



NEW PORTLANDER

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at newportlandmaine.org

PUBLICATION VOLUME 31 • NUMBER 1 • JULY 1, 2024

TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday..... 10am - 5pm
Thursday..... 12pm - 6pm

Town Manager/CEO: Stacie Rundlett

Email..... newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email..... townofnewportland@gmail.com

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Town Clerk: Jacob Pinkham / Deputy Town Clerk: Brittany Rundlett

Email..... newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: By appointment

LPI: Dan Gilbert - 207-938-3866

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday..... 10am - 2pm

Email..... newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Interim Animal Control Officer: Ryan Mulherin - 340-8137

To the Readers of the New Portlander

With this volume of the *New Portlander* newsletter, the town marks the beginning of its thirty-first year of keeping its citizens informed. This publication would not happen without the support of the townspeople, and those who utilize the services of the *New Portlander*. I tip my hat to all who make it work. It truly was a worthwhile venture when suggested and initiated by the Municipal Advisory Committee years ago. It continues to be a service and a product which the citizens of New Portland utilize and need. Thank you for letting me part of this for the past thirty years.

Dallas Landry, Editor

Town Manager

The Selectmen's meeting for Tuesday, July 2 has been cancelled. The Town Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

A huge thank you for the crew who built our new picnic tables; they are lovely. A thank you to Janet and Roger White for doing our flower beds and building a new flower box by our new town sign, and they also donated a maple tree located at the flagpole area. We also have a new digital town sign funded by New Portland ARPA funds for communication purposes.

Town of New Portland Legal Invitation to Bid Snow Removal

Notice to Bidders: The Town of New Portland is accepting bids from contractors to remove snow and ice from approximately 40.9 miles of state and town roads for the period of October 15, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

The contract will also include snow removal and sand/salt spreading of the driveways at the Town Office, Fire station and storage building. The Town will provide all sand and salt, as well as sand and salt storage. The Contractor will supply all other equipment necessary. At the time of contract signing, the contractor will furnish the Town proof of liability and workers compensation insurance. Within 30 days of the signing, no later

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month6:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Saturday of the month 9am
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month.....6:30pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month.....6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Tuesday.....8am - 12pm
Wednesday and Thursday3pm - 6pm
Saturday.....8am - 12pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday..... 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**
Monday - Friday..... 7am - 9am, 2pm - 4pm
Saturday.....7am - 10:30am

than October 15 the contractor will provide a performance bond in the amount of 75% of the yearly contract amount. A completed bid form, fully completed experience statement, three business references, and bid security in the amount of 5% of the total annual bid amount must be submitted with the bid. The bid security shall be a proposal guaranty bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Maine. The bid security shall be made payable to the Town of New Portland.

Inspection of town roads prior to bidding is recommended. Bidding documents and a copy of the standard Town contract may be obtained from the Town Office, Mon-Wed from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Thursday from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

No bidder may alter any parts of his bid for 60 days after the actual date of the bid opening, including price.

Sealed bids marked "Town of New Portland Snow Removal" must be received by Monday, July 15, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and waive any formality which it deems to be in the best interest of the Town.

For more information please call Stacie Rundlett at 628-4441.

Mail or deliver bids to Town of New Portland, 901 River Road, New Portland, ME 04961

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for May 06, 2024

Roster / Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Stacie Rundlett - Town Manager, Lori Alyea, Kip Poulin, Ryan Mulherin, Ron Nunes, Dallas Landry, Tim Diehl, Mary and Philip Robinsons, Superintendent Mark Campbell, Josh Nunes, Brad Bucklin, David Royce, Jane Shattuck, James Reinhard, Brent Davenport, Brian Rundlett

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: Tannery Bridge - There was a brief discussion that this research is still in progress.
4. Items by the Public: a.) RSU #74 Superintendent Campbell presented a copy of the proposed budget. There was a brief discussion regarding changes that the school board made regarding reducing the overall budget. The school budget hearing is May 22. b.) David Cary and Brad Bucklin inquired with the board if they

would issue a letter of support to the Snowmobile Club, so they could try and do some grant writing to get funding to resolve the issue surrounding their trail and Tannery Bridge. The board stated that they would need to consult with the town's attorney before making that decision. c.) Jane Shattuck inquired if the Town was going to address the 200 feet of roadway near her house by bringing this section up to proper specs? The Board discussed that they thought the issue had already been discussed and determined the town was not going to maintain that portion of the road. Janet stated that the town would review information from a previous meeting and discuss the matter in more detail at the June meeting.

5. Department Heads: a.) Kip updated the board on issues with batteries, joint training with Kingfield, and upcoming SCBA testing. b.) Ron updated the board on grading that has been done throughout the town, and what is still left to be done. There were some discussions on trees on New Portland Hill Road in the right of way. Ron will look into this and present a plan of action to the board. There was a discussion regarding cones and debris from the storms and the sweeping of roads that still needs to be done before Memorial Day.
6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed payroll warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed the March Treasurer's Report.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) Janet discussed with the other board members the document from ME D.O.T. regarding heavy equipment coming through the town. Janet was going to read the document more thoroughly and then get the document to the other board members for them to review as well. b.) There was a lengthy discussion regarding the health and rat issues in the West Village. The board asked for Stacie to inquire with the attorney's office to see if the town can physically clean up the property that isn't responding to the town and then bill the property owner? c.) There was also a discussion regarding the New Portland Community Forum on FB. David would make time to assist with revamping the site so less negativity is allowed. d.) Janet and Roger White donated a tree to the town and planted it by the veteran's memorial by the Town Office. Janet asked to have the wooden posts saved when the new town sign is installed so that it can be used for a better flower bed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the May 20 meeting. smr

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is July 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.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2024

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Stacie Rundlett – Town Manager, Lori Alyea, Lynne and David Cary

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: Tannery Bridge - There was a brief discussion and the Board asked Stacie to contact the Bridge Engineer and see if he would meet with us to discuss what our options might be.
4. Items by the Public: a. Lynne Cary asked that the agendas be published prior to the meetings.
5. Department Heads: None
6. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed payroll and A/C warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed the April Treasurer's Report.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: Janet inquired if the library was going to trim around their building? Stacie would reach out to someone on the Library Committee to find out what the situation is. There was a brief discussion regarding the sign project. No decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the June 4 meeting. Smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for June 04, 2024

Roster / Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Stacie Rundlett - Town Manager, Lori Alyea, Kip Poulin, Brian Rundlett, David and Lynne Cary, Lynne Pieren, Jane Shatuck, James Reinhard

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Janet seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business: There was a very brief discussion on the Tannery Bridge issue; no decisions were made.
4. Items by the Public: a.) There was a discussion regarding the picnic tables at the Wire Bridge area. David Cary would volunteer his labor if town paid for the materials and try to use any of existing tables if possible. b.) Jane Shatuck inquired if any new information could be shared regarding the section of road she was requesting to be maintained by the town. There was a brief discussion, the Chairperson, stated at this time the Town would not be maintaining that section. Jane asked for the town's lawyer information, and she would have her lawyer contact the town's lawyer about this matter. c.) Lynne Pieren asked if a speed limit sign could be put back up on Gilman Pond Road. There was a brief discussion, and Janet would look into the matter. d.) James Reinhard discussed with the Board that he would be removing the lights on the Wire

Bridge as most of them were not working.

5. Department Heads: Kip Poulin updated the Board on maintenance. No decisions were made.
6. Items by the Town Manager: The Board reviewed and signed payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: The Board reviewed and signed the warrant and notice of election for RSU #74 budget validation referendum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the June 17 meeting. Smr

Selectmen's Notes:

Happy Fourth of July to everyone. Enjoy this summer and the many activities that can be found in this beautiful state and here in your town.

While you are out and about, go see the three new picnic tables that have been made for us all to enjoy. Two are at the Wire Bridge and one at the play ground by the fire station. A huge thank you to Dave Cary, Zach Cary and Wayne Rundlett for the wonderful job. It takes a community to make things look good. We are thinking of having a work day at the Wire Bridge in August. Trees need to be removed from the back of the baseball backstop. Some boards need to be replaced or re-nailed. Paths can always use some racking, general litter patrol. The date has not been set yet but watch for the date in the August newsletter.

In August we will also be holding a special Town Meeting to formally close the Tannery Bridge. By doing this process we hope it will help the snowmobile club in getting a new bridge there or repair to the present bridge for snowmobile and foot traffic. The bridge is closed now for all traffic including foot traffic.

The only selectmen's meeting in July will be on the 15th, due to holidays and vacations. See you there. And "thank you" for reading our article.

Submitted: Janet White, Ray Poulin, Dave Veilleux - Selectmen

Announcement

The Gilman Pond Association will be holding its annual meeting Saturday, July 6, 2024 at the New Portland Fire House, 911 River Road. This meeting will start at noon. Waterfront property owners will participate in the official meeting, but all area residents are invited to attend. Any public concerns and questions can be addressed after the official annual meeting. Thank you.

Submitted: Valerie Bossie, GPLA President

Superintendent of Schools

June 14, 2024

Dear Residents of New Portland,

First, thank you for the support of our 2024-2025 school budget. The money approved will allow us to continue to provide educational programs that are engaging and challenging in an effort to prepare students for future endeavors. As I shared earlier, this budget also begins to address buildings and grounds maintenance to ensure safety in and around the buildings as well as general upkeep of the buildings. Again, thank you for your continued support.

At the most recent meeting of the Board, the Directors took time to recognize four employees for their work in our district. The first was Nicole Shamaly, Administrative Assistant to Special Education and the Director of Operations. The Board acknowledged not only her excellent work under normal circumstances but extended their recognition for the extra work she did throughout the year when there were vacancies in Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance. As well, the Board recognized Scott Hall for his work as the District Technology Director. Specifically, the Board recognized Scott for his extra efforts to keep the district website and users safe from hackers. Directors acknowledged Scott's efforts to keep his budget from year to year on an even keel to help alleviate budget spikes. The third person recognized was Wendell Dunlap, who as a community member has not only been a substitute bus driver for the district, but when the runs needed to be reduced by one for a brief period this spring, Wendell took the initiative to figure out how it could be done while minimizing the extended time students would be on the bus. Then when it came to spring cleanup around our buildings, Wendell came in to help the Director of Operations get that done. The fourth person recognized was Brian Twitchell for his work as the District Math Coach. Directors acknowledged the work he has done with teachers to support their math instruction as well as the various other hats he has worn in the district over the past decade including Steering Committee for Staff Evaluation, Tier III Team for Carrabec Community School, Professional Development Committee, STEAM Committee, Teacher Certification Chair as well as his prior work with the curriculum for the district.

As schools close down this week for the summer, students in the lower grades have the opportunity to participate in Camp Carrabec. This program begins in July and runs through the first three weeks of July. The intent of the program is to provide a balanced morning of academic work with physical activities. Students will be provided with breakfast and lunch for these days. Contact your school's administrator if you have any questions or would like to have your child included. Transportation to and from Carrabec Community School is provided.

The Board will not meet again until the first Wednesday in August. Your administrative team will be analyzing data from student assessments, attendance, and behaviors in July and August. I will provide you with some of that information after I have had a chance to inform the Board. Thank you again for your continued support of your schools. Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent

RSU 74 / School Board

The June board meeting was held at Carrabec High School. The food consisted of cookies. I am always a fan. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Softball Update: Troy Dunphy announced that the CHS softball beat Valley in a playoff game just minutes before the board meeting. The CHS softball team also won a sportsmanship award.

Adjustments to the agenda: Some appointments, a nomination, and a resignation were added to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the May board meeting and the May special (budget) board meeting were approved.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Superintendent Report: Board members were given their committee assignments for next year. Mr. Campbell announced that there will be a special board meeting on June 12. The purpose will be to accept the results of the June 11 budget vote. If there are any hires made before then, the board will vote on approving those candidates. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm. Carrabec musicians will perform. Staff members and community members will be honored.

Appointments: Maurice Langlois - NHS Advisor; Stacey Robinson - NHS Advisor; Katie Hall - Senior Class Dean; John Berube - Junior Class Dean; Stacey Robinson - Sophomore Class Dean; Terri Hoops - ELL Provider; Tanya Carey - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Jessie Cates - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Jennifer Hebert - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Mary Keenan - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Jennifer LaChance - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Cindy Ladd - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Desireah Ladd - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Tanya McFadyen - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Hannah McGlashing - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Brenda Mullin - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Valerie Pinkham - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Aimie Pomerleau - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Kalgari Reed - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Paige Giroux - PreK-5 Summer School Instructor; Candy LeBeau - Yearbook Advisor, Transportation, CCS; Richard Reichenbach - STEAM Lead Teacher, CCS; Kalgari Reed - STEAM Lead Teacher, Solon; Patricia Theberge - New Teacher Mentor, CCS; Mike Stone - Math Team Coach; Jenah Leeman - Sub Calls, CCS; Bonnie White - Sub Calls, GSS; Tanya McFadyen - Sub Calls, Solon; Ann Holzworth - Sub Calls, CHS; Melody Rich - New Teacher Mentor, Solon; Melody Rich - Lead Teacher, Solon; Mary Keenan - Ed Tech Certification Chair; Stacey Robinson - Chief and New Teacher Mentor, CHS; Jennifer Hebert - New Teacher Mentor, GSS; Jasmyn Wagg - STEAM Lead and Lead teacher, GSS; Kimberly Swihart - Certification Chair; Stacey Brown - Summer Cook Manager; Nikki Shamaly - Transportation stipend; Kelsey Creamer - Girls Soccer Coach, CHS; Chad White - Cross

Country Coach, CHS; Hunter Durland - Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer Coach, CCS; Bruce Dostie - Athletic Director.

Resignations: Michelle Stevens – Grade 4 Teacher, Solon; Beth Higgins – Social Worker, CHS/GSS; Cindy Currie – Grade 2 Teacher, Solon; Kalgari Reed - Grade 5 Teacher, Solon. Mr. Campbell spoke highly of the departing employees

Nominations: Shawn Gross – Maintenance; Josh Nichols – Maintenance; Shannon Richards – 5th Grade Teacher, CCS; Sarah Lent - Math, CHS.

Admin Reports: Few of the administrators added to their written reports. 1.) AD Erik Carey said that the CHS softball team was (tentatively) scheduled to play at noon on Saturday. The baseball team made the playoffs, and so did the boys' tennis team. Several CHS track athletes had very successful seasons. There was recently a jr. high track meet at Madison, and several CCS students attended and performed well. Troy Dunphy thanked Mr. Carey for his three years as AD. 2.) Peter Campbell stated he is very proud of the accomplishments of the CHS students. There was a successful Arts Night at CHS on June 4. More than 100 people attended.

Committees: The Academic Committee and the Policy Committee both met on May 15.

Public Participation: I spoke. I thanked Mr. Dostie for the job he has done at CCS this year, particularly for his efforts during the last two weeks.

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the Madison Health Center as the School Physician for the 2024-25 School year. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will allow the superintendent to hire teachers/Ed-Techs in the months of June, July, and August. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the 8th grade overnight trip to Maine Huts & Trails in Flagstaff in September. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the Financial Literacy Course at CHS. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will award the school bus bid to W.C. Cressey & Sons for a 2025 Thomas bus. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will award the Solon parking lot project to Pro Seal of Waterville. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will award the K-5 CCS flooring project to Floor Master North of Skowhegan. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will award the bid to replace exterior lights at CHS to High Voltage of Skowhegan. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will award the mowing bid to Erik Carey. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy FF - Naming of an Area Within a

School or on School Property. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy JFCK – Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices. Approved

To see if the RSU #74 Board of Directors will approve the first reading of policy JL – District Wellness. This agenda item was approved, but it provoked much discussion and debate. In particular there was some confusion as to whether the policy aimed to completely prevent students/staff from eating unhealthy snacks - such as cupcakes - in school, or whether the intent was to make the consumption of such foods extremely rare. I did not leave the meeting with a real sense of what the answer might be. In the meantime, I will strive to eat as many cupcakes and other unhealthy food items as I can before the policy takes effect.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 6:46 pm.

The special board meeting was held at Carrabec high School on June 12 at 6:00 pm.

The food options included lots of fruit, some lemon squares, and chocolate brownies. I focused on the chocolate brownies. I was not disappointed, as they were tremendous.

At 5:30, CHS music students performed for the audience, and they were very good.

At 6:00 pm, the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards: The board presented awards to the staff member, administrator, community member, and teacher of the year. Staff Member - Nikki Shamaly, Administrator - Scott Hall, Community Member - Wendell Dunlap, Teacher - Brian Twitchell.

The Budget: The school board approved the computations and declaration of votes, and they signed the town assessments.

Appointments: Samantha Taylor - Drama/One Act Play Coach, CHS; Tammy Long - One Act Play Assistant Coach, CHS; Marc Collard - Math Team Coach, CHS; Jen LaChance - New Teacher Mentor, Solon; Nikki Shamaly - 504 Paperwork

Nominations: All were approved. Keane Carlin - Pre-K teacher, Solon; Aaron Welch - 5th Grade, Solon; Jillian Holden - 2nd Grade, Solon; Jessica Sales - 6th Grade, CCS; Autumn Holzworth - Tier 3 Ed Tech 3, CCS

Chris Roux: Approved as Director of Operations for 2024-2024;

Terri Hoops: Approved for continuing contract status.

The End: The meeting ended sometime between 6:20 and 6:25 pm. (I did not write down the exact time.)

Submitted: Dave Ela, Carrabec Teachers Association

Kingfield Seniors Group

We're having a heat wave! No better place to be than inside with air conditioning! Our senior meeting will be on Monday, July 1. Our theme for our potluck will be observing Independence Day.

Also, in case you didn't know, we also meet every Monday and Thursday mornings at 9:00 am for "Strong Bones". This is a 45 minute class which focuses on strengthening our bones. And, of course, fun!

Both of these activities are free. Come and make new friends or just renew old friendships. Should you have any questions or want more information, please feel free to contact me. Nanci Mahlmann 207-628-4461.

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

New Portland Community Library

Hi all, the board of directors would like to introduce you to our new library director, Mindy Newman. Mindy has been volunteering at the library often during the last few months. She has worked closely with Sheila and has been a great addition to our other dedicated volunteers Beth, Matt, and Rosemary. We also would like to thank Michelle Abbott for not only providing Reiki treatments at the library but also jumping in to take a library shift to avoid having to close the library. Mindy has provided more information below concerning events, we encourage you to stop in to meet her and discuss your thoughts on books and programs. As you will see in Mindy's update, the inter-library loan program is in a "hold" pattern; we have been working closely with the Maine State Library in hopes of limiting the disruption to you as much as possible. Have a great July! Becky, Wenda, Valencia, and Leisa

Happy July, New Portland. We hope you are enjoying your summer, and we wanted to remind everyone as the temperature continues to rise, we are here for you. Many visitors use Wi-Fi from their car, and we want each of you to know you are welcome to come inside! Along with free Wi-Fi, we offer air conditioning, cozy seating, a quiet place to sit and relax, and of course...**BOOKS!** Lots and lots of books to check out or to purchase. We have rooms available, at no cost if you need a more personal setting.

Last month we held our annual Plant/Bake/Book Sale. Let our "Thank you" echo through the hills and mountains! Thank you to everyone who supported the library through baking, donating plants, giving their time or purchasing books, DVDs or baked goods. Seeing so many smiling faces in our library was exciting. "It takes a village" and New Portland, you helped make this event a phenomenal day of FUNdraising.

Just in case you didn't know, dedicated volunteers are vital in keeping the doors of the NPCL open. Please consider us when you think of ways to serve your community. We are all pieces of a bigger puzzle. We all have a place and a way we can serve. Stop by and see where your puzzle piece fits in at NPCL.

A quick reminder; we are currently selling engraved paving

stones and benches to enhance the outside walkway. We desire to put the paving stones along the walkways and the benches in the porch area; however, you may take your purchase home to enjoy. Stop by the library for prices and details.

As we look to enhance the outside of the library, we work diligently inside as well. The children's section is being revamped. We need ideas from kids and parents. A group of New Portland homeschoolers have displayed their visual book reports and are asking for donations. Any donations made on their behalf will buy new books to be placed in the children's section. Please stop by regularly to see the books available as we weed out books to make room for new additions.

Mark your calendars: July 4 the NPCL will be closed for Independence Day. July 10 and 24 Armchair Meditation classes will be held from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm. July 13 is our monthly Board meeting. Feel free to join us. July 13 and 20 Reiki mini sessions are being offered. Michelle Abbott will be in the library from 9:00 am - 11:30 am. She offers free 15 minute sessions, and any donations given, Michelle generously gifts to the library. July 18 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm is our monthly computer class. This is a two-part class that covers Internet Safety. Staying safe online is essential in today's world. This **FREE** class teaches you how to secure your personal information, computer, and devices. The only two requirements for the class are you and your time. Part two will be held on August 15. Visit <https://digitalequitycenter.org/classes/region/somerset-county/> to sign up or call and speak with Mindy at the library.

Lastly, we have an update concerning interlibrary lending. Maine State Library has recently changed delivery couriers, so as books are being returned to their respective libraries, we will hold off on placing new requests. However, there is good news! This fall we will resume our Lending Library in partnership with Mantor Library at the University of Maine at Farmington. We owe our gratitude to UMF for their willingness to participate and help keep this critical service alive for our rural community library.

Submitted by: Mindy Newman, Library Director

New Portland Churches

It is definitely summer! It came in fast and furious! As always, we at Western Mountains Baptist Church are very busy. We are seeing a lot of new faces. Especially the children (which is a pleasure). So much fun for them to be together with other kids. We have children's programs which run while the parents are in regular church services. Great for them to learn God's word while having fun.

Check out our website: www.westernmountainchurch.org and check out our calendar. So much to do! You can also contact us at 207 265 2557. Looking forward to meeting you!!

Submitted: Nanci Mahlmann

Church News

New Portland Church news for July: July is always a busy one for the community church. Aside from the usual Sunday services the church hosts a Mission At The Eastward (MATE) housing ministry work group. Flemington Presbyterian Church has been sending a work group here for decades! We so appreciate the work they do and the time they give to our community.

But first, last year the church was awarded an outreach grant from the regional Presbyterian administration. After the sale of Camp at the Eastward, each church from the former MATE community of churches was granted \$1000 each year for three years to use as they saw fit for outreach in their communities. After much deliberation we came to a decision and started on our project. We chose to give a portion of our grant to a local high school for the students to use in a way they thought would benefit their community. The group of students in the life skills program at Carrabec High School chose to use their grant to purchase supplies for the Skowhegan and Franklin County Animal Shelters. They sent a lovely note and pictures showing us what the grant accomplished. We are so thankful there are such caring students in our communities. We hope to do something similar with the next \$1000 grant we receive.

Flemington Presbyterian church will be sending a workgroup, as usual, on the third week of July. They will be here at the church from July 20 to July 27. Be sure to stop by and say hello to these young people. They are taking time from their summer to do something good in the world. We hope they take from it good life lessons.

While you are visiting the church, you might want to take a look at the beautiful, young maple tree that was planted by Flemington last summer in honor of a young man who was impacted very positively by his work experience in New Portland. The tree survived the winter very well and is flourishing on the west side of the church. A fine replacement for the old, old trees that had to be taken down a few years ago.

At the beginning of August the church will be hosting Grace Community Church from the Boston area. We hope to share more detail on their visit in next month's *New Portlander* article.

As of the beginning of June, we moved worship into the nave of the big church. The space can seem somewhat cavernous with the tiny congregation, but the joyful sounds of Sunday morning worship fill the space and remind us it's a big, beautiful church in a big, beautiful world.

If you are receiving this newsletter before the end of June, you should note that there is a SuperSunday (5th Sunday of the month) on June 30. We will meet with Fairbanks Union Church for a joint service in the New Portland Community Church. This is a lovely participatory service that is a little different than the usual Sunday worship. Also note this service will be held at 10:00 am, not 11:00 am, with coffee hour following the service instead of preceding it.

If you are joining us for worship our ministers for the month of April are June 30, 10:00 am SuperSunday, joint worship service with Fairbanks Union church IN New Portland; July 7 - Rev. Stan Wheeler, Communion Sunday; July 14 - Pastor MaryEllen Royce; July 21 - Debby Bliss Bujnocki; July 28 - TBA.

Please join us for coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry





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
NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR						
JULY 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	29	30 NPCL 8:00 am - noon	31 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm			
21 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	22	23 NPCL 8:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	24 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	25 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	26	27
14 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	15 Selectmen's Meeting 6:30 pm	16 NPCL 8:00 am - noon	17 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	18 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	19	20 Deadline for New Portlander 4:00 pm
7 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	8	9 NPCL 8:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	10 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm Water District Community Room 6:30 pm	11 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	12	13 NPCL 8:00 am - noon NPCL Trustees 9:00 am
1 Senior Meeting WMBC Noon	2 NPCL 8:00 am - noon No Selectmen's Meeting	3 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm No School Board Meeting Planning Board 6:30 pm	4 Independence Day New Portland Town Office closed NPCL closed	5	6 Gillman Pond Association Community Room noon	

DOUG KEHR PHOTO

