

THE BRIDGE

Fall 2022
Norridgewock, Maine

ph (207) 634-2252
www.townofnorridgewock.com

Chief Jones Retires after Over 50 Years of Service, 46 Years as Fire Chief

Earlier this year, Norridgewock Fire Chief David R. Jones announced his intent to resign as chief this October. With over 50 years of service to the Department, he was appointed to the chief's position in 1976, and remained at the helm for the duration.

On a recent, sunny, fall Saturday, Chief Jones was feted at the fire station by the Town and the Department for his dedicated service and sacrifice to Norridgewock and Mercer. The Town presented him with a golden axe with the message, "With sincere gratitude and appreciation for your tireless dedication to the fire service." State Senator Brad Farrin and State Representative Jack Ducharme were also present to recognize Chief Jones with a Legislative Sentiment.

Deputy Chief Todd Pineo presented the outgoing chief with a ceremonial leather fire bucket, a gift from firefighters past and present. Fire buckets were used in earlier times as a method of extinguishing fires. Fire buckets were found in most homes and businesses. They were often made of leather with leather-covered rope handles. Fire buckets would usually be filled and passed down long lines of people as they worked to get the water to put directly on a fire or to feed a fire engine.



RETIRED NUMBER • A banner hangs from the rafters of the fire station, recognizing the retirement of Fire Chief David R. Jones.



CHIEF'S FAREWELL • Chief Jones visits with retired Firefighter Jim Gordon (center) and Brent Luce (right).

Hundreds of people gathered at the open house throughout the afternoon to visit and pay thanks to Chief Jones for his remarkable service. Family traveled across Maine and he also had siblings join from Rhode Island and the Carolinas. With many friends and family gathered, a banner (pictured above) was lowered from the rafters of the station, retiring Chief Jones' number— 200.

On display around the station were archived newspaper articles covering significant events related to the Norridgewock fire service since his being appointed chief. The students in Ms. Crowley's 3rd grade class at Mill Stream Elementary School also sent handmade cards and letters thanking the chief, wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

The celebration was sponsored by Skowhegan Savings Bank, the Hight Family of Dealerships, and Waste Management. ♦

Did you miss Chief Jones' open house?

If you'd like to send a card, mail it to:
Chief David Jones, 332 Wilder Hill Rd.,
Norridgewock, ME 04957



MILL STREAM CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 19, 9am – 2pm

Mill Stream Elementary Gym

Door prizes, scholarship raffle, bake sale, lunch, and more!

Be sure to stop by the Grange Hall and check out their craft fair!

Both craft fairs are running at the same time.

New Trail Parking Access Coming to Downtown & Main Street



The TIF Committee searched for an opportunity to improve the Emery Town Square property on Main Street, knowing that it abuts the rail trail and that the trail would have an impact on this space. To capitalize on this, the committee sought proposals for installing a fence and/or retaining wall to create a more attractive greenspace, while setting aside a better defined parking area for recreational vehicles.

The committee recommended moving forward with a retaining wall towards the back of the Square and lining the perimeter of the Square with boulders. The rear of the lot will allow for access to the trail. This project will enhance access to downtown businesses for recreators, but also supports expanded parking for Main Street. Nickerson Yard Maintenance is the contractor completing the project. ♦

David Savage Confirmed as Fire Chief

After a lengthy, yet thorough, selection process, the Town recently announced David Savage as the new fire chief for Norridgewock. In effect, this selection also makes him the new chief for Mercer. The competitive hiring process was guided by a reconfigured position description, targeting an expanded administrative role, as well as ensuring there was sufficient coverage.

David Savage was unanimously recommended by the hiring committee, nominated by the Town Manager, and recently confirmed by the Select Board. Savage brings a strong, diverse background in emergency services; he has served in both police and fire. He has been a member of Oakland Fire & Rescue for over ten years.


Many in Norridgewock already know Chief Savage, as he has been Code Enforcement Officer since 2018. In redefining the roles and ensuring maximum coverage, he will continue as CEO for 20 hours per week, while working in his chief capacity for 20 hours. This structure provides for expanded coverage for fire leadership, but also helps bridge a gap, in terms of Code Enforcement access. If there is a fire call while he is working code, he is available. If the chief is working at the station, he is still accessible to residents for code concerns. This structure is the best long-term solution for the Town, while helping to expand access for taxpayers.

Welcome to the NFD and best of luck, Chief Savage! ♦

NFD Joins Mill Stream for Fun, Educational Opportunity

Across the nation, October is recognized as Fire Safety Month. Here in Norridgewock, Lieutenant Josh and Firefighters Andrew and Tanisha visited Mill Stream Elementary to educate youngsters about fire safety. The students also had a chance to get into the fire engine and learn more about firefighting as a career. It is always a fun experience for everyone! Photos below. ♦





Don't forget that unpaid taxes and past due sewer charges get listed in the annual town report.

To avoid your name in the listing, please pay your account current before December 31, 2022.



A Book, a Bench, and a Place in the Sun

The Norridgewock Public Library has been gifted a new bench for our children's section, in memory of Avis Emery, a lifelong resident of the Town of Norridgewock. From the moment the bench was installed, children have been drawn to it. Stored underneath are our pre-school books. Young children can explore their choice of book, sitting on the sky-blue cushion, with the sun shining onto the page. An adult has room for a child on each side to read a story.

Children were a great delight to Avis and, according to her obituary, "She always found ways to show that she cared." It is said that Avis was an attentive listener who allowed others around her "space to shine." It is this quiet kindness that guides children and adults to a full and wholesome life. She has blessed her friends, her family, and her town with her quiet, but steadfast goodness.

Avis will be remembered when a child can read a new word, enjoy a silly picture, and learn a new rhyme. She will surround them with love. ♦ CP



CHILDREN'S BENCH • This bench was donated in memory of the late Avis Emery. Located in the children's area of the Mercer Road library, it is a wonderful place for children to enjoy a good book.

AVIS EMERY • A bench was recently donated to the library in her memory. Ms. Emery passed away January 2, 2021, after a lifetime lived in Norridgewock. She was a generous patron of the Norridgewock libraries.



New Dining Option in Town: Six Penny Jug

If you've been down Main Street in Norridgewock lately, you might have noticed some extra activity. Why, you ask? Six Penny Jug has opened its doors! On November 1, owner/operator Kent Eliassen opened the doors to his new restaurant, welcoming in patrons that lined the sidewalks looking to check out the newly renovated space and see what the menu has to offer.

The menu features a variety of appetizers, sides, salads, burgers, and entrees. From some of the tastiest chicken wings to a wedge salad, a juicy pork tenderloin sandwich or a meatloaf dinner. There are so many things to try and something for every last taste bud.

The space inside may be small, but it provides a warm atmosphere and doesn't lose touch with our rural Maine feel. Stop on by and see what you think! Regular hours are Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday, noon to 10 pm; and Sunday, noon to 8 pm. ♦

Norridgewock Public Library

Library Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday & Saturday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Did you know...

The library is available for groups that would like to meet and play D&D, Magic, cribbage, or other games. FMI, call 634-2828.



Airport Rd.
634-2714

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

Sun, Mon, Tues Closed
Weds, Thurs, Fri 9:30am – 6:00pm
Sat 7:30am – 4:00pm

The Town Office will be closed:

November 8- Election Day
November 11- Veterans Day
November 24-25- Thanksgiving
December 26- Christmas, observed

*Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting





The Planning Board has developed commercial solar regulations that are proposed to be incorporated into the Site Plan Review Ordinance. On November 2, the Select Board voted to accept the recommended changes, which will be put before voters at Town Meeting in March 2023. The method of voting (secret ballot or open town meeting) has yet to be determined. Should the revised ordinance be approved, the Select Board has voted to set the application fee for commercial solar development at \$8 per \$1,000 in construction cost. For more information, check out *Developing Solar Regulations* at www.townofnorridgewock.com. ♦

2023 DOG LICENSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

REGISTER YOUR DOG TODAY !

\$6 altered (spayed/neutered)
\$11 unaltered

Avoid the \$25 late fee and register early

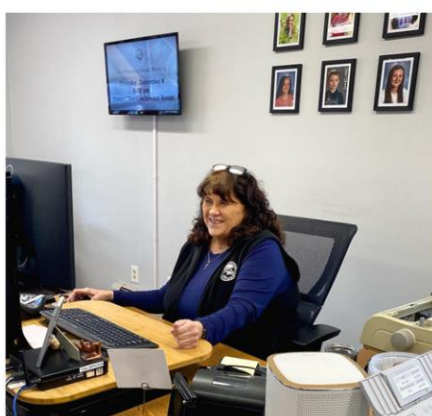
*Proof of current rabies vaccination must
be on file at the time of registration*



20 Years of Service: Sharon Jones Dodge

In late October, Sharon Dodge was recognized for her twenty years of service, working for the Town of Norridgewock. She was treated to a luncheon and presented a plaque marking her tenure.

If you attended the trunk-or-treat at Mill Stream Elementary over Halloween weekend, you may have spotted an unusual, volunteer construction worker handing out candy to the hundreds of children in attendance. Thank you, Sharon! ♦



NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE NOV. 23

The following elected positions will be
on the March 6, 2023 local ballot:

Select Board Member and Overseer
5 seats, 1-year term

Tax Assessor
3 seats, 1-year term

Planning Board Member
2 seats, 3-year term; 1 seat, 2-year term

Budget Committee Member
2 seats, 3-year term

SAD 54 School Board Director
1 seat, 3-year term; 1 seat, 1-year term

Library Trustee
1 seat, 5-year term

Sewer Commissioner
1 seat, 2-year term; 1 seat, 1-year term

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE HOLIDAY STROLL!

Saturday, December 10, 2022

Activities Start at 1:30 PM

Lighted Tractor Parade begins at 4:00 PM

Facebook event page: [Norridgewock Stroll and Tree Lighting](#)

