

the bRidge

Summer 2018
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

Honoring Our Fallen Deputy & Neighbor: Corporal Eugene Cole Memorial Bridge

Dedication to be held October 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

April 25, 2018, is a day that has forever changed Norridgewock. The events of that day marked an end to one man's life, yet reaffirmed a commitment, respect, and appreciation for law enforcement. The thin blue line has become part of what we are.

Corporal Eugene Cole of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office was a longtime resident of Norridgewock and worked daily to serve and protect his hometown. Widely noted were Gene's unique ability to bridge gaps and his remarkable talent of community policing. Cole cared for his community and the people in it.

In the wake of this senseless tragedy, the community showed its true grit, loyalty to law enforcement, and our ability to join together as a region and stand united. State Representative Brad Farrin proposed LD 1914 and was joined by co-sponsor and Norridgewock-native and State Senator Nathan Libby to rename the bridge spanning the Kennebec River, Corporal Eugene Cole Memorial Bridge. Governor Paul LePage signed the bill into law recently, joined by family, friends, co-workers, officials, and legislators.

The Town is working cooperatively with groups across the region to organize a bridge dedication ceremony for Sunday, October 7. This date is especially important, as Gene would have celebrated his 62nd birthday. More information will become available as the event draws closer—information will be available on the Town of Norridgewock's Facebook, webpage, as well as in the media and posted throughout the Town. ♦



The bridge in Norridgewock, formerly identified as Bridge 2187, will be dedicated as Corporal Eugene Cole Memorial Bridge in October.

THE MONTH OF AUGUST IS



Norridgewock Historical Society

Meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of each month

Fall Yard Sale is scheduled for October 6

www.norridgewockhistoricalsociety.org

11 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock



Norridgewock firefighters Ryan Jones, Kyle Mullin, and Dennis Obert are joined by Junior Firefighter Megan Jones (second from left) while volunteering recently at the Norridgewock Public Library.

46th Annual Oosoola Days Announced

Events planned for September 2-3 at the Airport and Downtown

The Town of Norridgewock and its Oosoola Park Committee are pleased to announce the 46th annual Oosoola Days celebration this Labor Day weekend—September 2 and 3. While the slate of events hasn't quite been finalized, there has been strong support from local businesses and organizations that are all teaming up to make this one of the best community events yet!

Continuing the success of last year, the events will begin on Sunday at Central Maine Regional Airport. The Sunday will begin with a pancake breakfast put on by the Central Maine Regional Flying Club. Numerous activities and vendors will be on-hand throughout the day, including performances by Madison Brown, as well as the Nikki Hunt Band. The day will finish with the Morgan Aviation Candy Drop at 3:00 p.m.

On Labor Day Monday, the traditional events will be held: the parade begins at 9:00 a.m., and will end in Oosoola Park where we will have a fun-filled day of activities. Don't miss the trademark frog race at 1:00 p.m. The Norridgewock Sportsmen Association will be having a barbecue and there will be many vendors and activities throughout the park. More information will become available as the date gets closer. Keep an eye out for brochures and schedules ahead of the event. On Facebook? Get 'Interested' in the Oosoola Days Facebook event! ♦



ATTENTION TEENAGERS!

Are you 14 to 18 years old?

Are you interested in firefighting?

NFD has started a junior firefighting program. Learn more about a potential volunteer opportunity or long-term career goals in emergency services. For more information call the station at 634-2208

Library Expands Summer Programming

Have fun learning—new programs for all ages!

Have you noticed all of the events hosted by the Norridgewock Library this summer? We sure have! The Library Board of Trustees has been working diligently to bring new opportunities to the community and expand offerings at the library.

Recently, several Norridgewock firefighters volunteered their Saturday morning to show dozens of children about firefighting and the fire equipment. It was an opportunity for children to learn more about their work while gaining access to a variety of literature about firefighting and emergency services. The event drew a very enthusiastic group of young people (mostly 6 and under with an array of parents and grandparents). As it was a very muggy day, one of the highlights of the visit for each child was the hands-on instruction for handling the various hoses used by the fire department. For some, this also included running through the spray and big puddles with glee. One guest brought a wonderful black lab puppy, which added a lot to the fun, too!

Coming up on August 18, the library will host the **Maine State Police K-9 unit**. Again, this program will be an opportunity for families to learn in a more active environment about a unique aspect of law enforcement. Bring your family to see “Bella” the K-9 officer.

September 29 at 11:00 a.m. the Mercer Road library will host the Chewonki program **Owls of Maine**. The Chewonki Foundation conducts several nature programs and the library trustees are looking to share the experience in Norridgewock. This will be a great opportunity to see live owls up close!

Ongoing this summer is a **children’s reading program- Read to Win**. Children (pre-K to grade 6) visit the library this summer and check out books. When you visit the library, you’ll receive a ticket to enter the monthly drawing (August 25), as well as automatic entry into the grand prize drawing (drawn at Oosoola Days on September 3). The grand prize is an Amazon Fire 8! Remember, the more often children visit, the more chances of winning.

Monthly prizes have been generously provided by local businesses. Gift cards and/or merchandise to support the program were provided by New Balance, Oosoola Country Store, York’s Market, Dunkin’ Donuts, Frederick’s Dar-I-Whip, and Children’s Book Cellar. Thank you to our supporting businesses!

HINT: Participation in the program has been lighter than expected, so children should get to the library SOON and often—there is a very good chance of winning!

Keep an eye on the Town of Norridgewock Facebook page for upcoming events and more information. ♦ -RK

Grange Introduces Community Game Night

New to the grange is Game Night, which is held on the last Friday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This event is strictly for fun. There is no charge and free snacks are provided. Play whatever games you’d like: cards, dominoes, cribbage, board games, etc. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Somerset Grange also continues to offer their seasonal suppers on the third Monday of each month, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. The price is just \$7 per plate. Remaining suppers on the schedule for 2018 include August 20, September 17, and October 15. This is not just a great opportunity to support the organization, but it is also a great social occasion. ♦ -RK

FUN FAMILY EVENT! LIVE OWLS & LEARNING!

Join the Library for the Chewonki program

OWLS OF MAINE

Saturday, September 29, 2018
11:00 a.m. at Mercer Road Library



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:
September 3 in observance of Labor Day
October 3 for training
October 8 in observance of Columbus Day

Village Improvement Society awards \$500 Scholarship

The Village Improvement Society was pleased to award Emma Dionne a \$500 scholarship for her successes attained while attending Skowhegan Area High School. Emma has been a volunteer at Cedar Ridge and plans to pursue a career in nursing. She intends to enroll at Kennebec Valley Community College this fall. Congratulations, Emma!

For well over a century, the Norridgewock Village Improvement Society has been active in our community striving to make the town a better place to live and work. Much of the work done by the Village Improvement Society is funded by bake sales and plant sales. ♦ -RK

Voting to Return to School Gym

In June, an alternate voting place was considered; however, the Grange does not fully meet the needs of a larger election. To avoid having to constantly relocate voting places, the Town Clerk has requested authorization from the Secretary of State to return voting to Mill Stream Elementary School. A request has also been made to the Superintendent of Schools to consider rescheduling an in-service day to allow for use of the building with lesser threat to safety.

With larger elections, voter turnout can easily exceed 1,500 voters, which requires a more substantial space (for perspective, only 562 voters participated in June’s election at the grange). We are required to maintain certain square footage requirements, as well as a certain number of voting booths. A high turnout is expected in November and it is essential that the voting place be adequate.

We wish to extend thanks to the Somerset Grange and its membership for welcoming us to use the facility as a trial voting place and we appreciate their work in preparing the building for our use. ♦

The Town of Norridgewock cordially invites you to the dedication of
CPL. EUGENE COLE
Memorial Bridge

Sunday, October 7th 2018
2:00 PM
Norridgewock, Maine
Starting at the south end of the bridge