

THE BRIDGE

Spring 2018
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

Ryan Jones Recognized with Spirit of America Award



2018 SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD was presented to Ryan Jones for his exceptional volunteerism throughout the community. On behalf of the community, recognizing Ryan were State Representative Brad Farrin and Town Manager Richard LaBelle. Thank you and Congratulations, Ryan! To nominate someone for a future award, please submit their name and information to the Town Office.

June Election Introduces (and offers to repeal) Ranked Choice Voting

Election to be coupled with SAD 54 Budget Referendum

For the first time since voters passed ranked choice voting (RCV) by referendum in 2016, voters will be introduced to this method of voting for the first time on June 12. Only for a select few offices, voters will be able to rank the order of candidates. The Secretary of State is working to ensure training materials are produced for both election staff, as well as members of the public.

Appearing on the ballot for your consideration will be primary candidates for Governor, United States Senator, United States Representative, State Senator, State Representative, and District Attorney. At the time of print, a People's Veto ballot measure was the only referendum approved for the ballot. The measure is proposed to read, "Do you want to reject the parts of a new law that would delay the use of ranked-choice voting in the election of candidates for any state or federal office until 2022, and then retain the method only if the constitution is amended by December 1, 2021, to allow ranked-choice voting for candidates in state elections?"

The June 12 election will be held at Somerset Grange (9 Mercer Rd.) from 8am to 8pm. Also considered by voters that day will be a referendum on the SAD 54 budget proposal. Absentee ballots are available for request and must be requested before the close of business on June 7, 2018. Inquiries regarding the election may be made to Clerk Kelly Green at 634-2252 or kelly@townofnorridgewock.com ♦

TIF Committee Seeks Project Ideas

Use of funds to benefit local economy, downtown

The TIF Advisory Committee has completed several projects over the last year, including the recent installation of gateway signage throughout the community. They have advocated in favor of the Oosoola Park Boat Launch rehabilitation (which is tentatively planned for October 2018), and maintain a strong interest in improving the local economy and downtown landscape.

As the committee completes a project, they look to the public for additional ideas. Do you have ideas for revitalizing Norridgewock? What do you think would help our town grow?

Ideas, suggestions, and/or proposals may be submitted for the committee's consideration to townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com. All feedback is greatly appreciated. The public is invited to attend the committee's meetings. For TIF-related updates, visit the committee's webpage at townofnorridgewock.com/tif ♦

Town to Use Grange for Polling Place

Trial location of voting place to begin with June 12 Primary

If you've been to vote at Mill Stream School recently, you may have noticed the added presence of town and school officials, as well as law enforcement officers. This has been largely due to threats against schools locally and across the country. It has added to the cost of conducting an election at the school and creates security concerns for the community.

In an effort to mitigate risk at the school, officials have worked with representatives of Somerset Grange to utilize their facility at 9 Mercer Road for voting. The facility should meet the needs of the community for voting and adequate parking will be available at the Grange, curbside towards the Historical Society, as well as at the fire station (please remember not to block the bay doors). After the June Primary, officials will reconvene to review the use of the Grange as the municipal polling place.

Notice of the change in polling places will be posted throughout town, as well as with the State and with local media. The Town wishes to extend great thanks to the Grangers for their willingness to serve as a trial polling place, as we strive to ensure safe and accessible voting. ♦

Grange Suppers

3rd Monday of the month
4:30 to 6:00PM
Mark your calendar with the
2018 supper schedule!

April 16

May 21 June 18

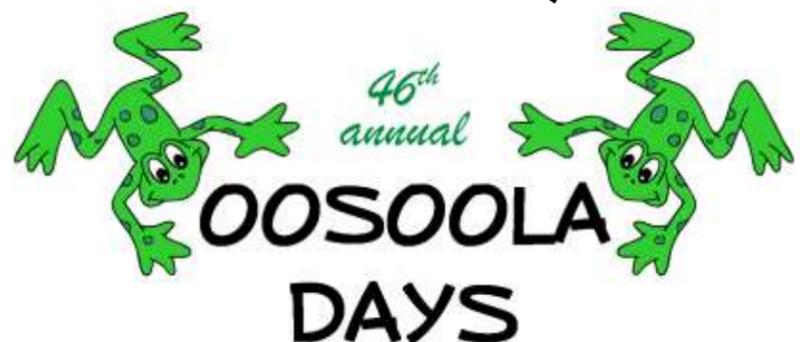
July 16 August 20

September 17 October 15

Suppers feature homemade cooking: old fashioned baked beans, casseroles, beef hot dogs, rolls, salad, pie, coffee/tea

Somerset Grange ♦ Intersection of Mercer Rd. & Upper Main St.

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2018



If you are interested in supporting the events, please contact us at townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com

Be an organizer, volunteer, individual or business supporter, vendor, fundraiser, or more! *We appreciate your support!*

Committee Continues to Focus on Safety

The standing committee works to identify strengths and deficiencies for town

The Safety Committee is charged with reviewing policies, procedures, and standard practices within the Town and offering recommended changes to minimize the Town's exposure to risk. Each town department is represented which provides a diverse perspective for discussion.

Over the course of the last two years, departments have conducted self-audits for safety and the committee has visited each municipal facility to conduct reviews of safety protocols. Suggestions have been made, many of which have been implemented. A safe work environment not only makes for healthier employees, but it also reduces costs to the town, in terms of insurances, loss, and damage.

In the coming weeks, the Town will undergo a voluntary review by Safety Works!, a division of Maine Bureau of Labor Standards, in order to receive an external audit. This audit will identify safety deficiencies and provide groundwork from which to build a safer work environment. In the long term, the goal of the committee is to achieve the SHAPE Award, which recognizes workplaces for their safety standards and also supports savings in managing the Town's risk exposure. ♦

Firefighter Murray Honored for 29 Years' Service

Firefighter Randy Murray was honored on April 8, at an event hosted by the Norridgewock Fire Department. Firefighter Murray wore shield 218 for over 29 years in service to the Town of Norridgewock.

The Department proudly installed an Honor Roll plaque in the building's training room which honors firefighter service, past and present. Many members of the department were in attendance for Murray's honor, as Fire Chief David Jones presented Murray with a plaque commemorating his service, as well as with a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Selectmen. ♦



Summer Roadwork to Include Ward Hill Road

Town officials, including members of the Road Planning Committee, have moved forward with planning for summer road projects. The portion of Ward Hill Road not reconstructed in the 2016 season will be completed this year, up to the town line. This project is being engineered by Dirigo Engineering and will be put out to bid.

In other road-related news, Wellman Paving (Winterport, ME) was awarded the three-year overlay contract. Wellman has worked with the town for the last three years on various projects. Priority targets for overlay include Winding Hill Road, Frederick Corner Road, and the final section of Beech Hill Road. ♦

Library Trustees to Test Launch Books on Wheels Program

Plan for outreach program at Fairmont Housing

On Thursday, April 26, the Library Board of Trustees will launch a test of a *Books on Wheels* program. All residents of Fairmont Housing are invited to attend the launch party (coffee/tea and sweets) and to learn about participating in the program. The gathering will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

The objective of the program is to enable seniors to have easier access to library books. The program is free and all residents who have a library card are eligible to participate. Anyone who does not have a card can sign up for one at the launch party. Library cards are free!

The Library Board will talk about all of the library's offerings—new book releases, the array of authors currently on the shelves, large print books, audio books, getting books through the interlibrary loan system, and more.

The way the program is expected to work is that cardholders will fill out a form specifying what books they would like to check out and the books will be delivered for pickup/return in the community room on a fixed schedule. The schedule will be determined according to resident feedback.

Based on the Fairmont Housing test of this program, the program may expand at a later date to offer this program to include more seniors throughout the community. ♦

Friendly reminder from

NORRIDGEWOCK SEWER DEPT

Pool meter is available at the Town Office. If you fill your pool, use the meter so that you are not charged for this usage. Call 634-2252.

Flushable wipes are not flushable; they can cause trouble within the sewer network which result in increased user rates



TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS

Norridgewock Historical Society

Meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of each month

Annual Yard Sale is scheduled for June 2, together with the Village Improvement Society's Plant Sale

www.norridgewockhistoricalsociety.org ♦ 11 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock



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

MAY
is
MOTORCYCLE
Awareness Month



**LOOK TWICE.
SAVE A LIFE.**

The Town Office will be closed:

May 18 for Training

May 28 in observance of Memorial Day

July 4 in observance of Independence Day