than in previous years. If the pandemic worsens in our area, the Tax-Aide program may be modified, suspended or curtailed...
Mt. Vernon/Vienna Giving Tree Update

When Santa and his elves began thinking about the Giving Tree, they realized that because of COVID-19, things weren’t going to be the same as in past years. They wanted families to receive help at Christmas, but the usual “take a tag, buy a gift, drop it off” wasn’t going to work.

The idea of buying gift cards began to take shape and we weighed the pros and cons of doing it that way. So as you know, we asked for money donations rather than gifts. Oh my goodness, and did the donations pour in! It was truly remarkable how many of you contributed.

We were able to purchase grocery gift cards and fuel cards for 19 families and VISA gift cards for each child (29). Parents were able to buy Christmas gifts for their kids that they knew they wanted. We know many of you missed going shopping, but this was the safest way for everyone.

*Thank you all for your generosity! It couldn’t have happened without you. With much love and gratitude, Santa and his Elves.*

Mt. Vernon Food Bank Update—First Baptist Church

2020 has come to an end. This has been a year like no other due to the pandemic. The First Baptist Church Mt. Vernon Food Bank has continued to serve the communities of Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Fayette, and Vienna. We have been operating differently since March but have remained open and serving customers every Saturday morning. We prepare prepacked boxes but continue to take specific requests. Customers drive up and volunteers put the boxes into their cars.

As in the past years, all the volunteers at the food bank would like to thank all those in our community who have so graciously donated throughout the year. You’ve been especially kind this year, with COVID occupying so much of our thoughts. Thank you individuals, schools and churches. Our community has been very generous, caring and thoughtful this year. We really appreciate all you have done and thank you very much.

*First Baptist Church Mt. Vernon Food Bank Volunteers*
Message from Mount Vernon’s Community Center
I Thought You Should Know

June Cauldwell, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jan. 20, 2021

It has been one year since I took the reins of the Mount Vernon CC from our esteemed outgoing Board Chair, Linda Stanton. At that time, we were making plans for the next month of Saturday breakfast cafes and planning for the February Frolix. So much has happened since then. Little did we know that a disastrous Pandemic would befall us and very soon. Be that as it may, a lot of things have been happening at our beloved Community Center. Here is a monthly outline of what has been accomplished since last January.

• **Jan.** – Board votes to accept Linda’s resignation and accept June’s appointment as board chair.

• **Feb.** – The town of Mt. Vernon has received a Grant to refurbish the outside lights with LED bulbs to give better lighting and save on energy usage and cost. Thanks to our Assistant Manager at the time, Alex Wright.

• **March** – Renovation of the two front doors of the CC commences. **MVCC closes** due to the outbreak novel virus.

• **April** – MVCC cancels board meeting at the CC due to fears of the virus. Don Laliberty donates repairs to the CC Foyer ceiling from water damage at no cost to the town or the CC. Foyer is renovated with ceiling repairs, painting of walls and ceiling. Thanks to Greg Cauldwell and Don Laliberty for all of their help with this volunteer project.

• **May** – Mission Statement committee formed. Spring Cleaning of the CC with volunteers, Linda Stanton, Pat Rawson, Donna Williams, Kathy Booth, Don Watson, June Cauldwell. Inside windows washed, all benches wiped down and cleaned. All woodwork refurbished with oil and turpentine. Kitchen area thoroughly cleaned and reorganized. Bathroom side table donated by Kathy Booth to hold personal care items. All cabinets cleaned out and reorganized. Front of building/railings power washed. Flower pots filled with donated flowers by Kathy Booth and June Cauldwell. Zoom meetings will be the norm for Trustee meetings until it is safe to gather together or until we have strict guidelines on meetings.

• **June** – CC basement is cleaned out of debris and taken to the Recycling Center. Handicap platform planks screwed down. Many thanks to volunteers, Zeph Peterson, Donna Williams, Beverly Olson, Pat Rawson, Walter Sawyer, Don Watson, Kathy Booth, June Cauldwell. Thanks to John Harker for pruning the fruit tree next to the CC. Bushes removed from side of CC and front steps to facilitate basement renovation. Thanks again to Beverly Olson and Zeph Peterson, Bo Jespersen, and all those who made it possible to do all of these vital jobs. Without your assistance, our cherished building would disintegrate.
July - Community Center (CC) closed except for town committee meetings at this time. A COVID-19 Grant allows needed masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for use at the CC. AARP Grant applied for by volunteer and professional grant writer Jennifer Dube for needed renovations. Unfortunately, we were not awarded this grant.

August - Meeting cancelled until September. June meets with Board of Selectman to determine new usage rules of CC.

September - MVCC Mission Statement is pending approval at our next meeting. By-Laws committee formed. Halloween festivities cancelled due to pandemic. New COVID-19 guidelines formed and approved by the Select Board and overseen by our Health Officer, Dan Onion, MD.

October - Girl Scouts meeting under the care of former board member Kirsten Heck, every other Monday using new pandemic guidelines. WIFI is now available at the Community Center! Yay! Info on this is on the bulletin board in foyer. Mission Statement is now adopted and will be posted on the bulletin board. Discussion on major fundraising for the Community Center. Ideas anyone? Plans for basement renovations are being made.

November - Presidential and other Federal Elections held at the CC. Stone delivered to the CC to prep dirt floor for eventual basement floor. Storage is a huge headache at the CC and also mildew due to a wet dirt basement floor with a stone foundation. Many trustee volunteers and many Drive By volunteers! It was amazing! 12 yards of stone delivered and spread out. More to be done in the Spring with the onset of cold weather. Plans made to erect the community Christmas tree on the Beach area.

December - Meeting cancelled. Two lovely Christmas wreaths donated anonymously to the newly renovated front doors of the CC. This arrangement was made by Beverly Olson. Christmas tree lighting successful on Thanksgiving Weekend! Thank you, Daphne Sanders and her many volunteers! Many thanks to Hornbeam Christmas Tree Farm.

I hope that this gives you an idea of our very different year at the Mount Vernon Community Center. Our Mission Statement gives our purpose and vision for this community. Please check it out at your next opportunity. The Board of Trustees has many talented folks and loads of aspirations for the programs and usage of the CC. I hope that we hear from many of you as to what your ideas are and how you can help with our vision.

Just Thought You Should Know! - June Cauldwell—jrcauldwell@gmail.com
Neighbors Driving Neighbors
PO Box 142, Mt. Vernon, ME 04352
Neighborsdrivingneighbors.org

Do you live in Mt. Vernon, Fayette, Vienna, Belgrade or Rome? Are you unable to drive and need a ride to medical appointments, the grocery store or other errands?

Neighbors Driving Neighbors can help!

Volunteer drivers can take you where you need to go. Call to find out more.

207-860-0677
RSU #38 – FY22 Budget Workshops  
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Budget Goal Statement: “To support all students’ academic, social, and emotional success while maintaining fiscal responsibility”

BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

January 20  
Budget Workshop – School Enrollments, Superintendent’s Directives, Timeline

February 3*  
Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop – Elementary, Middle & High Schools; Special Education, English Language Learners (ELLS), Gifted & Talented

February 24  
Budget Workshop – Technology; Operations & Maintenance, including Bond and COVID grants overviews

March 3*  
Regular Business Meeting; Budget Workshop – Co-and Extra-Curricular, Transportation, Miscellaneous Cost Centers/Accounts (Adult Education, Food Service, Health Center, Professional Development/Assessment/ Curriculum, Systems Administration, Debt Service)

March 10  
Budget Workshop –Joint Meeting with Local Select Boards re: draft FY22 budget; budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making

March 17  
Budget Workshop – Annual Report from Auditor Ron Smith; budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making

March 24  
Tentative meeting – Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making

April 7*  
Regular Business Meeting and Budget Workshop – budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making

April 14  
Workshop Meeting – vote on Budget

May 19  
Annual Budget Meeting, TBD, 7:00 p.m.

June 8 – Budget Validation Referendum at individual town polling locations

* Regular Business Meeting in addition to budget workshop
Budget documents are available by visiting https://www.maranacook.org/o/rsu-38/page/fy-22-budget-documents
RSU #38
Manchester-Mount Vernon-Readfield-Wayne
FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR
PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS
RSU #38 is seeking all Pre-K and Kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Please call your local elementary school to add your name to the list for further information. Town of Wayne Pre-K parents please call Readfield Elementary School.

- Manchester Elementary—622-2949
- Mt. Vernon Elementary—293-2261
- Readfield Elementary—685-4406
- Wayne Elementary—685-3634 (Pre-K parents call Readfield Elementary)

Age requirements by October 15, 2021:
Pre-K—4 years old
Kindergarten—5 years old
HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS OF WATERVILLE AREA
RESALE SHOP IS NOW OPEN!!!
The newly revamped Hospice Resale Shop is now open
Tuesday—Friday from 10 am to 2pm
10 am to 2 pm @ 304 Main Street, Waterville

Clothes, kitchenware, small furniture, medical supplies & more
New items all the time
Proceeds from the shop go toward the many services
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area provides.
Mt. Vernon & Vienna are part of the HVWA area.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer to put flags up and lower when appropriate. If this is something you would like to commit to for the Town of Mount Vernon, please contact mac@mtvernonme.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEES, BOARDS, and TRUSTEES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aging In Place</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Ward, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karla Arceneaux</td>
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<td>Kerry Casey</td>
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<td>Carol Fuller</td>
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<td>Mary Anne Libby</td>
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<td>Sandy Wright</td>
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<td><strong>Appeals Board</strong></td>
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<td>Carl Rogers, Chair</td>
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<td>David Fuller, Assistant Chair</td>
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<td>Scott Herrick</td>
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<td>Patricia Jackson</td>
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<td>Randall Oakley</td>
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<td>Kenneth Scheno</td>
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<td>Gerhard Von Hauenschild</td>
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<td><strong>Athletic Committee</strong></td>
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<td>Heidi Perez, Chair</td>
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<td><strong>Beach Committee</strong></td>
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<td>Gerhard Von Hauenschild, Chair</td>
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<td>Kelly O’Neal</td>
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<td><strong>Belgrade Area Dams Committee</strong></td>
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<td>Mac Hardy, Chair</td>
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<td>Larry Liebling, Alternate</td>
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<td><strong>Budget Committee</strong></td>
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<td>Katie Farrin, Chair</td>
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<td>Tyler Dunn</td>
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<td>Lucas Rumler</td>
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<td>Daphne Sanders</td>
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<td><strong>Community Center Committee</strong></td>
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<td>June Cauldwell, Chair</td>
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<td>Kathy Booth</td>
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<td>Katie Farrin, Treasurer</td>
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<td>Anna Libby, Secretary</td>
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<td>Andie Zuniga Murch</td>
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<td>Linda Stanton, Calendar Coordinator</td>
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<td>Donna Williams</td>
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<td><strong>Broadband Committee</strong></td>
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<td>Bill Rosenberg, Chair</td>
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<td>Chuck Wright</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Shaw Memorial Library Trustees</strong></td>
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<td>Dorcas Riley, Chair</td>
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<td>Sherene Gilman</td>
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<td>Shari Hamilton</td>
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<td>George Smith</td>
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<td>Fred Webber</td>
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COMMITTEES, BOARDS, and TRUSTEES

Economic Development Committee
David Fuller, Chair
William Brown
Carl Rogers

Ordinance Review Committee
Susan Herman, Chair
Ron LaRue
Michelle Pino
Heather Roberts
Quimby Robinson
Fred Webber

Planning Board
Greg Cauldwell, Chair
Andy Dube
Chad Dwelley
Ronald LaRue
Fred Webber

RSU #38 School Board Representatives
Catherine Jacobs
Melissa Tobin
Alexander Wright
(resigning effective 7/1/21)

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Committees

⇒ Athletic Committee has only 1 member
⇒ Beach Committee has only 2 members
⇒ Belgrade Area Dams Committee needs a Chair to replace Mac Hardy
⇒ School Board will have a vacancy as of 7/1/21

Of course we’d love to have you serve on any of our committees that interest you. If you’d like to find out more about any committee of interest, please contact melanie@mtvernonme.org
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)
Rev. Susan Berry Taylor, Vicar
AnimaTaylorSt.Andrews@gmail.com
Church Office: 395-2015
Sunday Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
coffee hour fellowship afterwards