

THE BRIDGE

TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK



Summer 2025

Cemetery Work Continues, Volunteers Unearth Artifacts

In early June, the Cemetery Committee, a dedicated team of volunteers, and Joe Ferrannini from Grave Stone Matters spent a week at Riverview Cemetery (Upper Main Street) conducting gravestone cleaning, rehabilitation, and resetting. This restoration project is funded through proceeds from the Cemetery Trust, augmented by the Cemetery Reserve.

During the course of resetting a particularly leaning stone, two unexpected finds came to light: a biface (tool-shaped stone) and a blue transferware shard. Little is known about the transferware; however, it is in a popular blue style and was likely produced between 1790 and 1840.

The biface was shared with Norridgewock native Anne Wilder, who is an archaeologist with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to learn more about it. Wilder shared the artifact with her colleagues and offered the following insight:

Dr. Arthur "Art" Spiess, Chief Historic Preservationist at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, confirmed that the artifact is indeed a biface (a pre-form for a yet-to-be decided tool). Not many folks want to carry extra weight around, so it was common practice to knap or flake a cobble down to a manageable size to have on hand when the need arose. Art also agreed that the material is probably not Kineo rhyolite, but more likely derived from the Kineo/Traveler Mountain rhyolite complex. While the exact age cannot be pinpointed, it may date anywhere from 500 to 10,000 years, spanning the Archaic to Ceramic periods.



While there is still much mystery surrounding these two finds, it is fascinating to learn more about these unique finds in our local, historic cemetery. Spiess and Wilder's insights not only enrich our understanding of the site's deep past but also underscore the importance of careful stewardship when working in historic cemeteries. ♦

Town Events & Important Dates

July 22, 5-7PM. **Oosoola Park Music Series.** Oosoola Park. Performance by Matt Gagnon.

July 29, 5-7PM. **Oosoola Park Music Series.** Oosoola Park. Performance by Crooked Bill.

August 5, 5-7PM. **Oosoola Park Music Series.** Oosoola Park. Performance by Between the Lines.

August 6, 6PM, **Select Board Meeting.** Town Office.

August 8 12-2PM, **Winslow Community Cupboard Food Trailer.** Norridgewock Public Library.

August 12, 5-7PM. **Oosoola Park Music Series.** Oosoola Park. Performance by Stonewall Chrome.

August 19, 5-7PM. **Oosoola Park Music Series.** Oosoola Park. Performance by The Song Pirates.

August 20, 6PM, **Select Board Meeting.** Town Office.

August 26, 5-7PM. **Oosoola Park Music Series.** Oosoola Park. Performance by The Fossils.

August 30, 11AM – 2PM. **Ribbon Cutting for New Playground Equipment.** Oosoola Park. Free activities, live music, and food truck.

August 31, 7:30AM – 2PM. **Oosoola Days.** Central Maine Regional Airport. Tons of family fun! For more info, see the full page inside!

September 1, 9AM – 2PM. **Oosoola Days.** Oosoola Park. Parade starts at 9 AM, activities in the park begin at 10:00.

September 1. **Labor Day.** All non-emergency Town departments closed.

September 16. **2025 Property Taxes Due.**

October 11, 11AM – 2PM. **Norridgewock Fall Festival.** Oosoola Park. Sponsored by Skowhegan Savings Bank. Live music, bounce house, pumpkin painting, food truck, ice cream truck, and more.

October 13. **Indigenous Peoples' Day.** All non-emergency Town departments closed.

October 15. **2026 Dog Licenses Become Available.**

Volunteers Support Blooming Beauties at Alice E. Emery Town Square

Have you visited the Emery Town Square on Main Street in Downtown Norridgewock recently? If not, it's the perfect time to stop by and enjoy the vibrant flowers blooming around the beautiful mural!

These native perennials were planted by Ann Dorney and horticulture students from Skowhegan Area High School. The horticulture program began three years ago, through a collaboration between Somerset Woods Trustees and the high school, with the goal of teaching students valuable horticultural skills while growing native plants, primarily for the Parsons Family Preserve in Skowhegan.



The importance of supporting native pollinators by planting native species and removing invasive species is gaining recognition. This year, the students expanded their work to include a central planting bed in the park. You may also notice the chemical treatment of invasive knotweed along the back of the park near the multi-use trail. The goal is to eventually reclaim that area for native plantings as well.

Next time you visit the mural, take a moment to look for native bees and other pollinators enjoying the flowers. It's a beautiful example of community collaboration, education, and ecological stewardship in action! ◆ AED

Dr. Dorney, a retired family physician, is a Norridgewock resident and board member of Somerset Woods Trustees for over a decade. She has dedicated countless hours to “rewilding” properties and providing education on growing native perennials.

Town Office Welcomes New Office Clerk

The Town of Norridgewock is pleased to welcome Christine Parent as a new full-time office clerk at the Town Office. Christine brings valuable municipal experience, having most recently worked for the Town of Mercer. A resident of Solon, she has deep roots in Somerset County and understands the unique challenges faced by small Maine communities.

She is well-versed in essential office functions, including tax collection, vital records, and general clerk responsibilities. As she becomes more familiar with the specific workings of Norridgewock, we ask for your patience and support. Be sure to stop by the Town Office and extend Christine a warm Norridgewock welcome! ◆

Kayak & Paddleboard Rentals Oosoola Park

\$25



for the first 2 hours

When you register your motor vehicle, you will likely be issued new license plates.



Remember to update your EZPass account online to reflect your new plate number.
ezpassmaineturnpike.com/EZPass/

DON'T FORGET...

YOU NEED A BURN PERMIT

If you're burning brush, State Law requires you to have a burn permit. Permits are FREE. You can get a permit at the fire station or online through Maine Open Burn Permit, weather-depending. Call the fire station (634-2208) if you have questions.

Volunteers Wanted For Comprehensive Plan Update

In the last edition of *The Bridge*, a \$30,000 grant was announced to update the Town's nearly three-decade old Comprehensive Plan. The plan helps the town with goal-setting and future decisions regarding development.

This is your chance to help guide the long-term vision for land use, housing, infrastructure, recreation, and more! We're looking for community-minded individuals from all walks of life who care about Norridgewock's future.

The Select Board has authorized the creation of a committee to guide the review process, with the assistance of a consultant to provide committee support. Beginning this fall, the seven-member committee will review the plan and provide recommendations to the town for adoption. The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet once per month for no more than two hours per meeting. If you're interested in volunteering for the committee, please reach out to the Town Office at 634-2252, or complete a volunteer application at www.norridgewock.gov. ♦

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE



Goodbye, Mr. Chickadee! Welcome, Fir Tree... and Added Confusion...

It's been over two years since the State decided it was time to retire the standard issue chickadee plates, and just over one year since the Secretary of State unveiled the new tree-and-star design. In that time, vehicle owners have understandably felt a bit confused. Many have responded with grunts or groans about the new design, while some have said they really like it. Either way, the chickadee will be a design of the past, and a wave of new plates will be on the roads.

If you have a chickadee plate, when you re-register your vehicle, you will be required to change plates. At no additional cost, registrants can choose the new tree-and-star design or opt for the more subdued "classic" plate without artwork, simply the "Vacationland" slogan.

If you prefer something more distinctive, Maine's specialty plates remain available with designs including wildlife scenes, the lobster plate, the lighthouse, and others. Specialty plates carry a one-time \$20 issuance fee, as well as the usual annual fee. If you've grown attached to a particular number, whether it's a beloved low-digit plate, a vanity plate, or just a number you like, you must reserve it in advance for a one-time fee of \$25. Reserved plates will be mailed to you in the month your registration expires. For instance, a March 2026 renewal means your plates will not arrive until February or March of 2026—don't expect them right after you reserve. If you do not reserve your plate, your current number may be reassigned.

Should you have questions about the new plates or need clarification on your specific situation, please feel free to contact the Town Office at 634-2252. or via email. More complex issues may be referred to the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles for clarification (624-9000, ext. 52149). ♦

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

This event is FREE and open only to residents of the following communities:

Norridgewock, Anson, Embden, Fairfield, Madison, Mercer, New Sharon, Rome, Smithfield, and Vienna

Saturday, July 19
9:00am – 12:00pm

Waste Management's Crossroads Landfill
357 Mercer Road (Route 2), Norridgewock



Summer Happenings at Your Norridgewock Library

Summer is in full swing at the Norridgewock Public Library. We have been having a great summer with our ocean-themed Summer Storytime and rewarding all those summer readers. We love seeing all your smiling faces!

We will be wrapping up Summer Storytime in August. Don't forget to visit us on August 7 and August 14 at 10:30 AM, when we read stories about jellyfish and a cranky crab. Storytime includes a story and craft—sometimes a special activity.

The Lego Club turned into Coding Club for the summer. Patrons have been enjoying robots Sammy and Dart and learning different ways to code either through electronics, paper or Legos. The last summer Coding Club will be Aug. 19 at 3 PM. Once school starts, our Palmer Lego Club will resume. Join us every third Tuesday at 3 PM for fun Lego builds and challenges. The club will be making balloon powered Lego cars on September 16 at 3 PM.



The library's Summer Reading Squad reading challenge wraps up August 16. Make sure to record your books or minutes read by then to claim your prizes. Also, join us for our end of summer/summer reading party August 16 from 11 AM to 1 PM.



We are excited to offer another sewing class; this one is for adults. It is a beginner sewing class that will meet August 5, 7, 12 and 14 from 4 to 6 PM. Attendees can bring their own sewing machine or use a machine provided. The class will be instructed by Norridgewock resident Mary McCann Baker.



Another event that will resume once school starts is our Tadpole Storytime. Tadpoles meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:30 AM for a story, craft, and song/dance. Anyone can attend but suggested ages are two through preschool. Storytimes for September and October are September 4 and 18 and October 2 and 16.

Older children will enjoy our Froglet events geared towards grades Kindergarten through Third, although younger and older children can attend. Froglets will meet on September 23, October 28, and December 9. We will read a story and create a more challenging craft. In September, Froglets will make autumn-themed silhouette art.

The library will continue homeschool events this fall, as well. Check our Facebook page for announcements in September and October. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/norridgewocklibrary>

Norridgewock Library Book Club will resume meeting the last Thursday of the month at 5 PM. The book club will meet September 25 to discuss *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Books will be handed out in August. See the librarian for more details.

Finally, do not forget to stop by our table at Oosoola Days. The Library Board of Trustees and the librarian look forward to seeing all of you. Bring the children by to make bookmarks and other fun crafts.

Did you know? Adults and children who read 20 minutes a day are exposed to 1.8 million words in a year. That is a great vocabulary boost! ♦ KLD

WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

472 Airport Rd.
634-2714

Waste Management is a private business. As a convenience to residents, we provide their transfer station hours,

X Sun, Mon, Tues Closed

⌚ Weds, Thurs, Fri 9:30am – 6:00pm
Sat 7:30am – 4:00pm

Town's Large Summer Roadwork Projects Creep Ahead

The Town's Road Advisory Committee, in coordination with the Select Board, developed an ambitious slate of roadwork projects for the 2025 construction season. While you may have expected to see crews at work by now, the reality is that only one capital roadwork project has commenced, and the reason is simple: red tape. Each of these projects is currently delayed due to various administrative requirements, including environmental reviews, permitting processes, inter-agency approvals, and design work. Unfortunately, the paperwork must be completed before any pavement is laid or improvements can begin. Below is a list of planned projects for this summer, along with very rough estimated completion dates, pending regulatory and administrative progress:



George Street, Independence Drive, Beech Hill Extension. While most capital projects are delayed, we're pleased to report that one paving project has been completed this summer. Several short gravel road sections off Beech Hill Road—previously costly to maintain due to grading needs and their distance from the Town Garage—were evaluated for long-term cost-effectiveness. After careful consideration of the costs and benefits, the Town moved forward with paving these segments. Fine Line completed the work in June, making this the only capital road project completed so far this season.

Wilder Hill Road. This approximately 1,000-foot stretch of Wilder Hill Road, just off Route 2, was reclaimed two years ago and has been awaiting progress ever since. The delay has been due to the ongoing need for design, permitting, and federal authorization. We are currently awaiting final approval from HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to move forward. If all goes as expected, we're hopeful to receive that authorization within the next month. Once approved, we'll work to get the project scheduled with the contractor, with a target construction window in August or September.

Perkins and Mechanic Streets Intersection. Remember the long traffic delays on Main Street last year during the water main replacement project? That was a not-so-gentle reminder of how heavily we rely on Route 2 for daily traffic flow. In response, the Town partnered with MaineDOT to design an expanded intersection at Perkins and Mechanic Streets, one that allows large trucks to safely and more easily navigate the turn. This improvement is more than just a convenience; it provides a viable alternate route for traffic to bypass Main Street during future construction, emergencies, or other disruptions. The State is also contributing to the project cost, making it a fiscally responsible investment. Unfortunately, this project hit a delay when MaineDOT accidentally omitted it from one of their early-season review agendas, pushing back the bidding process and, in turn, construction. We're now targeting completion this fall, though the Town may negotiate the construction timeline to explore potential cost savings.

Bigelow Hill Road. More than a decade ago, the Town explored paving Bigelow Hill Road, but at the time, residents expressed strong opposition to asphalt. Since then, conditions and perspectives have changed, and the decision was ultimately made to move forward with paving. Most of the road requires minimal preparation, though there is one short section that needs reconstruction prior to paving. Unfortunately, a few environmental considerations have complicated the timeline, causing unexpected delays. As a result, this project is now most likely deferred to the 2026 construction season.



Ferry Road. This is planned to be the hallmark project of our current round of Federal funding, a transformative effort designed to reduce roadway impacts on the Kennebec River and improve access to one of our most valued community assets: Oosoola Park. The project involves converting much of the existing Ferry Road into a pedestrian-only path that leads into the park. Meanwhile, a new roadway will be constructed further up Route 2, sweeping down into Oosoola Park. This new alignment will provide safer and more efficient access, particularly for vehicles hauling trailers. As part of the project, a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to help mitigate non-point source pollution from entering the river, furthering the Town's commitment to environmental stewardship. Due to the complexity and location of the project, the timeline is ambitious, with a target completion in late 2026.

We understand this delay is frustrating, and we share that frustration. Please rest assured that we're pushing forward as quickly as the process allows, and we remain committed to delivering these important infrastructure improvements. ♦

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with Norrie



Property Deeds

It's that time of the year again... tax bills will soon land in your mailbox, and with them come common questions about property ownership. "We sold that property a year ago." "He passed away two years ago and shouldn't be listed." "I got married and changed my name." "I gave that property to my child." These are just a few of the comments we hear throughout the year about property records.

Unfortunately, the Town Office cannot make changes to property ownership information. For any change to be legally recognized, whether adding, removing, or updating a name, a new deed must be recorded with the Registry of Deeds. If

you've changed your name (due to marriage, divorce, etc.), you are not required to update your deed, but you may do so for clarity. It's always advisable to consult an attorney when making legal changes to protect your interests. The Somerset County Registry of Deeds also provides an online search tool, where you can view documents such as deeds, mortgages, tax liens, utility liens, discharges, court filings, and surveys. If you need a copy of your real estate deed, you may request one at the Town Office. The cost is \$2 per page.

If you own a mobile home or a structure on land you do not own, your property records likely won't be found at the Registry of Deeds. These types of properties are typically transferred by a bill of sale and not a recorded deed. They are reported by the owner(s) to the Town's Tax Assessor.; when you transfer property such as a mobile home, you want to ensure that the Town Office is aware of it. One more helpful tip: If you have a survey of your property completed, we strongly encourage you to provide a copy to the Town Office. We often receive requests about property surveys, and we're happy to include your survey in your property for future reference. ◆

2025 Norridgewock VFW Scholarship Winner: Madison Robinson

Several years ago, due to declining membership, the Norridgewock Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post was formally dissolved. For a time, former Commander Elwin Matthews continued to administer the Post's scholarship program. Eventually, he entrusted the Town of Norridgewock with the responsibility of the scholarship in perpetuity.

Today, the Town is honored to carry forward the legacy of the Norridgewock VFW's Scholarship, an award that recognizes a graduating senior from Norridgewock who has demonstrated academic excellence and plans to continue their education. The annual award amount is determined by the interest earned on the scholarship fund. Presently, the scholarship totals approximately \$300 each year, though that amount can grow with continued support and investment in the fund.

We are proud to announce that this year's recipient is Madison Robinson, daughter of Nick and Aimee Robinson. Maddie graduated third in her class from Skowhegan Area High School and will attend the University of New England in Biddeford this fall., where she will pursue her goal of becoming a pharmacist.

In addition to her impressive academic achievements, Maddie is known for her strong moral character and work ethic. From a young age, she has held jobs at Frederick's Dar-I-Whip and Al's Pizza, always recognizing the value of hard work and dedication. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Maddie as she begins this exciting new chapter. We're confident she will make a meaningful impact in the years ahead.

As we work to grow this fund and provide more substantial awards to future scholars, we invite contributions from individuals and organizations who wish to support this meaningful cause. Donations to the Norridgewock VFW Scholarship Fund can be made by mail or delivered in person to the Norridgewock Town Office, 16 Perkins St., Norridgewock, ME 04957. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and will help ensure that the legacy of Norridgewock's veterans continues to support the success of future generations. ◆



Parks Committee Update: A New Gazebo & A Full Calendar of Events!

With great appreciation for the taxpayers and voters of Norridgewock, the Parks Committee was proud to break ground on a beautiful new gazebo at Oosoola Park in early June. Just in time for the first music night in the park, the majority of the structure was completed, offering a stunning new focal point and performance platform for community events.

The project was led by Mike McKenney's McKenney Carpentry Co. of Skowhegan, with support from Maine Roof Solutions, owned by Norridgewock resident Paul Brousseau, who generously donated \$2,500 toward the gazebo roof), and Norridgewock electrician Craig Jewell's Short Circuit Electrical.

If you haven't yet seen this majestic new addition in-person, make sure to stop by Oosoola Park soon!



The committee has been hard at work organizing fun, family-friendly events and low-cost entertainment right here in our community, while also supporting small businesses. With a packed schedule of exciting activities, the committee hopes you'll join in on the fun at one (or many!) of their upcoming events. There's something for everyone; don't miss out!

Oosoola Park Music Series. Join us Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. throughout July and August for the Oosoola Park Music Series! Each week features a different live act and a rotating lineup of delicious food trucks, perfect for a summer night out. We're especially grateful to our generous sponsors, **Franklin Savings Bank** and **Matt Libby of Choice Wealth Advisors**, for making our third music season the biggest and best yet!

New Playground Equipment Ribbon Cutting. Saturday, August 30, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, join the Parks Committee at Oosoola Park as we formally celebrate the addition of accessible playground equipment, generously donated by the **New Balance Foundation**. Enjoy a fun-filled day with family-friendly activities, live music, and food trucks for all to enjoy.

Oosoola Days. Sunday, August 31 and Monday, September 1. Celebrate all things Norridgewock with a weekend full of fun at both the Central Maine Regional Airport and Oosoola Park. With activities for all ages, there's truly something for everyone! Keep an eye out in local stores in mid-August for event brochures featuring the full schedule of events and activities. You won't want to miss it! ♦

Norridgewock Fall Festival. Saturday, October 11, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, **Skowhegan Savings Bank** is excited to partner with the Parks Committee to bring you the first-ever Norridgewock Fall Festival! Enjoy a day filled with great food, live music, fun activities, pumpkin painting, and more. Best of all, everything is free or low-cost, because the committee believes that community events should be accessible to everyone. Stay tuned; more details will be available as the date approaches. ♦

A special thank you to our local contractors for their remarkable work and skilled craftsmanship in completing the new gazebo!



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Norridgewock Town Office
PO Box 7 | 16 Perkins St.
Norridgewock, ME 04957
phone. (207) 634-2252
fax. (207) 634-5285
www.norridgewock.gov

Select Board
Matt Everett, Chair
meverett_4seasons@yahoo.com

Lindsey Lynch, Vice Chair
lindseylynch04957@gmail.com

Ronnie Blodgett
ronnieblodgett04957@gmail.com

Chuck Farrand

Jeff King
northeastfirearms@gmail.com

Town Manager
Richard LaBelle
rlabelle@norridgewock.gov

Newsletter Contributors
Kelli Dorais, Librarian
Dr. Ann Dorney
Peter Lyman, Editor

OOSOOLA DAYS 2025

Sunday, August 31 – Central Maine Regional Airport

- 7:00 – Pancake Breakfast
- 8:00 – 5k and FUN RUN sponsored by **Maine Roof Solutions**
- 8:00 – Dusk – Airplane Rides
- 8:30 – 2:00 – Family Fun all day! Games, activities, food, crafts, barrel train, bounce house, and more
- 10:00 – 2:00 – Petting Zoo sponsored by **Skowhegan Savings Bank**
- 10:00 – 2:00 – Live Music sponsored by **Nickerson Yard Maintenance**
- 10:30 – Cornhole Tournament sponsored by **Waste Management**
- 2:00 – Candy Drop sponsored by **Morgan Aviation & Gale Associates**

Monday, September 1 – Downtown & Oosoola Park

- 9:00 – Parade down Main Street
- 10:00 – Opening Ceremonies at Oosoola Park, kicking off a day full of fun games and activities
- 10:30 – Horseshoe Tournament sponsored by **Lambert's Auto Body**
- 12:00 – Norridgewock Historical Society's Duck Drop
- 12:00 – Live Show under the Gazebo by Magic Fred The Magician
- 1:00 – Annual Frog Races



Did you know that Norridgewock is part of the service area for the **Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce**, based in Waterville? The Chamber plays a vital role in supporting our local businesses and strengthening the broader regional economy. For more information about the Mid-Maine Chamber and the resources they offer, call (207) 873-3315 or visit their website at www.midmainechamber.com.