



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road

New Portland, Maine 04961

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 <i>NEW PORTLANDLER CALENDAR</i> SEPTEMBER 2026 DOUG KERR PHOTO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm SELECTMAN'S MEETING 6:30pm	2 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm SCHOOL BOARD 6:00 CCS PLANNING BOARD 6:30pm	3 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm	4 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm	5 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm
6 WMBC SERVICE 10am NPCC SERVICE 10:30am	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm FIRE DEPT MEETING 6:30pm	9 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm NEW PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT 6:30pm	10 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm NPCL TRUSTEES MEETING 6:00 PM	11 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm	12 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00
13 WMBC SERVICE 10am NPCC SERVICE 10:30am	14 KINGFIELD SENIORS GROUP - WMBC 12:00pm	15 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm SELECTMAN'S MEETING 6:30pm	16 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm	17 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm	18 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm	19 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm
20 WMBC SERVICE 10am NPCC SERVICE 10:30am	21	22 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm FIRE DEPT MEETING 6:30pm	23 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm	24 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm	25 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm	26 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm
27 WMBC SERVICE 10am NPCC SERVICE 10:30am	28	29 NPCL OPEN 9:00-12:00pm	30 NPCL OPEN 3:00-6:00pm			



NEW PORTLANDER

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY THOMAS JEFFERSON

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DOUG KERR PHOTO

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

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TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm

Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm

Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett

Email: newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email: townofnewportland@gmail.com

Code Enforcement Officer: Jeff Drew - 207-453-4258 ext 0

Town Clerk: Jacob Pinkham | Deputy Town Clerk: Lori Alyea

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

Animal Control Officer: Stacie Rundlett - 207-491-8007

Remember. . .

- **Selectman's Meeting**
1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month 6:30 pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Thursday of each Month 6:00 pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the Month 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Water District Meeting**
2nd Wednesday of each Month 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Community Library Hours:**
Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- **Kingfield - New Portland Transfer Station**
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**
Monday - Friday 7 am - 9 am & 2 pm - 4 pm
Saturday 7: 00 am - 10:30 am

Selectman

September is already upon us. Time to get ready for colder weather. Enjoy the upcoming foliage season and hope you can attend the New Portland Fair.

The community luncheon we held in August was some good food and fun conversations. We were honored to show our firefighters that they mean a lot to us all. Please try to attend future community meals.

The fall brings a lot of road work to the area. Grading can not be done when weather is dry and hot. So as fall brings cooler and wetter weather, Ray can do much more grading and gravel installation. Please always give the road crews a wide berth.

The addition to the Town Office will be starting soon. This is much needed storage space. We can not wait till the old files and reports are easier to put our hands on. Research should be much quicker to do, when needed.

The large sand /salt shed was repaired with plywood going up inside so the salt will not rot the metal siding. We are getting ready for snow. "Oh, no!!!" Must be done in advance.

Please attend a selectman's meeting with your concerns; we would be happy to speak with you. Take care of yourselves and the people around you.

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

TOWN OFFICE NOTICE

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THE OFFICE WILL BE

CLOSED

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

in observance of
LABOR DAY

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Selectmen

Meeting Minutes for July 7, 2026

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Peter Ford

1. David 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, Janet seconded and all were in favor.
3. Department Heads: Raymond discussed work to be done on Safford Road. He shared his schedule of grading and that Jordans is assisting with repairs to Colegrove Road since their trucks run that road on a regular basis to access their gravel pit. He also shared with the Board that he had taken care of the rock issues on Bennett Hill Road, and he will be hiring Dana Wills to do some ditch work.
4. Items by the Town Manager: a.) B The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed Treasurer’s Report. c.) There was a brief discussion on Library Storybook Trail down by the Wire Bridge and the fact that there is a lot of poison ivy. They will be allowed to put up a temporary story book trail on town grounds. d.) There was a brief discussion on the Celebration on August 8and details about food and recognizing the fire department members. e.) Stacie shared with the Board discussions on the remaining T.I.F. funds and the information the new auditor shared with her regarding T.I.F. funds and how Stacie confirmed with the town’s attorney that the remaining funds could be moved to the General Fund. The Board members agreed that the funds need to be moved. And the T.I.F. account will be closed at that point. f.) There was a lengthy discussion on an invoice from Solon for Cobra Recreation. After reviewing all of the information and discussions, the Board asked Stacie to send a certified letter respectfully declining to participate since the recreation board never included the town in this joint venture with Solon, Embden and Anson and it was not properly budgeted for.
5. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) There was some discussion regarding a proposal from Whitten Woods to make some entrance and parking changes on the property. The Board asked Stacie to see if a representative could attend the next meeting to answer questions for clarification. Stacie would reach out to them and invite someone to attend. b.) There was a brief discussion regarding assessing questions; the Board asked Stacie to see if Audra would also attend the next meeting to answer any questions regarding our upcoming commitment of taxes. Stacie would let the Board know once she confirmed with Audra. c.) The Board reviewed information from Peter Ford regarding drywall and painting for the new addition when that project starts at the town office. There were no bids submitted for this project, and Peter has stepped forward to assist with it. Janet motioned to accept the bid from Ford’s Painting and Drywall, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
6. Items by the Public: Stacie shared with the Board an email from a taxpayer and a snowplow turn around on his property. Raymond would follow up with the taxpayer and update the rest of the Board on the status of fixing this turn around.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the July 21 meeting.

Submitted: smr

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is October 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 • 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com
If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquires should be directed to the Town Manager.

New Portland Community Library

Happy soon-to-be fall, New Portland!

Summer is winding down, and we know what that means. Our calendar raffle is back!! Swing by ourbooth at the New Portland Fair and be the first to pick up your tickets! \$10 per ticket or six (6) for \$50!! PLUS, with every ticket purchased, we will enter your name in a raffle to win a basket of items from local small businesses.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month! During September, all who sign up for a card or use their NPCL card at checkout are entered to win a SWEET prize.

“Reading can take you places you’ve never been before.” -Dr. Seuss
Our little library in the woods is full of adventure!

We need your help!! The NPCL is looking for eager individuals with great ideas. We are in the beginning stages of forming a fundraising committee and would love to meet with you!
If this is you, please call the library to sign up for an informative get-together on
September: 26 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Refreshments provided, so bring a friend and get involved!!

Help us build a NEW New Portland tradition. Consider volunteering at the NPCL Hunters’ Breakfast!
We have plenty to do, and many hands make light work. Interested? Reach out to the library!

We are also looking for excited and motivated volunteers who wish to lead a monthly or bimonthly craft/art program for adults at the library. Swing by to grab a volunteer and programming application.

FREE: Know someone who could use a hand up? We offer puzzles, games, home -school supplies, food, hygiene items, and household items. Grab what they may need and drop it by anonymously.

Looking Ahead:

- Friday, September 11 & 25, 10:00 – 11:00 am** - Home school Hangout - Join us for engaging STEM/STEAM activities on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.
- Sunday, September 13, 3:00 pm** - Book Club - Discuss Fairy Tale by Stephen King and decide on titles for the upcoming months. Adult Summer Reading Challenge wrap-up at 4:00 pm.
- Saturday & Sunday, September 19 – 20** - New Portland Lion’s Club Fair. Come out, enjoy the fair, and be the first to get Calendar Raffle tickets!
- Saturday, September 26, 9:00 - 11:30 am** - Reiki with Michelle Abbott at the library. Free 15-minute chair Reiki sessions. All donations benefit the library.
- Friday, October 2, 10:00 – 11:00 am** - Sign Language Club - 1st and 3rd Fridays.
- Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am** - Lego Club - Free build.
- Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am – 2 pm** - Craft Fair - It’s never too early to reserve your spot and start advertising your crafts!
Friday & Saturday, October 23 - 24, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - Frankenstuffy in the NP Community Room - Let your inner mad scientist run wild!
- Friday, October 30, 10:00 am - 11 am** - Home-school Lego Club - Come in and build with friends.
- Saturday, November 14, 5:00 – 10 am** - Hunters’ Breakfast Fundraiser in the NP Community Room - You don’t need to be a hunter to come out and enjoy breakfast. Gatherers are welcome too!

Take a peek at our NEW WEBSITE! www.new-portland.lib.me.us
You will find our events/programs, library updates, and more there!
Online Catalog: <https://opac.libraryworld.com/Enter> Library Name: NPCL (No password required) Audio/eBooks are available by downloading the Cloud Library app.
Visit the library and fall into one of our new books!

Submitted: Mindy Newman, Library Director

New Portland Churches

New Portland Church News for September: And back to school we go. Not “we” literally, but our community is focused on getting our kids back to school for a successful academic year. We wish the recipient of the church-sponsored continuing education scholarship all the best as he starts on this new adventure.

The Ice Cream Social that was held at the church at the beginning of August was very well attended. Thank you for all who visited from Hancock Pond especially the ones who took ‘the long way ‘round’. We’re glad you made it. It was a great day and we made some great new friends.

Grace Church from Boston sent quite a large work group this year, and we were happy to have them working in our community. They are a very hardworking group that takes its mission very seriously and has a lot of fun doing it! We look forward to seeing them next year!

This September the New Portland Community Church will have a booth at the New Portland Fair. You can find more details in a separate announcement in this issue of the New Portlander. The church hasn’t had a presence at the fair in many years, and we hope you will stop by and visit. And have a cookie on us!

Leaving this in from last month: Although we have no official minister at the New Portland Church, we do have a rotation of excellent ministers who are on-call throughout the month to do hospital visits and cover any spiritual emergencies that might arise in our community. If you are in need of help please call Nan at 628-6061. As Clerk of Session for the church she can connect you with the minister who is on call that week.

As always, we would love to see you at coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted in the schedule. If you have any questions about whether a worship service or any other scheduled event will be canceled please call Nan at 628-6061.

The list of ministers for the month of September:
September 7 - Pastor MaryEllen Royce
September 13 - Phyllis Blackstone
September 20 - Pastor Debby Bujnocki
September 27 - Communion Sunday, Rev. Stan Wheeler

Respectfully...
Submitted: Nan Berry

Kingfield Seniors Group

Summer is coming to an end. Life seems to go by so quickly! We have our next senior potluck/ meeting scheduled for Monday, September 14 at noon. The date has been changed due to Labor Day being the first Monday of the month.

At our last meeting, Lois and Gary Hall entertained us with their musical expertise! For our next meeting, we have the pleasure of Charlie Bruce playing for us. I am also excited to have scheduled Elizabeth Caruso for our October 5 meeting. Elizabeth is the Broadband Director for Somerset Economic Development and will be addressing a number of programs that are available to our seniors. Definitely a do not miss function!

Hope to see you at Western Mountains Baptist Church located on Route 27 N New Portland/Kingfield border at noon for our potluck/meetings. Remember that you need not be a resident of Kingfield. All our seniors are invited!
Nanci Lehto Mahlmann 207 628-4461

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

School Board

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: One nomination was removed from the agenda, and two nominations were added.

Minutes: The minutes of the regular June board meeting were approved. The minutes of the special board meetings of June and July were approved.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Campbell discussed how the funding for BHPs will be handled. (It is possible that I did not entirely comprehend the details.) I believe they will be paid through regular budget funds and then later on the district will be reimbursed by Child Development Services (CDS). The superintendent asked board members if they would be agreeable to having RSU 74 buses travel into Madison and Kingfield. Some students who live in RSU 74 territory attend daycare in those towns. As a result, these students have superintendent agreements to attend school in Madison and Kingfield. By extending the bus routes a bit, Mr. Campbell hopes these children may become RSU 74 students. The board supported this idea.

Appointments: Jen Hebert - new teacher mentor, GS; Jen Lachance - new teacher mentor, Solon; Matt Scheve - boys’ soccer, CCS; Matt Scheve - baseball, CCS; Liliana Caldwell - volunteer girls’ soccer, CHS; Zack Davis - volunteer boys’ soccer, CHS

Resignations: Raymond Cloutier - maintenance, district; Keane Carlin - preK teacher, Solon

Nominations: Jackman Daigle - K-8 PE/Health; Sunnyrose Juzukonis - Special Ed Teacher, CCS/CHS; Caleb Landry - English, CHS; Feleicia Gentilini - Special Ed Ed Tech 2, Pre-K; Malachi Stevens - Special Ed Ed Tech 2, GS; Trista Giroux - ed tech/BHP; Courtney Peabody - PE/Health, CHS; Jennie Mirlocca --PreK, Solon

Admin Reports: Mr. Case said that most of the day on August 5 had been spent looking at student data, examining strengths and areas for improvement. Professional development ideas for the year are being investigated. Over the summer, many CCS staff members have participated in an elective book study focused on CHAMPS. He spoke about the changes to the CCS Student Handbook. The major change will involve cell phones in light of the new law. K-5 students who have cell phones will leave them in the office. 6-8 students will store their phones in their homeroom. Students will not be allowed to use Bluetooth headphones, only wire headphones. Board members discussed how students will deal with the new law/ policy. There was also board member discussion about staff member usage of cell phones, and concern that staff members will fail to adhere to the policy. Bruce Dostie said CHS looks great this summer. He has been working with NWEA data and is in hopes teachers and students will have meaningful educational conversations. He also addressed changes to the CHS Student Handbook. Like Mr. Case, he feels that the new cell phone policy will be a big adjustment. As of now, the plan is that student phones will go in the lockers and not be seen again. He also told the board that he is considering making a change to attendance policy. If a student misses ten or more days of a class, they would be at risk of failing to receive credit. At the very least, the student would have to meet with him to discuss the high number of absences. A board member commented on the high absentee rate of staff and suggested something similar be set up so that staff members with too many absences could face some sort of consequence. Commenting on the various handbooks, a board member declared they were much more readable this year. Scott Hall said laptop rollout is going well. Some of the replacement laptops that were ordered will be arriving later than expected. Amy McDaniel has been looking a data. She has been working with Mr. Case to make sure that k-5 is cohesively aligned in each of the schools. Tammy Wyman updated the board on Medicare billing. Rachel Merrill did not add to her report. *(continued page 4)*

School Board (continued)

Committees: No committees have met recently, so there was no report.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Board Chair, 2026-27: Troy Dunphy was re-elected.

Vice-Chair, 2026-27: Kevin Sousa was re-elected.

Board Delegate and Alternate to Maine School Boards Association: Erik Ewing and Laura Layman were elected as delegate and alternate.

CCS Disaster/Emergency Shelter Plan with Anson: The board approved the plan.

Second Reading of Policy GBCC - Employee Use of Cell Phones: The board voted to approve.

Maintenance: The board voted to approve an additional three-hour maintenance position.

Ed Tech/BHP: The board voted to approve an additional ed tech position to serve as a BHP in special education. The board then voted to hire an individual to fill this position. (I noted that previously in the list of nominations.)

Transportation Supervisor: The board voted to hire Wendell Dunlap.

Executive Session, Negotiations: At 7:43 pm the board voted to go into executive session. No discussion or action was anticipated when the meeting resumed. I went home, so I was not around for the final agenda item which was ...Adjournment

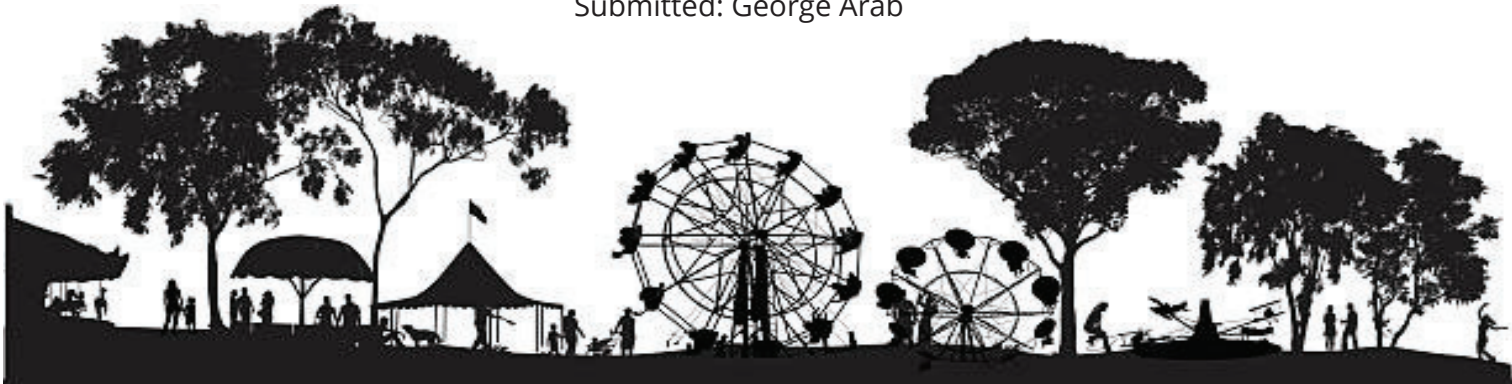
Submitted: David Ela, President of Carrabec Educational Association

Fun at the Fair!

The New Portland Community Church folks are manning a booth at New Portland Lions Club Fair. Please join us for a magic show on September 18. There will be great homemade snacks to enjoy, and a free raffle to win some great prizes.

Please stop by to say "Hello!"

Submitted: George Arab



Superintendent of Schools

August 18, 2026

Dear Residents of New Portland,

We are now less than ten days to the opening of school doors to welcome our students in for the 2026-2027 school year. The maintenance crew is working diligently to put finishing touches on the buildings and have done an amazing job working around major projects happening in the district. The buildings will be ready!

Our maintenance crew has replaced all the old ceiling tiles in Solon Elementary and Anson Garret Schenck School. Anson teachers have been huge with assisting in the reshuffling of classrooms. This year K- 5 will all be on the same floor. Special Education rooms have all moved to the lower floor. Thank you to the staff for stepping in to assist with this move. Many rooms and hallways have been repainted in all buildings. In early July, the lighting project began where all halogen light fixtures are being replaced with LED light fixtures. The project is expected to produce significant reductions in our electricity consumption resulting in savings to fund the projects. Carrabec High School is done and the Carrabec Community School portion is nearing completion. Solon will be done next with the work being done in the evening when school is empty of students and staff.

By August 1, 2026 all school systems statewide were expected to have policies in place that require students to be cellular device free during school hours. Legislation out of Augusta mandated this. All principals have or will be communicating home with parents and students that the district policy does not permit the students to have their cellular devices with them during the school day. If a student brings a device in the building that has the means to access cellular data, we will be providing lock boxes for these devices. For the K-5 students, the boxes will be in the main offices, for 6-12, these boxes will be in the student's homerooms. Students in RSU 74 have not previously been permitted to use their devices from the beginning of the school day until dismissal. The new rules do not allow them to be in possession of the devices during the school day.

At the most recent Board meeting, the Board split the Director of Operations job into two stipend positions. RSU 74 has a Director of Transportation, Wendell Dunlap and a Director of Maintenance, Chris Roux. Mr. Dunlap has been working for the District as a substitute bus driver but has been very instrumental in assisting with the administrative end of the job as needed for the past three years. Mr. Roux will continue to oversee the buildings and grounds for the district.

Respectfully...

Submitted: Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools