

THE BRIDGE

Summer 2022
Norridgewock, Maine

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

Property Tax Stabilization Program Launches for Eligible Seniors, 65+

The State of Maine has launched a tax program to stabilize property taxes for seniors across the state. The new law goes into effect in August but will not impact tax bills until 2023. Eligible individuals must be 65 years of age or older and be a permanent resident of Maine who has owned a homestead in Maine for at least ten years. Once an applicant is deemed eligible, the tax bill will be frozen at the amount previously billed. So, for example, if a qualified applicant enrolls before December 1, 2022, the amount billed in the 2023 tax year will be the same as what was billed in the 2022 tax year.

While this program represents potential cost savings for eligible seniors, the town is being reimbursed for taxes reduced under this program through State tax dollars. According to the fiscal note associated with the legislation establishing this program, the estimated annual cost of this program across the entire state is \$2.25 million in the fiscal year 2023-2024 and over 7 million dollars in the second fiscal year. In addition, the program is expected to grow and cost more as the average age of Mainers continues to increase, which then, theoretically, brings more qualified individuals into the program.

Presently, the State will reimburse towns and cities for 100 percent of the lost revenue associated with the new tax program, but that can be subject to change should a future legislature decide. Program participants must apply annually; applications are due by December 1 for the following year. Program applications and *The Property Tax Stabilization Program: A Guide for Applicants* are available at the Town Office. Specific questions regarding this program should be directed to Maine Revenue Services Property Tax Division at (207) 624-5600. ♦

Property Tax Stabilization



OOSOOLA DAYS SEPTEMBER 4-5

This 49th annual community celebration is fun for all ages!
Plan to join us at Central Maine
Regional Airport and Oosoola Park.
Full details inside!



Senior Heating Fuel Grants Available

Made possible through United Way of Eastern Maine

Do you know of a Norridgewock senior citizen that could use a little financial help? Are you a senior that could use a little help yourself? If so, this may be for you! The Town of Norridgewock successfully received a grant to support heating assistance for community members. With fuel prices at all-time highs, every little bit helps.

Grants of \$100-200 will be made to approved seniors before Fall 2022 and will be paid as a credit on the heating fuel account. A very quick application at the Town Office needs to be filled out to be considered for the grant. The application deadline is September 30.

This grant opportunity was made possible with the support of the United Way of Eastern Maine and its Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Town Office at 634-2252 or by email to townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com. ♦

Wentworth Wins In Three-Way Race

Garners 152 votes to fill vacant seat on Select Board

After the March Town Meeting, the Select Board was left with one vacant seat when the successful write-in candidate declined the nomination. After a thorough review of State Statute and consideration given to the work ahead for the Board, the Select Board decided to hold a special election on June 14 to complete its membership.

Three candidates vied for the seat: John Ames, Ronnie Blodgett, and Dylan Wentworth. 274 voters cast ballots in the local election; Wentworth topped the race with 99 votes, closely followed by Blodgett with 93, while Ames earned 46 votes. 36 voters either left the ballot blank or wrote in a different candidate.

Dylan comes to the Board having served a previous term on the Budget Committee. A graduate of Maine Maritime Academy, he has professional experience in engineering, small business management, agriculture, and as a restaurateur. The former owner of Wentworth's Country Diner, Wentworth now focuses on his business at NorridgeStock Farm. Dylan, his wife Emily, and two children live on Waterville Road. ♦



SENIOR CITIZEN HEATING FUEL ASSISTANCE

FIRE SAFETY DAY

with Norridgewock Fire
at the Library

Saturday, August 6
10:00 am to Noon

Come and learn about
firefighting, while getting to
see the equipment and trucks!



VOLUNTEER WANTED

There is a vacancy on the
Planning Board. If you are
interested in volunteering, fill
out an application online at
www.townofnorridgewock.com
or at the Town Office.

The Planning Board usually
meets on the second Thursday
of each month.



**Tax bills will be mailed
the week of August 15**

Due date: September 20



Join us for two full days of family fun!

Sunday, September 4

Central Maine Regional Airport

Events start at 8:00 am

Monday, September 5

Parade down Main Street at 9:00 am

Events in Oosoola Park start at 10:00 am

Enjoy tons of fun activities, music, games, and food. Fun for people of all ages!

Interested in being a vendor for one or both days?

*There's no fee! Just get in touch with us and let us know what you sell. Food, crafts, anything... Maybe you're just looking to provide information about your organization. **All are welcome.** Vendors can sign up at bit.ly/3aMwnRb*

Thank you to our business partners and supporters. This amazing community event would not be possible without them!

3D Equipment
Ainslie's II
Allison Perkins for House
Brad Farrin for State Senate
Central Maine Motors
Central Maine Painting & Remodeling
Dave's Service
DMO Landscaping
DW & Sons Garage
Everett's Car Wash
Everett's Tire
Franklin Savings Bank
Hardy's Motorsports
Hight Family of Dealerships
Hilltop Upcycling
Jack Ducharme for House

Lambert's Auto Body
Lynch Landscaping
Maine Roof Solutions
Mike Wainer Plumbing & Heating
Morgan Aviation
New Balance Athletics, Inc.
Nickerson Yard Maintenance
Northeast Performance
Quimby Childcare Center
Old Mill Pub
RC Destination
Redington-Fairview General Hospital
Short Circuit Electric
Skowhegan Savings
Six Penny Jug
Waste Management

Sunday, September 4 at Central Maine Regional Airport

8:00 am. 5k and Fun Run, sponsored by **Brad Farrin for State Senate**

11:00 am. Cornhole Tournament, sponsored by the **Hight Family of Dealerships**

Monday, September 5 at Oosoola Park

11:00 am. Horseshoe Tournament, sponsored by **Nickerson Yard Maintenance**



**For more information and an ever-growing list of events,
check our event out at www.townofnorridgewock.com or on the
Facebook event: [Oosoola Days 2022](#)
*Event brochures will be available soon!***



TIF Committee Façade Program Proud to Support New Business, Renovations

There was a lot of speculation about what was happening at 66 Main Street when Alna resident Scott McIntire purchased the property in February. McIntire has a well-established track record of opening small format restaurants and pubs. Establishments he has already built include The Old Goat Pub (Richmond), The River Jack Tavern (Fairfield), and Two Cent Pub (Winslow). The idea for Norridgewock is very similar: create a welcoming space where friends and neighbors gather for delicious food and drink. The newest McIntire property will be named Six Penny Jug and is expected to open in late September.

Throughout the purchase process, Mr. McIntire worked with town officials to discuss opportunities for the building, as well as potential development incentives. The TIF Committee's Façade Improvement Program was readily available as just one economic development tool. In March, he applied for grant assistance to improve the exterior of the building. The TIF Committee met and showed resounding support for his application; the Select Board endorsed the committee's recommendation soon after that. Ultimately, the a grant for \$25,000 was approved to complete \$68,000 in exterior improvements. It has been very easy to see the improvements made to the building façade, and it is a much welcome improvement along Main Street in Norridgewock.

The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Façade Improvement Program is offered to businesses in Norridgewock and can support up to \$25,000 in assistance for exterior improvements that enhance curb appeal. Six Penny Jug is the tenth business to benefit from the facade improvement program; grants paid to date total over \$110,000. If you are interested in learning more about this program, don't hesitate to contact the Town Office or visit <https://www.townofnorridgewock.com/facade-improvement-program>. ♦



RAIL TRAIL NOT YET OPEN • Multi-use trail users are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new rail trail that will connect from Oakland to Embden. Norridgewock has approximately nine miles along the trail. **The trails remain closed as crews work to convert the former railbed— removing steel and ties, fixing bridges, replacing culverts, etc.** As further updates on the status of the trail conversion become available from the State Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Town will communicate that out to residents. Until then, we respectfully ask that riders stay off the closed trails.

Norridgewock Public Library

Library Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

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

Nina Pleasants, Librarian
40 Mercer Rd., 634-2828



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

Airport Rd.
634-2714

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

The Town Office will be closed:

September 5- Labor Day
October 10- Indigenous Peoples' Day

**Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting*



Waste Management Launches Compost Program

Pilot Program Begins Exclusively with Norridgewock Residents

You can become part of a composting solution to end food waste in Maine! How, you ask? By participating in the new program offered by Waste Management. Officials from Waste Management, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the University of Maine at Farmington have teamed up to pilot a new program to divert waste from the landfill. The program's goal is "to successfully divert food scraps and other organics from Maine's disposal facilities through the use of consolidated food scraps and other organics collection and composting program."

The first 75 people interested in this program will become part of the pilot, eventually including the entire community. **Willing participants should visit the Norridgewock Public Library at 40 Mercer Road to sign up for the program.** Participants will receive a smaller pail for in-home collection and a larger bucket for outdoor storage. When the bucket gets full, participants take it to the transfer station on Airport Road, where it is dumped in the appropriate location. The program has four main objectives: 1) To increase the total food scraps and other organics diverted from disposal facilities; 2) To increase the total number of community participants in food scraps and other organics recycling; 3) To lower total disposal costs through food scraps and other organics diversion, and; 4) To increase positive natural resource impact.

If you have questions about this program, please contact the Norridgewock Public Library at 634-2828 to be directed to the appropriate resource. ♦



Library Welcomes Back Chewonki Foundation for Bats of the World

Event to be held at Somerset Grange on September 24

The Norridgewock Public Library is pleased to announce programming, in cooperation with the Chewonki Foundation's Traveling Natural History Program. The program scheduled for September 24 at 11:00 am is *Bats of the World*. The interactive presentation will be hosted at Somerset Grange, 9 Mercer Road, Norridgewock.

Bats of the World is a program geared for children as young as kindergarten, all the way up to adults. According to the Chewonki Foundation, "Bats comprise nearly one-quarter of the world's approximately 4,000 mammal species, yet humans continue to fear and misunderstand them. Bats do so much to help us survive, but now they need our help."

The program's "engaging slideshow, and interactive demonstrations, will introduce participants to the role that bats play in ecosystems, ranging from the Maine woods to the South American rainforests, to dispel common myths" about bats. For more information about this program or other programs offered by the Norridgewock Public Library, please call 634-2828 or stop in during regular hours. ♦





NOW HIRING

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR/LABORER

Competitive starting wage, commensurate with experience.
Excellent benefits. Inquire at the Town Office.