



# NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at [newportlandmaine.org](http://newportlandmaine.org)

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## TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

### Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

**Town Manager/CEO:** Stacie Rundlett - Ext. 1  
Email ..... [nwprtld@tds.net](mailto:nwprtld@tds.net)

**Deputy Town Manager:** Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 0  
*Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses*  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ..... 11am - 5pm  
Thursday ..... 1pm - 6pm  
1st Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) ..... 8am - noon

**Town Clerk:** Kristen Mitchell - Ext. 2  
Email ..... [newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com)

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Stacie Rundlett  
*Vital statistics & dog licensing*  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ..... 11am - 5pm  
Thursday ..... 1pm - 6pm  
1st Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) ..... 8am - noon

**LPI:** Robert Dunphy - Ext. 5

**Assessor's Agent:** Mike Malesky - Ext. 3  
Email ..... [newportlandassessors@tds.net](mailto:newportlandassessors@tds.net)

**Fire Department:** Chief Kip Poulin - Ext. 4

## Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**  
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month ..... 6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**  
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month ..... 6:30pm
- **New Portland Community Library**  
Winter Hours - September 1 to May 31  
Sunday ..... 1pm - 3pm  
Tuesday & Saturday ..... 10am - Noon  
Wednesday & Thursday ..... 4pm - 6pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**  
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday ..... 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
2nd Tuesday of the month ..... 6pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of the month ..... 6pm
- **New Portland Water District**  
2nd Wednesday of each month ..... 7pm
- **School Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of each month ..... 6pm
- **Knitwits & Happy Hookers (NPCL)**  
2nd & 4th Thursday of each month ..... 10am
- **Recreation Committee**  
1st Thursday of each month ..... 6:30pm

## Notices

Town Office will be closed on January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

*New Portlander:* If sending submissions for this newsletter, please note the new email address for submissions: [alderswamp2@gmail.com](mailto:alderswamp2@gmail.com) All other contact information remains the same.

*Submitted: Dallas Landry, Editor*

The New Portland Historical Society would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets, the fund raiser was a great success. The winners were Kristin Trenholm won the pack basket, pelts and axe handle. The Lands' End canvas bag went to Janet Dyer. And the teddy bears went to Dallas Landry. Thank you all for your participation.

*Submitted: Marilyn Gorman, New Portland Historical Society*

New Portland Thrift Shop Hours are Saturdays 10:00 am - 12:00 noon; closed on holidays and stormy weather. Special needs: 491-2620

*Submitted: Floyd Cook*

## Selectmen

### Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2017

Selectmen Present: Mike Senecal (chairperson) Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Heather Hilenski, Gary Agren, Lorie Agren, Brenda Joy Stevens, Joan Moes, Dallas Landry, Danika Bates, Bobbi-Sue Harrington, Rosemary Drosky

Mike Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Mike Senecal. opened the meeting to the Public Hearing for the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Project. Stacie Rundlett updated the public on the application for a grant for the Wire

Bridge Memorial Park. She stated that after a meeting of the Wire Bridge Memorial Park Group ideas and certain features to include in the project were conveyed to a local landscape architect. She introduced the Landscape Architect, Cynthia Orcutt, from Kingfield. Cynthia reviewed the three different parts of the park project. First is the existing conditions and a drawing of the area. All were provided with a copy of the plan design and scope of the proposed project. Second was the program and what the town has asked to be incorporated in the design. Third is the design for the project and then will answer any questions the public might have. Cynthia explained all three parts of the project in great detail. There was a brief discussion about the size of the field area. There were some discussions about the parking area and the landscaping. There was a lengthy discussion regarding a way to keep motor vehicles out of the field area. After some discussion it was agreed upon a type of fence that would be sturdy enough to incorporate in the design and provide security for the field area. There was a paper passed around for the public to write their name and address to include with the grant application. All in attendance were in favor with the design and enthusiastic about the possible grant funding to help with this project for the town.

Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Wayne seconded, and all were in favor.

## Department Heads

- a. Gary updated the board on the work done on the Hancock Pond Road. Mike Senecal inquired if there was much from storm damage. Gary stated that it was very minimal, mostly downed trees and that type of debris.
- b. Kip inquired from the board their thoughts on how to address the issue regarding Highland Plantation. There was a discussion on what steps to take next with Highland Selectmen and Fire Chief. After some discussion it was left for Kip to give the Highland Fire Chief a heads up about the matter and then invite the Highland Selectmen to a future meeting to have a sit down conversation with them. He briefed the board about calls and recent equipment repairs.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants. Mike Senecal inquired with

Stacie if the towns' attorney had gotten back to us about the CMP smart meter antenna violation. Stacie said that the attorney called and needed to do a little more research and then submit something to the board for them to review.

Mike Senecal began a discussion regarding an emergency shelter and public comments and posts that were put online. He clarified that the town's community room is just a community shelter or warming facility. With the most recent storm knocking out power for many in New Portland this issue was brought to light. It has been determined by the board that a policy or plan needs to be created for future reference for having a plan in place to activate our community shelter. Mike Senecal reiterated to the public he felt it was important for everyone in a time of need to check on their friends, family and neighbors. Town officials were in contact with the Somerset County Emergency Management Director along with other towns and how they were reacting to residents' needs. Unfortunately, only one resident reached out to the town for any sort of assistance. So if residents did need emergency assistance, the town officials were not aware of it. There was a lengthy discussion on the matter. After the discussion all were relieved with the clarifications and the board of Selectmen would be updating all emergency plan protocols immediately. All the selectmen asked that if anyone needed assistance to call the town office or the selectmen directly, whether it was an emergency or just an inquiry on a particular subject.

The selectmen discussed an invoice that was given to them regarding repairs made to a resident's front lawn/ditch area after the town did ditch work. There was a brief discussion about the work which was done. Raymond motioned to not pay the invoice and Mike Senecal seconded, Wayne abstained from the vote.

Meeting adjourned 7:49 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the November 20 meeting. Smr*

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2017

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Raymond Poulin, Michael Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Dallas Landry, Brenda Stevens, Judi Wills, Lewis Wills, Marilyn Gorman, Brian Rundlett.

Mike Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the minutes from

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is January 20 by 4:00 pm.**

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

**Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com**

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

November 7, 2017. Wayne motioned to accept them as written and Raymond seconded, all were in favor.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants.

There was a brief discussion regarding alternate LPI. Mike Senecal motioned to appoint Leo Mayo as an alternate LPI until April 2018. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. The board members signed appointment papers.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed nine accounts on which the town foreclosed for non-payment of 2015 taxes. There was some discussion on account RE153. The board members asked Stacie to reach out to the new owners with a letter explaining that 2015 taxes had not been paid for when they closed on the property. Mike Senecal motioned to foreclose on account RE928. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to abate account RE1087. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to foreclose on RE472. Wayne seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to abate account RE1077. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to do a Land Purchase Agreement with owner of account RE733 and accept a payment agreement. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to do a Land Purchase Agreement with owner of account RE798 and agree to a payment arrangement. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to move forward with the removal of building on account RE929, as it is a dangerous building and the town has now foreclosed on the property. Raymond seconded, and all were in favor. Mike Senecal motioned to do a Land Purchase Agreement with owner of account RE977 and accept a payment arrangement. Wayne seconded, and all were in favor. The Board of Selectmen instructed Stacie to notify those property owners approved by them for the Land Purchase Agreement to have the paperwork signed and a payment arrangement made by December 18 by 5:00 pm. Mike Malesky will prepare abatement paperwork for accounts RE1087 and RE1077 for the next meeting. The Board of Selectmen asked that Stacie send out one more letter to all foreclosed property owners and give them until December 18 to pay their taxes. There was a brief discussion regarding how the town is authorized to dispose of town owned property. The board members will decide on proper disposal of town owned property at the December 18 meeting.

Mike Senecal motioned to table discussions regarding shelter plans to an additional meeting of December 13. Mike Senecal motioned to ask Kip Poulin to be at the additional meeting to discuss shelter plans with them as well.

Brenda Stevens read a summary of the Sand/Salt Shed meetings. The Board of Selectmen added Sand/Salt Shed discussions to the December 13 meeting. Brenda inquired

with the board members what constitutes a project for road work and the dollar amount for a project before it was required to go out to bid. There was a discussion regarding this topic and what those in attendance recalled those things to be. Mike Senecal discussed with all that he felt the ordinances needed to be reviewed and updated accordingly and felt the board needed to come up with a plan for doing so. Mike Senecal asked for a list of appointments that were due to expire in March at the December 18 meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 7:23 pm.

*These minutes were accepted as written by the Board of Selectmen at the December 5 meeting. smr*

## **Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2017**

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Raymond Poulin, Michael Senecal (absent); Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills, Marilyn Gorman, Brian Rundlett, Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Lindner, Kip Poulin, Gary Agren.

Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the minutes from November 20, 2017. Wayne motioned to accept them as written and Raymond seconded, all were in favor.

Mike Malesky presented to the board the abatements that they approved at the last meeting. The paperwork he presented just needs signatures on them.

Gary updated the board on some cutting of trees on Sandhill on Middle Road. He will be purchasing rock rake teeth. He is also having the grader serviced. There was a brief discussion regarding a recent invoice that the board had already denied. There was some discussion regarding Middle Road being a four rod road and the town's right of way.

Kip updated the board on having the trucks serviced. There was some discussion regarding the payroll and hours submitted for township manpower and equipment. He briefed the board on the trucks and the pump tests that were done, also, some other wiring on trucks that needs to be done. The board discussed with Kip having the property at 54 River Road burnt to keep costs down for the town tin having the building demolished. Kip shared with the board that scheduling something after the holidays would be better, and hopefully, there would be snow on the ground.

Judi shared with the board the calendars the recreation committee had done have been a success. Most are already sold. She informed the board that at this time there was not anything scheduled for upcoming events. There was a meeting on Thursday, and if something else was scheduled, she would make sure that the board members knew about it.

The board members reviewed and signed the payroll warrants and accounts payable warrant.

Mike Malesky reminded everyone in attendance that the next sand/salt shed meeting was scheduled to take place at the next selectmen's meeting on December 13. There was a brief discussion regarding the Sand/Salt Shed Committee and all the work which has been put into this project so far. Many were in agreement that the town should continue to look into this matter for the best interest of the town.

There was a brief discussion regarding the community supper and the great turn out from the community and recognition of all who helped to prepare, serve and clean up.

There were no items by the board of selectmen.

Meeting Adjourned 6:47 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the December 13 meeting. smr*

### **Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2017**

Selectmen Present: Wayne Rundlett, Raymond Poulin, Michael Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Judi Wills, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Gary Agren, Jim Heichel, Brenda Stevens, Dallas Landry, Lewis Wills, Kyle Handrahan

Mike Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Ray motioned to accept the minutes as written, Mike Senecal seconded, and all were in favor.

The board members reviewed and signed payroll warrants and an accounts payable warrant.

Stacie presented the board with a Land Purchase agreement which the board reviewed and signed.

There was a brief discussion regarding upcoming budget discussions. The board asked for department heads to start thinking about their proposed 2018 budget. Monday, December 18 would be the meeting that discussions start for budget items.

Mike Senecal presented a question to the public and other board members regarding having an article giving an option on how to dispose of town tax acquired property. There was a discussion regarding all the possibilities and options. No decisions were made, and the board members thought it should be discussed more before the 2018 town warrant was finalized.

There was a discussion regarding the sand/salt shed status. Several thoughts and options were shared. No decisions were made. Another Sand/Salt Shed Committee meeting was scheduled for January 10 at 6:30 pm at the town office. There were concerns regarding liabilities for the town if the town leased a property for a sand/salt shed. Stacie will be contacting MMA regarding the liabilities and report back to the board.

There was a brief discussion regarding the emergency

management plan and updating the current copy. This would be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

The board reviewed and signed the treasurer's reports.

Meeting Adjourned 7:32 pm.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the December 18 meeting. smr*

*Submitted Stacie Rundlett*

## **New Portland Library**

Library hours are Sunday 1:00 - 3:00 pm , Tuesday 10-12, Wednesday 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Thursday 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. We do have a drop box by the door for returns when we are not open.

Congratulations to this month's 60 Club winners 1st place \$50 Brian Drosky, 2nd place \$25 Dallas Landry, 3rd \$10 Bob Whitten. Thank you for your participation!

The Knitwits & Happy Hookers will not be meeting in January, February or March. The next get together will be the second Thursday in April.

If there is a school closure due to the weather, the library will also be closed. If you are in doubt because of weather conditions, please don't hesitate to call the library before you drive over. 628-6561

Since this is the beginning of a New Year why not try reading a new author or a new genre? Just peruse through the shelves and judge a book by its cover. Try a Maine author. Think of it as a blind date and read a few chapters before giving up!

Did you know that the East New Portland Bridge used be a covered bridge? To find out more about New Portland check out the scrap book on loan to us. It has newspaper articles starting 1932. Maybe you can find pictures and articles of relatives.

Every Tuesday we have a "Get Together Warm Up Day" from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. Come have a cup of tea or coffee with friends and maybe hook up with a cribbage or chess partner. Look for information about our senior programming schedule to start in the next month or two.

Besides having new books and dvds, we have games and puzzles you can borrow. Please note - any patron can use our printer which is set up for color or black ink. Copies are \$.25 each.

Don't get caught snowed in without a book! Stop by and check one out. Have a wonderful New Year!

*Submitted Rosemary Drosky*

## **RSU 74 / School Board**

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The December board meeting was held in the CCS library. When the power went out, the meeting moved to the CCS cafeteria. Bonnie White made pumpkin rolls, and they were tremendous.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 1 regular board meeting and the November 9 special board meeting were approved.

Presentation: Jean introduced two guests from Head Start/KVCAP, Brenda Robinson and Tracy Fortin. Jean gave a brief history of Head Start in RSU 74. In the 90s, Head Start began as a half day program in Solon. In 2004 RSU 74 applied for, and received, a Universal Pre-School grant, so that more children could be included. In 2015, RSU 74 was one of eleven districts to receive a federal pre-school expansion grant. The grant lasts for four years. Of the eleven districts, RSU 74 has the highest free/reduced lunch percentage. The Solon pre-K has 14 students, and GS has 17. The classrooms feature a teacher, teacher assistant, and teacher aide. RSU 74's preschool has been accredited as being of high quality. Ms. Robinson and Ms. Fortin cited some of the benefits of preschool. Among the benefits listed were increased school readiness in literacy and math, lower retention rates, lower special ed rate, higher graduation rate, higher college enrollment, higher rates of home ownership and income, and less negative interaction with law enforcement. The RSU 74 preschool program has offered summer programs to help minimize the summer slump. Also, the preschool program is working to share data and establish a smooth transition for students as they move to kindergarten. Many questions were asked by the board. Many of the questions focused on whether there was data to demonstrate/prove the effectiveness of pre-k.

During this agenda item, the power went out at CCS. Because CCS is a FEMA site, there was power in some areas of the building. The meeting moved from the library to the cafeteria.

Appointments: Doug Larlee - CCS softball, Harold Withee - CHS one act play, Tammy Conners - grant writing stipend, Brian Twitchell - data/eval coordinator, Sarah Harriman - MELMAC stipend

Resignation: Mary Redmond-Luce: CHS special ed, effective December 21, Bonnie Atwood: special ed secretary, as of end of 2017-2018

Nomination: Kathy Stevens - CCS fourth grade

Superintendent Reports: Mr. Tracy kept his report quite brief, but he mentioned that he had been very busy lately. He's planning to bring in a bus driver course for interested staff, as there is a desperate need for drivers right now.

Mr. Tracy will be discussing evaluations with the admin team and the steering committee.

The January board meeting will begin at 5:00 pm, as the meeting will also include a Data Meeting.

Consolidation/regionalization has been a big topic with the DOE. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that districts who have not entered into a partnership with another school system could be penalized financially. The penalty could be as high as the equivalent of \$200 per student.

Admin Reports: Tim Richards, CHS principal, had nothing to add to the written report he had previously submitted.

Tom Desjardins, CCS principal, invited the board to the CCS elementary school play on December 12, and the RSU 74 elementary band/chorus performance on December 13. He praised the job that Dan Gilbert has done with the chorus/band.

Jean Butler, Solon and Garret Schenck principal had nothing to add.

Chris Roy said that RSU 74 has now taken possession of the two recently purchased buses. RSU 74 has been approved as being eligible to purchase a bus this year, if the board opts to do so. We are currently sending RSU 74 buses to Hinckley and Belgrade, which has been a cost to the district.

Nicki Richardson, special education director, had nothing to add to her report.

Lorie Agren, custodial director, said that a 1000 gallon gas tank had arrived just prior to the board meeting.

Nate Stubbert, athletic director, had nothing to add.

Committees: The academic committee met on November 29. The committee will examine new curriculum materials, look at data, and make recommendations to the board. The Negotiations Committee met several times since the last board meeting. Mr. Demchak described support staff contract negotiations as "going well". The Finance Committee met with the auditor and received a good report. Of concern, Mike Tracy did not paint a great budget picture. At the current pace, the district could face a deficit situation by the end of the fiscal year. While steps will be taken to avoid this, it is not likely that there will be a healthy carryover amount. An ad hoc Budget Exploratory Committee will be formed to create a plan for the future.

Citizens: None spoke.

To see if the Board will approve the Resolution from MSBA - Support for Public Education

The board was supportive of the resolution.

To see if the Board will approve moving the pre-K transportation to regular k-12 transportation.

The board voted to approve. In 2018-2019, there will not be separate runs for k-12 and pre-k. It is expected this will generate a significant cost savings.

Discussing Collaboration and Grant Submission

RSU 74 is looking to bring about collaboration with

other school systems in the following areas: Alt Ed for grades 7-9 with RSU 74/59/13, Expanded STEM offerings RSU 74/59/13, shared courses with RSU 59, a regional alt ed program.

Executive Session: The board entered executive session to discuss support staff contract negotiations. The executive session was the last agenda item of the evening.

*Submitted Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association*

## Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The December 9 monthly meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm with 15 members present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted.

The treasurer read both the checking and savings account balances, and detailed all purchases and bills paid over the past month. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

In lieu of the trail master's report, Lew W. reported that multiple pipes had been installed in various trails to help smooth out problem areas. The owner of the new house built near Tannery Bridge assisted in removing stumps and re-routing a trail with an excavator. The club purchased a chainsaw to use for brushing. Lots of brushing has been done so far, and someone has been contacted about trapping some beavers along one trail. The new groomer has been checked over for any possible issues that may pop up this winter. The idea of purchasing a new radio for the second groomer was put to a vote, and all members voted in favor of the purchase.

Old business: The municipal and club grants have been approved. The club is in the process of applying for the capital improvement grant.

New business: Bill C. proposed the club increase the membership dues by \$5 next fall. There was a discussion surrounding the increase, and club members voted in favor of raising the membership cost. There was also a suggestion that we make it possible for people to pay membership dues on-line in the future; this was tabled for future discussion.

After the meeting, the club had our annual holiday party, during which we had tasty snacks, lively conversation, and a Yankee Swap. Members also brought non-perishable food items to donate to the local food pantry. A great time was had by all!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm. The next meeting will be Saturday, January 13 at 6:30 pm at the firehouse meeting room.

*Submitted Lynne Cary, Secretary*

## People of New Portland Calendar

In 1991 Rural Living Center, INC. founded by the Presbyterian Church and community members in all three villages created the first calendar of New Portland people. It was a well-received project by the Town of New Portland with the people and places of the town in that calendar.

I was cleaning and sorting to give or dispose of items we have held onto for years, when I came across the 1991 calendar. Looking at the people who worked in the villages, the homes of citizens and the people in the calendar, it gave me the idea to bring the calendar up to date.

I asked some citizens who were involved in organizing this in the past if I could do a calendar like that with the *citizens who have lived here for years and worked here*. I was given the OK and people were excited.

I called citizens and spoke with them about the idea and asked if they would let me take their picture and create a calendar. People were very interested and excited. I went to each person's home, together we chose what and where they wanted their picture taken. Each person was shown the pictures of themselves which I had taken, and they chose which one would go into the calendar.

This was kept quiet until all the pictures were taken and the calendars were made. We decided to keep it quiet, so the calendars could be given to their families for Christmas gifts. Each person who had his or her picture in calendar received a free calendar. All other calendars were sold for \$8.00 each. The money to have these calendars printed was used from recreation funds.

We, Stacie Rundlett, Marilyn Gorman and Judi Wills, ordered 100 calendars and we have 17 left. The money from recreation was replaced, and we have received donations which also went into recreation fund. All the money from recreation that was invested in publishing will be totally replaced with the sale of the 17 calendars left.

Calendars are available at the New Portland Town Office during business hours, and I have four calendars at my house (Judi Wills). If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at home or Stacie at the town office.

I want to thank each one of the people in the calendar for allowing me to spend time in their space and allowing me to take their picture in their homes or yards. I enjoyed my time with each person or couple; it made my day. Also, a big thanks to Marilyn for information about people in New Portland. Thank you Stacie for handling the computer part of sending to printer.

*Submitted Judi Wills*

## Community Churches

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The Community Christmas Choir put on an exceptional performance at the Western Mountains Baptist Church during their presentation on December 15. Brenna Cockerham of Freeman Township directed twenty voices singing a variety of Christmas songs a Capella. In addition, Pastor Tom delivered a Christmas message on the "reason for the season". Following the final song, "Silent Night" which was sung by the whole congregation, many people stayed to visit with each other and to enjoy the many desserts that were provided. A good time was had by all.

As the New Year begins, a new study also begins for the Ladies Bible Study Group. The name of the study is called "Fight Back with Joy" and will be addressing how to apply biblical truths during times of crisis and mourning. Learn how to rise above your present circumstances and become more thankful. The books are \$12.00 each. If you would like more information and would like to order a book, call Betsy at 628-2328. The Ladies Bible Study meets at the church, Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am starting January 3.

If you have made any New Year's resolutions regarding your physical health, we offer a few opportunities to get support and encouragement to stay on track. The Ladies Walking Group meets Monday and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm at the church. All fitness levels are welcomed, everyone goes at their own pace-no competition and no pressure to have to keep up with anyone else. For more information, call Crystal at 491-7433. Also, the Daniel Plan friends group meets the third Friday each month to discuss and encourage a healthier life style through diet, exercising, maintaining focus and prayer. The next meeting is January 19, 5:30 pm at the church. Feel free to join any month. For more information call Jean at 628-3331.

If you have made a New Year's resolution regarding your spiritual health please consider joining us Sunday mornings at 10:00 am for our worship service. There are a variety of small groups and other opportunities for anyone interested in learning and growing in their relationship with God. There is a library with many books, cds and dvds that are for loan with no charge. Pastor Tom holds office hours at the church if you would like to talk one on one. You are also welcome to call the church, 265-2557 or email: pastorwmbc@gmail.com. Visitors are welcomed at WMBC.

As a reminder, Bridging the Gap coordinator, Cathy, is looking for people in New Portland who would like to have a hot meal delivered to their home once a month. Ladies and gentlemen from WMBC along with

folks from the Methodist church in Kingfield prepare and deliver meals the fourth Saturday of the month. Meals are available to anyone elderly, disabled and/or homebound at no charge. To sign up or to get more information about Bridging the Gap, please call Cathy at 678-2442.

*Submitted by Crystal Fitch, member of WMBC*

## Recreation Committee

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The community supper was held on Sunday December 3, 2017 at the New Portland Community Room.

The menu was planned and organized with who was responsible for what items they needed to purchase and what their task was to be during the supper. The funds for this meal came from each one of the selectmen, town manager, and town clerk, fire crew, assessor agent and member of recreation.

This has been an event for a few years and has been such a well-attended and enjoyable connecting of neighbors and friends. The town select people helped fill the plates of residents who were attending. The fire department helped peel potatoes, cook, and mash potatoes. Town manager, town clerk and assessor agent helped with serving dessert and doing dishes along with the fire department and others.

We heard so many positive comments and were very pleased to see the wonderful attendance to this supper. We did not run out of food but came close. That evening brought people together to talk, laugh and reconnect with neighbors. It made all the hard work that went into this event worth every minute of our time.

Thank you to the community who came to share stories, to laugh and to reconnect. Each person who worked to make this happen went home with a smile because of each of you who attended.

I would like to thank each select person, the town manager, town clerk, assessor agent, fire chief and his fellow officers and crew. Also a thank you to the other people who helped with everything and anything: Marilyn Gorman, Christeen and Andy Mudgett. It was a fun time and very enjoyable.

Hope we can do this again with all the positive attitudes and helping hands. I enjoyed every minute of the entire planning, organizing and preparing along with everyone else.

*Submitted Judi Wills, Recreation Chairperson*



# The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road  
New Portland, Maine 04961

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
New Portland, ME  
Permit No. 1

POSTAL PATRON  
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Eve	2 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm - Community Room Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPC	3 School Board Meeting Garret Schenck School Planning Board Meeting 6:00 pm	4	5	6 Town Office Closed Thrft Shop Open 10:00 am - noon	
7	8	9 Firemen's Meeting 6:30 pm Library Board of Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPC	10	11	12 Thrft Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Snow-Travelers 6:30 pm - Community Room	13 Thrft Shop Open 10:00 am - noon Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm Thrft Shop Open 10:00 am - noon
14	15 Town Office Closed in Observance of MLK Day Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm at Community Room	16 Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPC	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Firemen's Meeting 6:30 pm Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPC	24	25	26	27 Thrft Shop Open 10:00 am - noon
28	29	30 Get Together Day 10:00 am - 12 noon at NPC	31			

# NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR JANUARY 2018

DOUG KERR PHOTO

