Letter to the Editor:

Beginning June 1\textsuperscript{st} the Kingfield/New Portland Transfer Station will only accept Corrugated Cardboard, Magazines, Office Paper, Newspapers, Unsolicited Direct Mail (Junk Mail), Brown Paper Bags and Phone books in the recycling container.

For many years now we have been sending our recycling to China which had very few restrictions however last summer the country restricted imports of certain recyclables and our Waste Management company along with many other waste companies across the United States were tasked with explaining to towns and cities that there is no longer a market for their recycling.

We were given two choices, one was to pay much higher rates to get rid of recycling, or simply throw it all away. The Kingfield/New Portland Transfer Station Board discussed what the best option would be for the community and determined that we would continue to recycle the allowed items provided it was done correctly. You were given the choice to recycle correctly or simply throw it away.

You may have heard that we have been struggling with what we like to call “dirty loads” which has resulted in huge charge backs or additional fees that were not planned for in the operation budget. These additional fees are due to contamination. This contamination is from putting incorrect items and items containing food residue into the recycling container.

When contaminants are found in a load of recycling the items are sent to the landfill even though some of them are viable for recycling. This happens because recycling is a business. If extra costs add up simply to separate out the contamination, it is likely that a use for that money will be found elsewhere.

Under careful consideration the board has determined the best course of action will be to recycle cardboard and paper only. The board will look at reinstating the recycling program in the future, if there is a reduction in costs.

ALL cardboard is recyclable, but when it comes to your juice containers, pizza boxes and milk cartons, we ask that you throw these away so there is no contamination.

We ask that you remove any packing materials such as packing peanuts or Styrofoam. Keep your boxes dry- if your boxes get wet allow them to dry before recycling them. Keep your boxes clean and away from food products such as oil and grease! Flatten your cardboard boxes or rip them up before placing them in your recycling bin. You don’t need to worry about removing any tape or labels from your cardboard boxes. They will be removed in the recycling process.

Looking forward, the recycling situation is very unstable and what needs to be achieved is recycling at the source, but until that happens, we must avoid such things as disposable items, from plastic cups to food containers and other items that we use once and throw away.

Sincerely,
Leanna Ross Targett, Administrative Assistant
On behalf of the Kingfield/New Portland Transfer Station Board