

THE BRIDGE

Summer 2024

Norridgewock, Maine

ph (207) 634-2252

www.norridgewock.gov

Special Town Meeting Referendum Slated for Tuesday, July 30

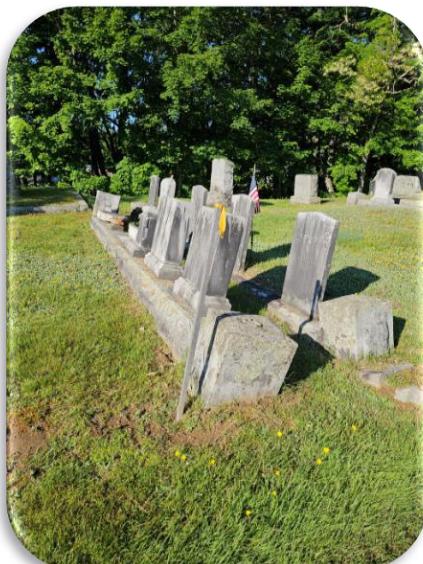
Secret Ballot Voting to Take Place at Town Office from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, No Open Meeting

Select Board Member Cheyenne Goodrich tendered her resignation, effective May 31, as she is no longer a resident of Norridgewock. The Select Board accepted her resignation and then voted to schedule a special election for July 30 to fill the vacancy. Because of the timing and expected turnout, voting will take place at the Town Office.

Voters will also be asked to consider two referendum questions to appropriate funds from surplus to purchase a piece of equipment for sidewalk and road maintenance, as well as to purchase a property on Mercer Road for future community-related use.

The multi-functional maintenance equipment request looks to appropriate up to \$175,000 for the purchase of new equipment which will drastically improve sidewalk maintenance and allow Public Works to complete other tasks such as roadside mow with internal labor. The request for funding to acquire real estate seeks up to \$50,000; \$45,000 is the purchase price, with an additional \$5,000 as a contingency for closing-related costs. The property's use has not been finalized, but conceptual ideas include the establishment of a park-and-ride, construction of tennis and/or pickleball courts, as well as other economic development-related purposes. If approved for acquisition, the Select Board will work cooperatively with the TIF Advisory Committee to determine the best use for Norridgewock.

The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office. In-person absentee voting can be done at the Town Office, and absentee ballots can be requested until July 25. A list of candidates, as well as the two referendum questions are included on the next page. Please note that there is no open town meeting; this is strictly a meeting that is being conducted by secret ballot. For additional information about this election, please contact the Town Office. ◆



CEMETERY BEFORE AND AFTER • The Cemetery Committee has been working with volunteers and a contractor to repair, clean, and level stones in Riverview Cemetery. Inside, there's an article with more about the project!



**Special Election
July 30, 2024**

**Mark your calendar for
OOSOOLA DAYS**

**Labor Day Weekend
Sunday & Monday, September 1-2**

**Central Maine Regional Airport &
Oosoola Park**

Ballot Information for July 30, 2024

Select Board Member & Overseer (vote for no more than one, seat expires Town Meeting 2025)

- Farrand, Charles A.
- O'Connell, Margaret J.

Article 3: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund balance (surplus) to purchase a multi-use machine for sidewalk and road maintenance?

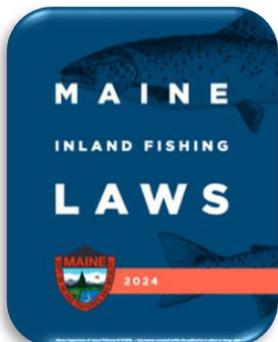
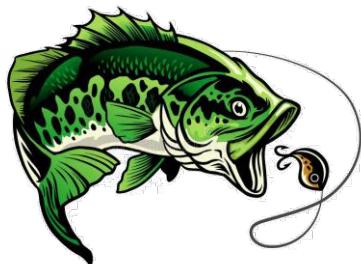
Select Board recommends approval 4-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 7-0

Article 4: Shall the Town vote to authorize the purchase of real property located on Mercer Road in Norridgewock, being a 0.37-acre parcel identified as Tax Map 028, Lot 042-001, for a price not to exceed \$45,000.00, and on such further terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town; and to appropriate up to \$50,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund balance (surplus) for the same.

Select Board recommends approval 4-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 7-0

Do you know the fishing laws for the Kennebec River??

On the Kennebec River, from the Abenaki (lower) Dam in Madison, downstream to the red markers near the Skowhegan Rest Area, fishing is ALO (artificial lures only). This includes the entire length of the Kennebec running through Norridgewock. Law books are available at the Town Office when you purchase your fishing license, or you can access the law books online at www.mefishwildlife.com/laws. ♦♦♦



RESTORING HISTORY • Below right, a before and after of a stone cleaning in Riverview Cemetery. On the left is the stone marking war veteran John Ham and his wife Harriet T. Bacon. Volunteers enjoyed the names being *Ham* and *Bacon*. The stone was repaired, requiring pins and carefully pieced back together. Upon arrival, the stone was broken in half with the top half leaned against the bottom.



Music Series Lineup
Proudly sponsored by Franklin Savings Bank
5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Oosoola Park

Jul 09	Payton Dawn
Jul 16	Dom Colizzi w. Lee Stetson
Jul 23	The Shack
Jul 30	TAOT
Aug 06	The Song Pirates
Aug 13	Bella
Aug 20	Signal 3
Aug 27	Crooked Bill

To promote transparency in government contracts and spending, contract award details will be provided in this section of each newsletter edition. Contract results are also available at www.norridgewock.gov/rfp.

BID TRACKER

Building Demolition & Cleanup

Project Summary: To demolish the building and clean up the property located at 13 Wade Street, which was acquired by the Town through the non-payment of sewer use charges.

Contractor Awarded: DMO Landscaping, Inc.

Contractor Location: Norridgewock, ME

Contract Price: \$8,800.00

Fire Department Side-by-Side

Project Summary: Purchase a full-size gasoline side-by-side to support fire and rescue operations

Contractor Awarded: Cove-Side Wheel & Ski

Contractor Location: Newport, ME

Contract Price: \$37,983.91

Fire Department Enclosed Trailer for Side-by-Side

Project Summary: Purchase and equip an 8.5' x 16' enclosed cargo trailer for the new side-by-side. Upgraded doors, axles, decking, and lighting were included. Exterior graphics excluded.

Contractor Awarded: Charlie & Son Sales & Service.

Contractor Location: Madison, ME

Contract Price: \$17,621.00

Fire Department Skid/Rescue Unit for Side-by-Side

Project Summary: Firefighting skid unit to be installed in the rear of the side-by-side for firefighting and rescue purposes.

Contractor Awarded: Kimtek Corporation

Contractor Location: Orleans, VT

Contract Price: \$9,240.00

Roadside Mowing

Project Summary: Mowing approximately 50 road miles of Town-maintained roadside, plus 7.5 acres at Sunset View Cemetery

Contractor Awarded: Norridgestock Farm, LLC

Contractor Location: Norridgewock, ME

Contract Price: \$190.00 per mile for roadside; \$750.00 per mow at Sunset View Cemetery

Father Rasle & Sandy River Bank Roads Stabilization Projects

Project Summary: ## feet of bank stabilization on Sandy River Road and 165 feet of bank stabilization and lane restoration on Father Rasle Road

Contractor Awarded: Bedard Excavation

Contractor Location: South Paris, ME

Contract Price: \$475,000.00

Real Estate Brokerage Services

Project Summary: Contract with a firm to manage the sale of Town-owned property— tax-acquired releases or other real estate transactions

Contractor Awarded: Allied Realty

Contractor Location: Skowhegan, ME

Surplus Vehicle: Sewer Pump Truck

Vehicle Information: 1994 International 4800 pump truck, diesel, 2,200 gallon tank Field Gymmy, 42,500 miles.

Successful Bidder: N/A, No bids received

Bid Price: N/A

Note: This asset has been referred back to the Sewer Commission for consideration of alternate disposal.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

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

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

Saturday, July 20
9:00am – 12:00pm

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



Norridgewock Pickleball Program Welcomes All Ages

The game of Pickleball was born in 1965 in Bainbridge, Washington, by Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum, and Bill Bell, who were looking for an activity to stem boredom for their family but did not have enough equipment to play a game of badminton.

Pickleball is a paddle sport that incorporates parts of badminton, ping pong, and tennis using a plastic wiffle-like ball and played on a flat court similar to a tennis court or gym floor. The boundaries are smaller than a tennis court, and the nets slightly lower. Pickleball is appropriate for players of all ages and skill levels. The rules are basic and easy to pick up. Pickleball is a very social game and a great way to meet new people. The sport continues to grow in popularity and is now considered one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States, spreading to other countries as well. For additional history and facts about the game, visit the USA Pickleball website at <https://usapickleball.org>.



Norridgewock started its Pickleball league in 2019 with support from the Town and Recreation Department. Three courts have been established inside the gym at Mill Stream Elementary School and an additional three courts on the outside basketball courts between the school and library.

Norridgewock Pickleball is a pick-up league, so anyone can stop into Mill Stream Elementary School on Thursday between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. There is no cost, and the Town has purchased nets, balls, and paddles, so you need to bring your energy and a pair of sneakers. We have players of all levels, from beginner to advanced, currently participating.

Pickleball leagues are everywhere, and you can find games going on in Skowhegan, Mercer, Smithfield, Farmington, Waterville, and other locations around Maine. YouTube is an excellent resource for learning tips and strategies for playing the game. Norridgewock Pickleball is on Facebook for updated information. ◆ SL

Summer 2024 Road Construction Brief

Beyond regular road maintenance, the Town is working on completing two larger projects, with the potential for a third. Two major bank stabilization projects are slated for construction in August, one on Sandy River Road and one on Father Rasle Road. The Sandy River Road project is a continuation of a project that was completed about a dozen years ago; the project location is just north of Fording Road. The Father Rasle Road project, in the area of Twin Oaks Drive, will stabilize the steep bank that has caused a lane closure for the last three years. In both cases, road closures will take place, and advance notice will be posted. To receive road-related text updates like notices of road closure, text DIG to 38276. The third possible project for this year is Wilder Hill Road. The approximately 700-foot section starting at Route 2 is being engineered and will be bid out for 2025 construction with an option of 2024. Depending on price and availability, it is possible that section of road will be reconstructed this fall; if not, it will take place in 2025. ◆

Enrollment Now Open

Grades K-10

A BRIGHT FUTURE STARTS HERE

Riverview Memorial School

201 Mercer Road

Norridgewock, ME

For more information visit our website at www.riverviewmemorialschool.org or call us at (207)634-2641

RIVERVIEW MEMORIAL SCHOOL
INSPIRE • GROW • SERVE

Upcoming Town Office Closures



September 2 – Labor Day
October 14 – Indigenous Peoples' Day

Regular Hours

Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Thurs 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

*Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting

An Update from Your Norridgewock Public Library

Spring flew by and with it, lots of activities at the Norridgewock Public Library.

Our Tadpole Storytime attendees learned about springtime, Earth Day, giraffes, and grouchy ladybugs. They also learned about families and rhyming with special guest author Jeanine Deas (pictured on the left).

The library also hosted the monthly Palmer Lego Club and Book Club and held events such as an herbalist talk with Dominique Rollins, make-your-own sock puppet, and children's author Tamra Wight.

Now, the summer is here, and we have lots of activities to keep everyone busy. Our Summer Reading Squad started June 15 and goes through August 17. Children ages 0 -14 can read for prizes. Complete 30 books or 25 hours and win a free book.

Every five hours or five books also earns the readers a prize. Teens and adults can join in on the fun. Complete challenges on a bingo card. Get a bingo and receive a ticket for one of our prize drawings. Join the reading squad by downloading the **Beanstack** app or by visiting norridgewockpl.beanstack.org.

Summer Storytime starts July 11. Each week on Thursday at 10:30 AM, we will have a story and craft featuring an insect. The storytime kicks off with beetles on July 11, butterflies on July 18 (featuring a special activity), fireflies on July 25, ladybugs on August 1, spiders on August 8, and ants on August 15.

Our Lego Club is continuing through the summer. Join us on July 16 and August 20 for some fun, friends, and Lego challenges.

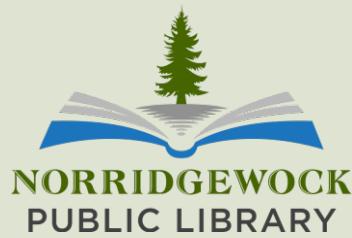
Artist Cheryl Storer will hold a meet-and-greet at the library on July 11 at 10:30 AM to showcase her artwork and discuss her process and journey. Her artwork will remain on display in the library for the next two months.

Many other activities are in the works. Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/norridgewocklibrary to find out the latest information on our programs and activities.

One other item of note. The Interlibrary Loan Service has been temporarily suspended due to a vendor switch of the van delivery service. Maine State Library hopes to have the service back up and running in a couple of months.

Did you also know our library cards are free? That's right, completely free. And you do not have to be a resident of Norridgewock to receive one.

We hope to see you soon! ♦ KLD



Library Hours

Tuesday & Thursday	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday & Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

40 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock
(207) 634-2828
library@norridgewock.gov

Kelli Dorais, Librarian
Library Trustees: Marnie Bottesch, Ruth Keister,
Becky Ketchum, Jean Lancaster, Jill Lawrence



NEW ADDITIONS TO OOSOOLA PARK • In late June, several improvements came to fruition at Oosoola Park. The Select Board, Parks Committee, and TIF Advisory Committee have been working diligently to introduce a kayak/paddleboard rental opportunity and a new dock area to create a safer area for swimmers further away from the boat launch. Stay tuned... more great things are in the works!

Get updates and reminders for
Town activities, including music
nights, Oosoola Days, and more!
Text **OOSOOLA** to 38276

KAYAK & PADDLEBOARD RENTALS
at Oosoola Park
\$25 for the first
2-hours

Nickerson 
YARD MAINTENANCE

**LANDSCAPE
SUPPLY & HARDWARE**



NEW HARDWARE STORE in Norridgewock
1.3 mile from the traffic light by Dunkin
20 Bigelow Hill Road, at the corner of
Rt 139 Waterville Road



**Our goal is YOUR convenience!
We'll do our best to get what you need**



8 to 5:30 weekdays, 8 to 1:30 Saturday, closed Sunday
207-614-4122

The Cemetery Committee Reports Major Restoration in June...

The Cemetery Committee is pleased to report that important inroads were made last month in its plans to restore and preserve our cemeteries. As previously reported, after assessing needs at all eleven of our cemeteries, projects were prioritized, starting with repair and re-setting of stones at one of our largest old cemeteries, Riverview Cemetery on Upper Main Street. With the support of the Town and with help from our Town Manager, the committee launched an extensive search to find a stone conservator. In the category of “all good things come to those who wait,” Joe Ferrannini from Grave Stone Matters, an Upstate New York firm, was hired. Joe agreed to come for about a week in June.

Meanwhile, (unrelated to finally finding a contractor), the committee learned that the Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) was running a free, four-day cleaning and leaning beginner’s workshop in New Sharon in early June. The workshop included a morning of lessons and then 3.5 days of hands-on training (in this case, at the Village of New Sharon Cemetery). Three members of the committee (chair Kathy Hopkins, Becky Ketchum, and Tasha Raymond) were lucky enough to get into the limited enrollment workshop. Then, as it turned out, we were pleased to discover that the expert that MOCA retained to run their workshops was none other than Joe Ferrannini. Thus, the committee not only learned the basics of “cleaning and leaning”, but also had the opportunity to spend four days getting to know Joe and the high quality of his work.

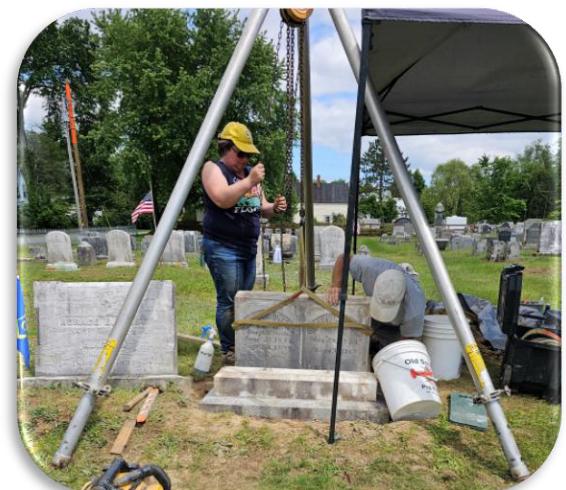
The week after the workshop in New Sharon, Joe started fulfilling his contract for Norridgewock. Joe’s work is powered, in part, by volunteers. A number of people from other towns (some experienced, some newly trained from the New Sharon workshop) came to Norridgewock as volunteers. Other towns that helped us at Riverview included volunteers from Wilton, Sargentville/Sedgwick, Abbot, Kennebunk, Manchester, and South Portland. Norridgewock committee members also helped.

An offshoot of the New Sharon workshop: MOCA asked the Norridgewock Historical Society (NHS) to host their Summer Meeting. The meeting is July 27 and, while hosted by NHS, will be held at the Grange Hall. It is open to both MOCA members and non-members. There will be several presentations by NHS and a presentation by Tasha Raymond related to the burial of a Revolutionary War Soldier at Witham Cemetery. The afternoon session will include a guided tour of Riverview Cemetery. For more information or to register, go to www.moca-me.org.

NHS and the Cemetery Committee are discussing plans to hold a cemetery volunteer program later in the summer or early fall. We will share our learning about “cleaning & leaning,” including the opportunity for some hands-on training about cleaning, and will also talk about other opportunities to volunteer. Kathy Hopkins, Cemetery Committee Chair, advises, “It’s not all heavy work. We need help recording names, dates, and inscriptions on the cleaned stones that were unreadable before being cleaned. This will help with mapping our cemeteries.”

In closing, here are a few tidbits about cleaning stones. One of the most important things we learned from the workshop and STRONGLY urge people to adhere to is when cleaning stones only use D/2 cleaning solution and water—no other chemicals. Also, use a soft brush and a hard plastic scraper. Tempting as it may be, do not use bleach or other chemicals, metal scrapers, putty knives, or wire brushes. Power washing is a big “no-no,” too! All of these things can be harmful to the stones.

“Happy Tramping!” as they say at MOCA! ◆ RFK



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Sandy Lyman



FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS • Fire Chief Todd Pineo was pleased to recognize full-time firefighters Kyle Mullin and Andrew Dexter for their dedication and leadership within the department. At the department's June monthly meeting, the Chief announced their promotion to the rank of lieutenant. The lieutenants have worked hard on the force, helping to develop the Department, foster a safe working environment, and take a proactive approach to public safety in our community. ♦

PLANNING AHEAD FOR PROPERTY TAX BILLS...
2024 tax bills will be mailed the week of August 12 and due September 17.

