

## NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY - THOMAS JEFFERSON

The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

PUBLICATION VOLUME 23 • NUMBER 8 • FEBRUARY 1, 2017

#### 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 ......nwprtlnd@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

**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

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

Wednesday, Thursday.......4pm - 6pm Tuesday and Saturday morning......10am - noon Sunday......1pm - 3pm

• 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)

### Save the Date

The Annual Town Meeting will be Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 9:00 am in the Community Room.

## **Letter of Thanks**

Abundant "Thank You's!" On November 10, 2016, Eugene Pray IV or DJ as a lot of us know him was admitted to Maine General in Augusta. Since that time he has also been in Maine Medical in Portland, Massachusetts General in Boston and currently in Cambridge Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It took the doctors a while to diagnose his illness, but they finally did. DJ was diagnosed with a very rare brain tumor, referred to, in short, as PNET (primitive neuroectodermal tumor). It is more commonly found in children and young adults but still considered rare.

So many of you have been following his progress on Facebook, getting updates from family and friends. We couldn't let another moment go by without saying THANK YOU to everyone. People have prayed for him so diligently. People have donated money to help with bills, accommodations and food while we've been by his side. You have taken care of our houses and pets. You have had talent shows and a benefit dinner. Your encouraging words to DJ are so greatly appreciated, as well as family and friends that have visited with him. We, DJ, Kasey, Gene and Pat have been overwhelmed with the support from the communities in which we live and work as well as many of the surrounding communities.

DJ is currently undergoing radiation and chemo. He hopes to be back in Maine before the end of the month. He has made remarkable progress in the last few weeks. We pray it continues. DJ is driven, he is motivated, he has an awesome attitude and is working hard in rehab.

DJ, Kasey, Gene and Pat want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Submitted: Pat Pray

## Town Manager

Please keep in mind that it is that time of year again, and we are stressing that you do not plow, snow blow, or shovel snow or slush into public roadways. This is a state law and causes roads to become more dangerous. If you have a complaint please direct them to the Town Office. This is to help keep a running log of complaints that are made. You can reach us by telephone at (207)628-4441 ext.0 or by email at nwprtlnd@tds.net.

#### **Notice of Municipal Election**

Date: Friday, March 3, 2017

Polls Open / Polls Close: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Location: 911 River Road at the Community Room / Fire Station

The following is a list of candidates for the Municipal Election:

Board of Selectmen for a 3 year term: Wayne Rundlett

RSU #74 School Board Member for a 3 year term: **Bobbi Sue Harrington** 

You can start requesting absentee ballots now. The deadline to request an absentee ballot, including a ballot voted in the presence of the clerk, is Tuesday, February 28, 2017, unless the voter completes a special circumstances application, stating one of four allowable reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after this deadline. The four reasons are:

- An unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- A physical disability,
- An inability to travel to the polls because the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct; or
- An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.

This special circumstances application must be signed by the voter.

If you have any questions you can contact me by telephone at (207) 628-4441 ext. 0 or by email at newportlandtownclerk@gmail. com.

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell

### Selectmen

#### Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2016

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Andrea Reichert, Mike Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Kip Poulin, Brian Rundlett, Wayne Rundlett, John Demers-Lindner, Ron Lindner-**Demers** 

- 1. Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- 2. Mike Senecal motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- 3. Items by the Department Heads:
  - a. Kip undated the board on the Year-to-Date totals for payroll and incident calls. He updated the board on the status of the old rescue. The engine needs four winter tires. There was a brief discussion regarding this, and the board members were in agreement to have Kip go ahead and get the tires on the engine. Kip also discussed items he was in the process of ordering for the fire department and the community room.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the revenue coming in from Somerset County for the fire coverage for the unorganized township. Mike Senecal motioned that after payroll expenses and any operating costs out of the ordinary for unorganized township calls to have the remaining balance from the Somerset County revenue to go towards the principal of the new truck that was purchased last year (Toyne truck). Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

b. Mike Malesky, updated the progress he has had with speaking to the public regarding the personal property tax changes.

#### 4. Manager's Items

The board reviewed and signed accounts payable and payroll warrants. There was a brief discussion regarding the new heating unit at the fire station. Stacie briefly discussed the town report and the 2017 recipient for the Spirit of America Award.

5. Item's by the Board of Selectmen

Mike Senecal discussed the salt/sand shed and the possible benefits of having one. And our options for a shed. He will be planning another meeting since the previously scheduled meeting for December 5 was cancelled. A member of the public mentioned that the west village was looking nicer. Mike Malesky mentioned a rock issue on Hancock Pond Road. Andrea would contact Gary to see if he had a problem with this issue being taken care of by Gilbert Taylor.

Andrea motioned to adjourn the meeting, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned 7:14 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the January 9, 2017 meeting. smr

#### Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2017

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Andrea Reichert, Mike Senecal; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Mike Malesky, Kip Poulin, Brian Rundlett, Wayne Rundlett, Gilbert and Becky Taylor, Ted Surdam, Kristen Mitchell, Marilyn Gorman

- 1. Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- 2. Mike Senecal motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
- 3. Items by the Department Heads:
  - a. Kip undated the board on the on the sale of the old rescue. He gave Stacie a check in the amount of \$7,000 for the sale. He updated the board on some repair work that was mostly under warranty for the engine. There will be a traffic arrow installed soon that has already been purchased. There was a brief discussion regarding the proceeds from the sale of the old rescue and where those funds would go. This discussion was not finalized. Kip discussed that a new door for the community room was purchased and hopefully, would be installed soon. Kip discussed with the board that the New Portland Fireman's Association paid for half of the amount to purchase a new air compressor fill station.

#### NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is February 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: bigd@tdstelme.net If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the New Portlander, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

- b. Mike Malesky presented an abatement for Joe and Jill Lattin in the amount of \$14.32 due to overage in their acreage. Andrea motioned to accept this abatement and Raymond seconded it, all were in favor. Mike Malesky. also updated the board on an amount of approximately \$8,000 in actual tax increase. He informed the board that the Homestead Exemption amount was going to increase from \$15,000 to \$20,000, but also the town would lose half that reimbursement.
- c. Kristen presented to the board a letter from the office of the Somerset County Commissioner. There is a vacancy in the budget committee, and they are looking for someone to be on the committee from our district. There was a brief discussion regarding this and anyone's availability to be on this board. She also updated the board on her working with Lorie Agren, the ACO, on those who have yet to license their dogs. She is also updating the voting stuff now that the recall is finished.

#### 4. Item's by the Public:

Becky discussed with the board a complaint that had come to the board's attention back during the blizzard. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this matter. Raymond has since spoken to the resident who complained and shared that it seemed that this complaint had been settled since he spoke with the resident. Gilbert updated the board on the work that is currently being performed and what else needed to be done with pushing banks back for future storms. Gilbert invited anyone of the selectmen to do a ride along any time that they wanted to see what they have to do during a storm. Andrea stressed that the key to handling the situations was to just communicate with the board members so that they all knew if something was going wrong for Gilbert with his equipment or help. There was a discussion regarding this matter. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Freeman Ridge Road and the complaints that had been received for that road. Raymond questioned Gilbert what his course of action is when plowing snow and what equipment goes out where and who is operating that equipment. It was mutually agreed by all that for future reference that when Gilbert and his crew are running into issues that Gilbert communicate that to all the board members so that they would know what was going on. Stacie did update all on a complaint for Long Falls Dam Road and that a truck went off the road and a state trooper was upset about the situation and that the person complaining said that her insurance company knew about the incident and that someone would be sued. Gilbert mentioned that he did get notified about this incident, and it was in the 700 block on the Long Falls Dam Road; it was not in New Portland. During this discussion it was also reiterated the protocol for complaints was to notify the town office of complaints so it could be logged into a book to keep records of the complaints.

#### 5. Manager's Items:

The board reviewed and signed all accounts payable and payroll warrants. There was a brief discussion regarding people who took out papers. Wayne Rundlett took papers out for the Board of Selectman. Bobbie-Sue Harrington took out papers for the School Board Committee. Both of these are for a three year term. Stacie briefed the board that the auditor would be in the office on January 26. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the budget request lines for 2017. The only major increase was the line for the Trio program, due to adding an additional module that is required in order to process registrations connected directly with BMV in Augusta, which is being pushed by the state to a certain extent. This would be an increase in that line of \$7450 one time then additionally it would only be an increase of about \$800 per year. There was a brief discussion regarding the budget committee meeting, and

Stacie informed the board that this meeting would be scheduled for Saturday, January 21 at 9:00 am, permitting that the board can finalize their budget requests on the 16th.

#### 6. Item's by the Board of Selectmen:

Mike Senecal scheduled a sand/salt shed informational meeting for Saturday, January 28 at 9:00 am. In the community room. Stacie would post online on town Facebook page, website, and at post office and library.

Raymond motioned to adjourn the meeting, Andrea seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:03 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the January 16 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

## **New Portland Water District**

Help Wanted: The New Portland Water District is looking for a new treasurer. Duties of the treasurer include billing, accepting & recording payments, various reports, banking, reporting to the Board of Trustees at their monthly meeting, and bookkeeping. It is estimated that this job will require eight to ten hours per month and pays a stipend of \$150 per month. Experience with Quickbooks and/or Continental Billing helpful but training will be provided. Applicants should attend the water district Board of Trustees meeting at the New Portland fire station on February 8, 2016 at 7pm with their resume.

The Water District is also looking for new Board of Trustee members. The Water District can only continue to exist if the customers on the system take an interest in running it. Anyone interested in being involved more with YOUR water district, please attend the meeting or contact one of the existing Trustees. The trustees are: Don Edes, Marilyn Gorman, Dick Salmon and Jim Tindall.

Submitted: Andrea Rechiert

## RSU 74 / School Board

The January school board meeting was held at Garret Schenck. The food included chex mix and whoopee pies. My only food regret is that I only had one helping of chex mix and one whoopee pie. That was a bad decision.

The meeting began with the pledge.

Following the pledge. Following the pledge, Bobby Sue Harrington shared a letter she had received from an 88 year old resident of Stockton, California. Accompanying the letter was a picture of the old Mark Emery building.

Minutes: The minutes of the regular December board meeting and the special December 28 board meeting were approved.

Europe Trip: Chris Gram asked for board approval of his April trip to Europe. His first Europe trip was in 1986, and this trip will be his last. Eleven CHS students are planning to go. The board approved.

Student Presentation: Julieanne Belanger and her fourth and fifth grade students presented to the board. Several years ago Mrs. Belanger wrote a grant proposal and was given the money for robotics kits by the Perloffs. Five or six of her students showed the board how their robots worked and spoke with the board about the robots.

National School Board Conference: Bobby Sue Harrington asked for board approval to go to a National School Board conference. The board approved. Conference and travel expenses will be paid for out of unexpended budget lines for the board/superintendent.

Reports: a.) Tim Richards reported on the happenings at CHS. A Christmas giving tree provided gifts for 96 students. There will be two student teachers in the CHS math department this spring. 19 students are involved with unified basketball. CHS, Madison, and Skowhegan JMG students worked together to raise \$3000 for needy families at Christmastime. b.) Jaime Ela spoke about proficiency based education. Right now the focus is on grades 9 - 12, but eventually k - 12 will be affected. Schools have received their 2016 MEA test results. Results will be shared with the board. likely at the February meeting. Grades 3 - 8 will take the MEA test in March of 2017, and juniors will take the SAT. RSU 74 has been approved to administer the HYSET test for adult ed. c.) Scott Lehay and his staff have been dealing with ice and snow. Some of the buses have had mechanical problems, and we have been using some of Madison's buses to do the morning and afternoon bus routes. d.) Nicki Richardson said that a lot of what she does cannot be shared in her board reports due to confidentiality reasons, but did say that some new intervention programs are being used. The goal is to use programs with a coherent scope and sequence so that nothing is missed by the students. Two Madison students will be on the CHS unified basketball team. d.) Mr. Beverage encouraged board members to attend the upcoming committee meetings. He and Scott Lehay have had talks with the Siemens company. He told the board that GS has been awarded a \$439,000 School Improvement Grant for four and a half years. A reading specialist/grant coordinator will need to be hired, and the superintendent said that he encourages district staff to apply for the position if they are interested. The grant is designed to have an impact on student learning and provide outreach to families so that they are more connected to their children's learning. Mr. Beverage thanked Jean Butler for her help with the grant.

Resignation: Cynthia Langley Wilbur, CHS Math

Recent Appointments: Marc Collard - CHS math; Tucker Atwood - long term sub, CHS math; John Vartanian - CHS unified basketball coach

(Later in the meeting a question was raised regarding whether board policy allows for an individual under 21 years old to have a position where they are responsible for students. Mr. Beverage said that he would investigate this.)

Governor Lepage recently said that he was setting aside three million dollars to use as incentives to encourage school systems to collaborate. In response to this, Mr. Beverage called RSU 59 superintendent Bonnie Levesque and has proposed that the two districts' superintendents, administrators, etc. meet to discuss opportunities for collaboration. He also intends to contact Bingham superintendent Virginia Rebar.

The expenditure report is more promising than it had been in previous months. The 2016 - 17 budget is now 0.8% to the plus side.

The state will continue to fund the 7 - 8 grade MLTI program for at least one more year.

Mr. Beverage encouraged board members whose term ends in 2017 to decide soon whether or not they will seek re-election. If they chose not to run again, he encouraged them to recruit others to run.

Bobby Sue briefly discussed the search for a new superintendent effective July 1, 2017. The position is posted, and MSMA is involved with the hiring process. The application deadline is February 4.

Committees: The superintendent search committee met on December 28. The drop out committee met last week, and it is likely they will have a plan to present to the board in February or March. The board's negotiating team met prior to last night's board meeting.

Citizens: No one spoke.

To see if the board will approve a student representative to the Board of Directors: This item was postponed.

To see if the Board will consider drafting a policy regarding sixth grade participation in athletics. No action was taken. There was sentiment among board members that perhaps the CCS sports teams should not being playing in the KVAC.

Adjourn: The meeting ended around 7:30 pm. Reminders: Next board meeting is February 1.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association

## **Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers**

The January monthly meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm with fifteen members present.

The secretary's minutes from the December meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer read the checking and savings account balances and listed off all bills paid to date. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The trail master reported that all trails are now properly signed due to the recent receipt of the highway road crossing signs. Lewis, Kendall, and Bill worked on the groomer to get it back in shape after some maintenance issues cropped up. Some of the trails need to have brushing done, and a work detail was set up for Sunday morning to work on ITS 85/Tuttle's Corner. The trail master's report was accepted as stated.

The social director is looking to have a couple of people lead upcoming rides. A short club ride is planned for this Saturday, February 21, (conditions permitting) to ride around the New Portland trails with an optional detour for lunch somewhere local. Anyone who is interested may meet up at the wire bridge at 10:00 am. An e-mail and Facebook post will also be sent. A longer ride will be planned for the near future, possibly to Stratton/Eustis, but other ideas and suggestions are welcome. Once a decision is made, please let the club secretaries know so that they can send an e-mail and post it on the Facebook page.

Old business: We will wait until spring to construct a nice looking, sturdy sign board in Friend's Field, and possibly one at Tuttle's Corner.

New business: Due to many problem with the trail, we need to find another route for the Hancock Pond Trail to the North New Portland store. Options were discussed by members. An idea was proposed to erect a building to house the groomer and club supplies on the piece of land owned by the club. Also, the age and condition of the current groomer, as well as obtaining a second groomer was brought up. Further discussion will take place regarding these two issues in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm. The next meeting will be Saturday, February 11 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted: Linda DeWolfe and Lynne Cary, secretaries

#### Mission at the Eastward



#### **North Parish Housing Ministry**

A program of the Fairbanks Union Presbyterian Church And the New Portland Presbyterian Community Churches

**WHO?** Volunteer Mission teams from all over the northeast come to western Maine to share their talents and caring with area homeowners, who without assistance with labor and/or materials, would be unable to make needed repairs and maintenance to their homes. Many of the volunteers take vacation time to be here.

**WHAT?** Painting, roof repairs, porches, steps, ramps and simple interior and exterior repair are likely prospects for the teams. Wherever possible, we ask homeowners and families to participate in the work and its cost. At times the mission can help with materials through grants and donations.

WHERE? Franklin County: Farmington area, Chesterville, Jay, N. Jay, Livermore Falls, Wilton, New Sharon, Temple, Strong, New Vineyard. Somerset County: New Portland, Lexington, Highland Plantation & Embden. Volunteer work groups stay in North New Portland and Farmington, and we like to keep the work within 30 minutes of these towns. The Salem Economic Ministry, East Parish Housing Ministry [Starks] and RCAM in Leeds also have similar programs that cover the other towns not listed above.

**WHEN?** Volunteer Mission teams arrive during the months of June, July and August. The date and time the team will be at your home will be coordinated with you if your application is accepted.

**WHY?** The North Parish Housing Ministry was created to help people in need stay in their home by doing needed repairs they could not otherwise afford to do. The volunteer Mission teams seek to do Christian service. They are called out of their everyday lives to serve in our community. They come to work on housing and would be pleased to work along with you. Their experience is made better by the time you share with them.

**HOW?** If you own (or are buying) your home, all you have to do is to fill out this application and return it. Each application received will be considered, and you will be contacted for further information if necessary. We will call you to set up an assessment appointment, and we will notify you, whether or not we are able to do the work requested.

MATE-NPHM determines what applications are accepted based on the skill levels of the volunteer teams and the extent and complexity of the work requested. We do our best to prioritize the requests as to those most in need of assistance. We cannot guarantee that we can do everything requested, and it must be kept in mind that the work will be done by volunteers with varying skill levels. Whatever we do is done with the safety of the volunteers as our highest priority, and in completing a job to our mutual [client & NPHM] satisfaction.

Mortgages held by other than a financial institution: In cases where the mortgage is held by other than a financial institution, MATE-NPHM will require them to also sign off on any repairs made.

## Mission at the Eastward North Parish Housing Ministry 2017

## Application for the Community Summer Housing Program Application Deadline: May 13, 2017

| Name:   | Phone:   |
|---|--|
|   |  |
| Mailing Address:  |  |
| Town:   | Zip Code:  |
| I am: Elderly; Diasbled;  | Single Parent; Military Service [active or veteran-any member]   |
| I: Own home & land; Home  | only;Have a mortgage;Mortgage with other than a bank   |
| Total number of people living in my h                                 | ome: (Ages: up to 18 19 to 59 60+)   |
| Combined family annual income:  |  |
| Less than \$10,000 \$10,00  | 0 to \$15,000 \$15,000 to \$20,000 Above \$20,000  |
| Are you current on property tax paymer Please list the work you need: | ents? Y or N Is there a lien on your home? Y or N  |
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|   |  |
| I will be able to contribute toward the                               | cost of materials:Yes;No;Maybe; \$ Max. Amount   |
| Signature:  |  |
| Please return this form to:   | North Parish Housing Ministry<br>c/o Fairbanks Union Church<br>P.O. Box 206, Farmington ME 04938                 |
|   | te use of Mission at the Eastward NPHM and is held in strict confidence.://northparishhousingministry.weebly.com |

Please tell us where you obtained this application:



## **Community Churches**

The New Portland Community Churches, in partnership with Mission at the Eastward [MATE – a Presbyterian Church ministry], has for the past 40 years offered home maintenance assistance to families who own their own homes. Our primary focus is to help elderly folks on limited income with critical home maintenance that they otherwise cannot afford to do, and to help other economically stressed families [such as single mom's or new families struggling to make ends meet] with similar needs. We give preference to families with members who have disabilities, and also to military veterans. We are limited in what we can do, since we rely on volunteer workers from churches who travel here for a week in the summer months to enable us to offer this assistance. The two page insert explains the program and asks for pertinent details from you, which we hold in strict confidence.

We will contact everyone who applies in the April/May timeframe to assess whether we can be of help to you. If you want to have someone call earlier than that to discuss 'issues' with you, please make a note on the form to that effect and someone will get back to you, or leave a message on the Fairbanks Union Presbyterian Church's office phone – 778-4705, and someone will call you back [give us a week or so, since all of this is volunteer effort, and we are not staffed during the weekdays].

Submitted: Ed Jesteadt

The Western Mountains Baptist Church members and guests had a fun time celebrating New Years' Eve. The evening began with a taco bar and other yummy food s with lots of desserts. Do I dare mention there are a lot of wonderful cooks in our congregation and even more people who appreciate good food? After dinner, a talent show was part of the entertainment. Tap dancing, yodeling, various singers and performers were willing to share their "talents", all in the name of fun. The evening ended after several relay races and games. Three teams competed to complete tasks such stacking pennies with one hand, carrying (by mouth) a marshmallow in a spoon around a course and tic tac toe with hula-hoops. A enjoyable time was had by all ages.

January 15, we held our monthly fellowship potluck luncheon after church with many people attending for food and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to get to meet new people and to visit with one another for longer than a quick hello on Sunday mornings. Our fellowship luncheons are held monthly and are open to the public. There is no cost. Mealtime begins after the worship service around 11:15-ish, and all are welcome.

During February, the Women's Ministry will be meeting February 14 and 28. They meet at the church at 6:00 pm on thesecond and fourth Tuesdays. In addition to short Bible studies, the ladies are involved in many activities such as knitting mittens for kids in the community and coordinating donations of personal care items to the Solon Homeless Shelter for women and children. February 11, they will be hosting a Valentine Dinner to celebrate our "forever Valentine". For more details on the Valentine's dinner or how to get involved in the Women's Ministry call Pat at 265-4164.

Know anyone in need of an encouraging card, a meal, a helping hand around the house or in need of prayer? We have volunteers within Western Mountains Baptist Church who are available and willing to help. Call the church at 265-2557 or email: westernmountainbaptist@tds.net to make a request.

Want to know more about WMBC? Call Pastor Tom DuBois at 557-3802 or join us for a Sunday morning service at 10:00 am. Coffee and snacks are available before and after the worship service. Sunday school classes are held for all ages Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Various Bible study groups are held during the week at the church and in peoples' homes.

May you be blessed. . .

Submitted: Crystal Fitch

New Portland Community Church News February 2017 Hope everyone is having a good winter and staying healthy and happy. We are halfway through the season. There are a few important items to report in the church news.

The annual meeting of the New Portland Community Church will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2017, at the West New Portland Church. The meeting will be held at 12:00 noon, following a potluck supper. If you have any interest in what's happening in the life of the church please join us for the potluck and meeting. The snow date will be February 26. Please call Nan Berry at 628-6061 or Floyd Cook at 491-2620 if there are any questions about cancellations and snow dates.

The pastor nominating committee has been working hard looking through the resumes of potential candidates to serve in the Fairbanks and New Portland churches. It is a time-consuming task, but the committee is very dedicated and hopeful.

Remember that the Thrift Store will be closed for the winter. Church breakfast meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2 at Tindalls Dam Diner. Join us for a chat at 8:00 am.

Worship services are being held in the West Village Church for the winter months and will meet there on Sunday mornings until June. Coffee hour is at 10:30 am and the worship service follows at 11:00 am. See you there.

Ministers for the month of January will be: February 5 – Congregation led service; February 12 – Rev Stan Wheeler; February 19 – Rev Dick Waddell; February 26 – Rev Tony MacNaughton Respectfully . . .

Submitted: Nan Berry

## **New Portland Library**

From the desk of Sheila Atwood, Library Director: The winter months are upon us, but what better time to stop by the library and learn something new! The new Mac computer is set up and available for patron usage.

We have received a great display on the Bill of Rights - this bill is now 225 years old. This will be displayed through February 28. At the front desk, we have suggestions for lesson plans. If you know of a class or teacher that would like to stop in, please let the teacher know!

Upcoming events to keep in mind: Children's Hour for February is on the 11th. Valentine's books and activities will take place from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Our new artist being featured in the coming months is Jean Sawtell. Her paintings are now hung and ready for your perusal. Her reception will be 1:00 – 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 12. Please join us then!

Also, coming for a talk on the opoid crisis with Jean Antonucci. We are currently looking at the middle of the month for a date. Be on the look out as notices will be posted with more information.

We have a couple new volunteers at the library, and we are so excited. As always, we can always use more help. Remember, if you need to perform community service hours for high school, the library is a great place to start! Just call the library or send an e-mail!

A "special" thank you to Harry Strout for building shelf supports to add more book space. Your time and talent is greatly appreciated.

100 Club Winners this Month: Gregory and Patrice Drummond, JR Fabrications, Norm and Audrey Kalloch, Kay and Alan Micka, Deborah Clague, The Tranten Family

Submitted: Tabitha Emery

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

# POSTAL PATRON NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

#### 82 97 Deadline at 4:00 pm New Portlander Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL – 10:00 am Meeting - 6:30 pm mq 0£:3 Fire Department Selectmen's Meeting Town Office Closed 20 Presidents Day 52 77 23 77 6١ mq 00:3 - gnitəəM Library Board of Trustees ٦٢ ۷١ Meeting - 6:30 pm mq 0£:9 Knit Wits & Happy Hookers NPCL - 10:00 am Fire Department Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers mq 0£:3 ms 00:01 - 00:9 Selectmen's Meeting NPCL Children's Story Hour 01 Planning Board Meeting mg 05:3 Town Office Closed mq 00:3 School Board Meeting **YAGRUTAS YADIЯ**3 YAGZЯUHT **MEDNESDAY YADS**3UT **YA U O M YADNUS**

FEBRUARY 2017

NEM PORTLANDER CALENDAR