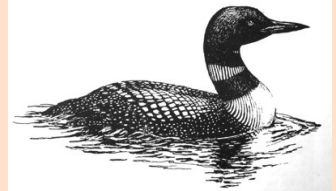


Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

September 2021 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 293-2379
Fax: 293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org
Mon 8am-6pm
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Amanda Wheeler @ 293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 293-2379
treasurer@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Wed, Fri 10-12

Select Board

selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Anna Libby @ 951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Paul Crockett @ 293-3000
paul@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant

Alice Counts @ 293-1105
Cell @ 714-403-6076
alice@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thu 6am-3pm

**Select Board Meetings are held
every other Monday at the Town
Office @ 1997 North Road**

Warrant @ 6:30 pm
Regular Town Business @ 7:00pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

Animal Control Officer

Trish Davis @ 491-0410

Cemetery Sexton

Robert Grenier @ 293-2783

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Bill Butler @ 293-2636
mtvernonceo@gmail.com
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance

Paul Crockett @ 293-2532
paul@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

Daniel K. Onion @ 293-2076

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn @ 242-5828

Tax Assessor

Roger Peppard
3rd Thursday of each month
assessor@mtvernonme.org

Transfer Station

Carole O'Connell @ 458-1425
Sat & Sun 8:30 am -Noon
**May 1st thru September 30th open
on Wednesdays from 3-6pm**

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library 293-2565

Website: drshawlibrary.org
Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

Mon 3pm-6pm,
Wed 9am-12pm & 3pm-7pm
Sat 10am-3pm

*Masks Required.
Curbside always available.
Call or email us in advance.*

Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours Retail Window

Mon-Fri 7am-10am, 11am-2pm
Sat 9am-11am

Newsletter

All articles to be submitted by 25th
of each month to

alice@mtvernonme.org

Paid Business Advertisements

- ◇ Business Card Size \$15/month
- ◇ 1/4 page \$25/month
- ◇ 1/2 page \$45/month
- ◇ Full page \$90/month

Announcement: See the next
page for details. Town hall is
closed Labor Day week due to
asbestos remediation. Sorry for
this inconvenience but due to
the emergency nature of the
issue, it is unavoidable.

Also: Reminder that the 1st half
of your property taxes are due
on September 30th.

From the Mount Vernon Select Board

Labor Day, 2021

This is just a brief note to sort of preface the news from Mac on the next page. I'll let Mac's heartfelt letter to the community stand on its own. But I want to let you know that the select board (Anna and I) will call a special town meeting or simply get along until November 2, to hold an election to fill the now-vacant select board position. It will likely be 11/2/21 as it is a lot of work for the clerk and the elections team to hold a separate special election.

Anna and I are sad to see Mac retire but we very much appreciate his steady hand and mentorship. Mac, we'll miss you!!!

Also, I wanted to share that we had a plumbing leak and resulting water damage at town hall last week that caused extensive damage to the flooring. Working with our insurance carrier we brought in a remediation company to start drying things out. But the old flooring in the lobby needs to be removed. They tested for asbestos and found it present in that old "linoleum", thus we are having that remediated. Once the subfloor is fully dry we'll have new flooring installed. The asbestos work has caused us to close town hall for the week of labor day. Unfortunately, we are closed Tuesday 9/7 through Thursday 9/9. We should be open for normal business on Monday 9/13. This evacuation also caused us to be late with the September newsletter.

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Select Board, Paul Crockett

ARE YOU 65 OR OLDER AND NEED HELP STACKING WOOD OR GETTING READY FOR WINTER OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE?

The Town of Mount Vernon's Aging in Place Committee would like to help. Contact Tom Ward at 293-1016 or tward02118@me.com.

TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

Due to the recent local surge in COVID cases and hospitalizations, the Men's Breakfast which is usually scheduled for 6:30 am Tuesday mornings at the Mount Vernon Community Center isn't happening.

When the pandemic subsides and it's safer to gather, the group plans to start back up. If you'd like join us and/or more information, you can contact Tom Ward at 293-1016 or tward02118@me.com.

August 30, 2021

Dear Select Board Members and Mt. Vernon Citizens:

There comes a time in our lives when we realize the time we have left as a living being is fleeting. If my mother were alive today, she would concur that I have been very active since the age of five months. "He can't be still a minute." The opportunities I've experienced have been fulfilling and how fortunate I've been through family, sports, teaching, and serving on the Select board in 2011 and 2012, as well as being elected to a three-year term in 2020. At some point though, many of us realize that we're on the short end of time left and we begin to ask ourselves, "What is it I need and want to do before my time runs out?"

The year 2002 brought my wife, Fran, and me to the Blake Hill Farm to continue our work and retirement. Little did we know that a year after we retired in 2004, Fran would pass away from cancer. Later in 2006, I met Marti Gross with whom I had the good fortune to share my life with until 2019, when she passed away from cancer as well. Today, I live on the farm alone and keep a small vegetable and flower garden. Each morning, I walk my mile plus of trails, with my trusting companion, Aiden, a rough coat full size Collie. What fortune has come my way to have and had such loving and trusted friends and partners in my life.

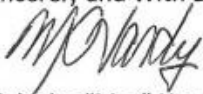
That said, it is time for me to move on to the next and likely the last chapter of my life. As some may be aware, I've survived prostate cancer, along with other aging issues. Consequently, **I am resigning my position as a member, and Chair of the Mt. Vernon Select Board effective September 2nd at 12:00 p.m.**

This is, without doubt, one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make in my lifetime because I'm not a quitter and I only hope all of you will understand why I'm doing this after only 14+ months on the job. I have some concerns and suggestions that I would like to make before I leave office.

- 1) Mt. Vernon is a wonderful place to live and work because of the vision of the citizens who realize and appreciate its rural nature thus making it a great place to live.
- 2) Many of the citizens are committed to making the town a safe and healthy place to live by getting involved with the various committees we manage, such as the town's recreation, health, and safety. As I've stated before, the volunteers are the backbone of this community without which, the town would not be as vital as it is.
- 3) Following on this note, my concern is that our lives have changed so much that getting involved is more difficult, thus fewer are able to volunteer.
- 4) Another concern is we're running a town on a 4.2-million-dollar budget, with a part time Select Board that meets approximately twice a month. Our workers receive low pay with little in the way of benefits. The increase in State and Federal Regulations makes the work more time consuming while the lack of a broad tax base makes it impossible to offer higher pay and benefits.
- 5) A suggestion I would offer is perhaps the time is here when there needs to be public hearings to discuss the hiring of a Town Manager. More regulations require someone who works daily to manage and provide oversight for our employees and their work. A part-time Select Board makes it difficult at best to meet these issues.
- 6) My final suggestion is for the younger generation. We need everyone to be involved and step into the shoes of the older citizens who have given so much to this town. You are necessary as your youth, energy, and ideas help protect and grow the town into an even more welcoming place than it already is right now.

This is a difficult, but not unique decision I now make. I am most grateful to everyone who supported my community vision to make Mt. Vernon an amazing place to live and work for nineteen wonderful years. I thank all of you for your support and wish you good fortune, good health, and peace to live in Mt. Vernon, a one of kind town, smack dab in the middle of the great State of Maine.

Sincerely and With Deep Respect,



Malcolm "Mac" Hardy—Select Board Chair

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting of 08-02-21

Board Members Present: Anna Libby, Paul Crockett, Mac Hardy (Chair)

Support Staff & Guests: Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Roger Peppard (Tax Assessor), Trish Davis (Animal Control Officer), Dan Onion (Health Officer), Lee Dunn (Road Commissioner), Col Michael Smith, Dave Burlingame (Allstate Construction), Gerard Bourassa (Pike Industries)

Online Guests via Zoom: Bill Butler (Code Enforcement)

Sign Weekly Warrant

Meeting Called to Order

SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Hardy at 7:00pm

Additions and/or Adjustments to the Agenda

Addition: Right of Way on Discontinued Road

Right of Way on Discontinued Road

Col Michael Smith Re R11 Lot 33E – Question regarding how to handle the discontinued stretch of road on Currier Hill Beginning at Fred Ingram Road, lower end of Locks Corner to the tomb. Another piece up the road is regularly plowed. It's a minor road. That section is 1800 linear feet of road. Abutters are Michael Iott, Shawn Thurston, Roger Carrabin and Col Michael Smith. The property owners own to the center of the road but is there still a public easement? Michael wants access for a driveway. If there is any part that is still a public easement, then the road needs to be accessible. Need to check if there is a private or public easement? Does he need an easement in writing? Check out Maine State Statute re discontinued road. Col Michael Smith was dismissed at 7:10pm.

Paving on Bean Road and Cottle Hill

Dave Burlingame with Allstate Construction and Gerard Bourassa with Pike Industries submitted estimates on the Paving job. Specs look the same. Estimated quantity is different. Liquid Asphalt is going up, but the budget will most likely be better than given. No culvert work to be done. Normally the town does a competitive bid, but that takes time and prices may increase. Process is to place it for bid if over \$3000. Open bids in 2 weeks. Both Dave Burlingame and Gerard Bourassa were dismissed at 7:26pm.

Lee Dunn said the prep work will be done in 2 weeks.

Alice to type up the bid request, Lee Dunn to approve, Alice to post and email to both Dave Burlingame and Gerard Bourassa.

Blake Hill and Cottle Hill Bridge Replacements Decision

Estimate is 35,230.00 instead of 200k+. The cost for the 20 ft Box Bridge crossing package is \$35,230.00 and guaranteed for 40 ton with a liability warranty. It includes all pre-cast concrete pieces, on site

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting of 08-02-21 (Continued)

pouring of concrete footings, guardrail, installation and delivery. Minimum life span of 75 year. This will be a one-car bridge.

Motion by SB Hardy to have Tallelo company install, onsite pouring of concrete, guaranteed for 75 years, 50 ton, based on estimate, 2nd by Crockett. Motion Carried Vote was 3-0. PASS.

SB Crockett asked if this same company can give us a bid for the Blake Hill Bridge. State owns this bridge so we need their approval. Lee Dunn dismissed at 7:30

Sign Tax Commitment Papers

Mil rate will be lowered from 17.5 to 17.

A vote by RSU 38 is to take place on 07-21-21 regarding new funding coming in from the state. The calculations we are paying 258,587.43/month, was lowered to 202,798.44/month, a reduction of 16,899.87/month. All four towns accept the payment schedule set up for each town. If we drop the tax rate even further there is concern it would raise even higher the following year. The town could mitigate the increase in taxes by leaving the excess in the overage fund. Mac will contact MMA to verify the higher amount can be authorized but pay the lower amount and use the excess amount deposited into the undesignated fund at next year's town meeting to lower that year's taxes.

Motion by SB Crockett to accept the tax rate calculation as modified tonight to correct the total assessment pending review by the tax assessor to keep the mil rate at 17, 2nd by SB Libby. Total assessments were increased to 4,888,001.69. Alice to contact Roger for approval and/or further changes. Select Board members need to come into the Town Office to sign the Commitment Paper.

Motion by SB Crockett to accept the Municipal Tax Commitment at Mil 16.5. A drop in Tax bill for this year. 2nd by SB Libby. Vote was 3-0. PASS

LRAP (local road assistance program – State funding for local roads)

SB Crockett Chair to sign the LRAP, 2nd by Libby Vote 3-0. Scan and send back to company. Kerry to send this signed form back.

Motion to Accept Minutes for the 07-19-2021 Minutes and Discussion/Adjustments

Correction to the meeting minutes of 07-19-21 entry "SB Crockett noted that Dana Dunn and his wife still have Computer Tablets checked out in their names and this equipment needs to be returned to town inventory. SB Hardy will call Jason Beckler" Should have stated "SB Crockett noticed the discrepancy on the Verizon Wireless bill."

Fire Chief Beckler stated that neither Dana nor his wife have these assets. SB Crockett stated the Verizon bill needs to be canceled.

Motion by SB Crockett to accept the minutes as amended. 2nd by Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mt Vernon Emergency Manager

Volunteer Responsible in leading the town during a disaster. Lee Dunn has all the paperwork and it has been kept up to date. Lee Dunn no longer wants to be the Emergency Manager. This used to be a paid position under Civil Defense. This should be considered under next year's warrant.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting of 08-02-21 (Continued)

Vote on Moving Money from Capital Improvement to Roads Account -

For one mile of paving on Bean Road and Cottle Hill Bridge.

SB Crockett stated we should move this to next meeting after we have a bid.

Special Town Meeting

Error on the warrant for Bill Butler's salary was meant to be \$32 during the 3 month probationary period and then 34.94 for the remainder of the year. The warrant picked up \$32. Kerry to figure the bottom-line number. This was the same salary that the previous CEO was receiving plus a 1.5% increase.

Safety Inspection Resolve Notice -

Sign MMA Resolve paperwork

Safety Inspections are currently in process

Alice created the following documents that are required by the State

- Supervisor's Incident Report of Injury Form

- Incident Analysis Form

- First Aid Report Form

- Workplace Hazard Reporting Form

- Employee's Report of Injury Form

- Incident Review Witness Statement

- Occupational Incident, Injury & Near Miss Management Flow Chart

- Guidelines for Committees

- Incident Flow Chart

- Mt Vernon Return to Work Policy

- Mt Vernon Lifting And Back Safety Plan

- Mt Vernon Slip Trip Fall Prevention Plan

- Office Ergonomic Safety Plan

- Personal Protective Equipment Plan

- Safety Committee Plan

- Safety Inspection Notice

- Written Incident Review Program Instructions

- Written Incident Review Program

Other Business

Mail Chimp Training. SB Crockett will meet with Alice Counts before the August Newsletter so we can fully implement this process. SB Crockett Walked Alice Counts through the process. The August Newsletter has been published.

Motion to go to Executive Session by SB Hardy, 2nd by Crockett at 7:58pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) Personnel Matters Actions/Motions as a Result of Executive Session

No Action from Executive Session

Appointments

Motion by SB Hardy to appoint Tom Arminio to the Beach committee. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Motion by SB Hardy to appoint Jonathan Railo to the Planning Board. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by SB Hardy to Adjourn, 2nd by SB Libby at 9:24pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 08-16-2021

Board Members Present: Anna Libby, Paul Crockett, Mac Hardy (Chair)

Support Staff & Guests: Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Mark Gilbert (Ch 7), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Ron Lockwood (Ch 7, Fire Department), Heather Wheeler (Town Clerk), Rachel Meader (Town Deputy Clerk), Lee Dunn (Road Commissioner), Gerard Bourassa (Pike Industries)

Sign Weekly Warrant

Meeting Called to Order

SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Hardy at 7:10pm

Additions and/or Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Meeting Minutes of 08-02-21

Motion by SB Crockett to Amend the Meeting Minutes of 08-02-21 to correct the spelling of L-Wrap to L-Rap. 2nd by Libby. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Motion by SB Crockett to Accept the Meeting Minutes of 08-02-21 as amended. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Safety Inspection Notice - Alice Counts and SB Mac Hardy have completed all Safety Inspections for the Town of Mount Vernon. Alice in the process of compiling all issues found and distribute to each of the departments and the Select Board.

MMA Property Survey of Library and Fire Department on 08-31-2021 9:00AM –

John Waterbury, MMA Loss Control Consultant has scheduled a meeting to review Safety Program and Safety Training Records.

Vote to Approve Safety Manual – Alice Counts has compiled all the MMA required processes and procedures into a Safety Manual. This was tabled until the next meeting on 08-30-21 so the Selectmen have an opportunity to review the document in depth.

Land Use Ordinances for the Town of Mount Vernon – Alice Counts has begun the process of reformatting these ordinances into more manageable sections. SB Crockett has provided Alice Counts with the following updates:

2021_Proposed Amendments to LUO re State Shoreland Requirements

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance 06 04 2020

Amendment to Definition of Driveway

Holding Tank Ordinance 06 04 2020

Warrant Articles for Proposed Amendments to LUO

Vote on Bid for Tarring of Bean Road – Received two bids. 1) Pike Industries bid was received 6:35pm 08-16-21 with a bid of \$142,768.80. 74.10/ton; 2) Allstate bid was \$153,115.60. \$80/ton.

- Motion by SB Crockett to accept Pike Industries bid of \$142,768.80. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 08-16-2021 (Continued)

Vote on Blake Hill Bridge Repair –

SB Crockett asked if Dirigo Engineering can give us a bid for the Blake Hill Bridge similar to what they are doing for Cottle Hill Bridge.

SB Hardy suggested if Dirigo Engineering bid is less than what our 40% of the bridge replacement cost proposed by the state, perhaps the Town of Mount Vernon would pick up the cost if the state would turn over bridge to the Town of Mount Vernon.

SB Crockett suggested that we do as SB Hardy suggested but we still ask for the state to pay half. State owns this bridge so we need their approval. There are a lot of Grant opportunities to look at. Lee Dunn dismissed at 7:30

Lee Dunn will discuss idea with Dirigo Engineering and ask for a quote to present to the state if the cost is reasonable.

Vote on Moving Money from Capital Improvement to Roads Account -

For one mile of paving on Bean Road and Cottle Hill Bridge.

Motion by SB Crockett to move the money when needed to make it available for this purpose. 2nd by SB Libby.

Motion Carried. Vote was 3-0. PASS

Estimates for Hazard Tree at Smith Cemetery on Spring Hill Road – received two estimates so far, with one verbal and one written. SB Crockett wants to see both written and provided the name of a third Tree Service Company to contact.

Goucher Tree Service written estimate

All Seasons Tree Service verbal estimate

Deep Root Tree Service in Farmington – Alice Counts to contact Mark at 207-778-1670 for estimate

Tabled until next SB meeting on 08-30-21

Digital Talking Sign – Fire Department has been offered a Color Digital Talking Sign and would like to accept the offer. The only cost to the town would be the minimal electric usage. This sign has a 3 foot by 5 foot full color display and is a great way for the Fire and Rescue Department to display public service messages.

SB Hardy asked if there is a demonstration from the manufacturer. Ron Lockwood, Fire Department, said they showed a mock-up of what the sign would look like. Ron to check with Jason, Fire Chief, about getting a demo.

Tabled waiting for more information.

Other Business

Computer and Printer Issues – Is there a warranty on the Admin Laptop? SB Crockett checked his records to discover the Admin laptop was purchased less than a year ago.

ARPA Funds available to municipalities (Can we validate that \$170,000 is slated for Mt Vernon). This will be discussed at the next SB Meeting. The SB is authorized to spend for the intended purpose.

Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGR) – SB Crockett suggested the possibility of being able to apply for the Grant which has to be submitted by September 15, 2021. SB Crockett said he would look into this further and report back at the next SB meeting on 08-30-21. The Town of Mount Vernon is only allowed one (1) submission per year.

Mil Rate Survey for FY 2020-2021. Mil Rate for Mount Vernon is reduced to 16.5 from 17.5. Appraisals may cause property values to go up which would increase property taxes.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 08-16-2021 (Continued)

Discontinued Roads – SB Crockett stated Code Enforcement needs to go to the site. The resident has put up a locked gate. Discontinued Roads need to allow for access and there cannot be locked gates. Public has a right to use the right of way. SB Crockett mentioned that there is a dilapidated Snowmobile bridge that would be a liability if this is a public easement.

Complaints

12 citizens have complained about the Electric Sign in front of the Town Office. All would like to see it removed. One suggested we give it away or sell it to someone outside our town. Blind Corner coming out of Seavey Corner onto 41. Homeowner refuses to trim bushes. Complainant almost hit a motorcyclist yesterday. Resident should contact DOT for help. This is a State maintained Road which Lee Dunn is not allowed to work on State highways or Roads.

Fireworks – SB Hardy stated we need a fireworks ordinance. There were reports of Fireworks being set off at 3am. There is a state law noise ordinance during certain hours. Residents have to call the Sheriff. The Town needs to look at good faith.

MMA Data Verification

Posted Information about Alcohol and Substance Abuse to satisfy one last category in order to qualify for a 10% discount on Workers' Comp insurance.

Safety Inspections have been completed. Results are in process.

Safety Committee has been formed and meets quarterly. We have held our first meeting and voted on officers.

Mac Hardy is the Town Safety Manager, June Cauldwell is the Chairman of the Safety Committee.

Alice combined the following documents into a Safety Manual. These are required by the State

Supervisor's Incident Report of Injury Form

Incident Analysis Form

First Aid Report Form

Workplace Hazard Reporting Form

Employee's Report of Injury Form

Incident Review Witness Statement

Occupational Incident, Injury & Near Miss Management Flow Chart

Guidelines for Committees

Incident Flow Chart

Mt Vernon Return to Work Policy

Mt Vernon Lifting And Back Safety Plan

Mt Vernon Slip Trip Fall Prevention Plan

Office Ergonomic Safety Plan

Personal Protective Equipment Plan

Safety Committee Plan

Safety Inspection Notice

Written Incident Review Program Instructions

Written Incident Review Program

Motion by SB Hardy to go to Executive Session by, 2nd by Crockett at 7:58pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0.

PASS

Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) Personnel Matters

Actions/Motions as a Result of Executive Session

Motion by SB Libby to abate the dwelling and 2 acres, 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried. Vote was 2-0.

PASS

Need to check with Roger Peppard, Tax Assessor to find out the value of the 2 acres.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by SB Hardy to Adjourn, 2nd by SB Libby at 9:24pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Covid, Covid, Covid

September, 2021

Dan Onion, MD, MPH

Mt. Vernon/Vienna/Fayette Health Officer

293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com

This piece is short but seriously important. The new Delta variant of the virus is sweeping the world, including Maine right now; despite Maine being among the states with fewest infections per population now, that's not saying much. The CDC weekly categorizes counties with definitions of low, moderate, high, and very high case rates, but those designations switch around weekly and are not terribly useful for deciding how you behave. **You (everybody) must get vaccinated, and now all the time both distance yourself and wear masks indoors**, especially stores, when out and about, away from your home or with non-family people. All three available vaccines offer significant protection against this variant; they greatly reduce the incidence of severe disease and/or transmission to others at extremely low risk to you.

Maine hospitals are about to be overwhelmed. 70+% of hospitalized patients are among the unvaccinated: children under 12 and those who up to now have hesitated. The Maine case number, hospitalization rates, and numbers of people in the intensive care units and on respirators have all doubled or more, some have gone up by a factor of 10, just from early July. The Pfizer vaccine is now fully approved by the Federal Drug Administration, based on impressive medical studies; the other two will shortly get the same approval. Children under 12 probably won't be approved to get them until the late fall, so it falls on the adults to act responsibly, if they possibly can.

With so many sick in the world and spreading the virus, new variants even worse than the delta may arise requiring boosters with new elements over this next year. Please be open to getting those boosters as they become available. This like the flu, only 100s of times worse in its infectivity and severity. This is an immediate risk to all of us this coming year, even more urgent than climate change with all the threat that presents to world with fires, water shortages and floods. This could qualify as Armageddon soon without all of us getting on board to prevent such a mess!

We are looking for a few volunteers for the following Committees/Boards. If any of these you're your interest, please contact Alice Counts at Alice@mtVernonME.org or 714-403-6076 (Cell), 207-293-1105 (Work).

Athletic Committee is looking for the following: **Soccer Commissioner, Baseball Commissioner, Softball Commissioner**—these volunteer positions help the Athletic Director plan the seasons and coordinate with other towns. The kids are depending on us all. :-)

Other volunteers are needed to help collect registrations, plan volunteer days to clean up the fields and help get student referees for the games.

Broadband Committee: Please help us:

- Find the best broadband solution for all of Mt. Vernon
- Attend committee meetings, usually once or twice per month.
- Undertake tasks to help the committee communicate findings and alternatives to the town

Budget Committee: We will have openings for the next budget year. We do most of the budget work in the winter, in support of the next town meeting warrant. This committee serves in an advisory capacity to the select board. Our task is to explore thoughts and ideas that may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of town operations

Emergency Manager

Maine's Local Emergency Management Directors coordinate local response and recovery when more than one department is responding to a community emergency. This is usually accomplished in two ways: through the development of local disaster plans and mutual aid agreements and the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center. The local director does not replace or direct the police, fire, ambulance, or American Red Cross; he or she helps them work together in an emergency.

MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CORP.



WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS ON THE ROADS ENTERING THE VILLAGE?

They're called delineators and are there to remind people to slow down to 25 miles per hour when driving through the village. In June of 2020 the Mount Vernon Aging Committee and the Community Partnership organized a meeting with the DOT in the village to discuss the safety of pedestrians. Prior to the meeting the Aging Committee had provided a survey for people asking what concerns they had, and walking in the village was considered unsafe by many of the respondents to the survey. Several townspeople attended the meeting and walked Pond Road in the village with the DOT and Bicycle Coalition of Maine representatives, the organization that works with the DOT on pedestrian safety. It was obvious to both the DOT and Coalition that several cars went too fast as they traveled through the village. This meeting resulted in the Coalition offering to put delineators on the roads that entered the village. A total of ten were installed in early August 2021. **The delineators will be put in every spring and removed in November before the snow comes. There is NO cost to the Town of Mount Vernon for this service.**

People have commented that they notice the delineators and slow down – at first because they don't know what they are and eventually as they drive through town, they remember to slow down in the village. That's the idea! The Community Partnership will be sending out a survey in the future to ask people in Mount Vernon what they think.

Food Bank News

Now that warmer weather is upon us, First Baptist Food Bank invites customers into the Food Bank for shopping. There will be some restrictions; only 2 customers (one per household) inside at a time, masks must be worn inside and there will be hand sanitizer at the door. We will be ensuring that there is adequate ventilation for customer safety.

Our farm share from Farmer Kev has started so there is an abundance of great fresh produce available each week.

Weather permitting, we will have clothing and personal care items displayed outside should it be necessary for customers to wait before entering the Food Bank.

We will continue to offer pre-packed boxes of shelf stable items and bags of fresh produce, baked items and toiletries for anyone who prefers.

Submitted by Mary Anne Libby

“Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”

Carl Sagan

A few reminders:

Remember to always wear a mask when you are in the library. We have some on the front desk, if you forgot your mask at home. We are all trying to be responsible, and our patrons are receptive and glad to help by wearing masks! Thank you!

We switched email addresses a month ago. Our email is now: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

We also have our website, where we post information on programs or changing health protocols, some new book reviews now and then. You can take a look at <https://drshawlibrary.org/> And most current information (especially when the weather gets bad and we might need to close), as well as links to some fun videos or websites, is posted on our Facebook page. Just search for Dr. Shaw Memorial Library, and hit “like”.

We have an ongoing book sale in the Dolloff room up the back stairs. There are shelves full of fiction and non-fiction, as well as some children’s materials. Lots of treasures! Come check it out! Hard cover and trade paperbacks are \$1.00, and mass market paperbacks are 50 cents.

Summer Reading: Our summer reading activities have come to a close. If your child signed up for summer reading & has completed their reading log, come & get a Gifford’s ice cream gift certificate – an ice cream treat is a nice way to end the summer! We ended our activities with a fabulous evening Bat Program and Walk, attended by folks of all ages. Thank you, Shevenell Webb, for your presentation (she is so knowledgeable about bats!). And of course, thank you to the parents who always are there to help us set up and take down our supplies and tables and chairs for each program.

Our **next adult program** is all about **Advance Directives, held on Wednesday, September 15 at 4:00pm, at the Mt. Vernon Community Center**. It will be given by Mt. Vernon’s Jackie Fournier. Jackie gave this same talk for us a few years ago. It was well-attended and she gave us so much useful information. She is a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner from Androscoggin Home Health Care & Hospice, and provides consultation for people with serious chronic illness. Her work focuses on quality of life, including goals of care, management of symptoms, clarification of medical information, and collaboration with both the family and their primary care provider. Advance Directives are helpful documents to keep on hand. Jackie’s explanation of this document and how to complete it is so understandable and accessible. If you plan on attending, **we require that you wear a mask** (and we will try to keep doors open, for ventilation), and **we ask that you pre-register** with us, either by phone (293-2565) or email (librarian@drshawlibrary.org). **Give us your phone number**, so we know how many people will be in attendance, and we can call you if plans need to change in accordance with any new public health protocols. This will be a helpful program for elders and all those who are making plans for their medical care into the future.

Every once in a while it is fun to run a report on what our most popular titles are over a period of time – and it might give you some ideas for what to read next!

Popular adult fiction for this summer:

[One Last Lie](#), and [Dead By Dawn](#), both by Maine author Paul Doiron

[Klara and the Sun](#), by Ishiguro

Paradise Valley, by CJ Box

Sooley, by John Grisham

The Love Story of Missy Carmichael, by Beth Morrey

Leave the World Behind, by Alam Rumaan

The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah

A few adult nonfiction titles:

Mill Town: Reckoning With What Remains, by Maine author Kerri Arsenault

The Little Book of Cottagecore: Traditional Skills for a Simpler Life, by Emily Kent

Downeast: Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America, by Gigi Georges

Chickens, Gin, and a Maine Friendship: the Correspondence of E.B. White and Edmund Ware Smith, (Maine author E.B. White)

Children's books:

My Friend Earth, by Patricia MacLachlan (she is such a great author)

Puff, the Magic Dragon (book and CD)

The Big Book of Beasts, by Yuval Zommer (the Big Books series is so popular)

Memory Jars, by Vera Brosgol (beautiful illustrations, and a nice idea for a new family tradition)

The Big Book of the Blue, by Yuval Zommer

All Along the River, by Magnus Weightman (great story and illustrations)

Okay I'll stop now. Meanwhile, I have been reading some of Louise Erdrich's books, she is a fine writer, and just finished Isabel Allende's Zorro. Both of these authors build beautiful stories over time, and their characters are nuanced and complex. What are you reading after canning tomatoes and while you keep an eye on the or-



A little filler content from my family archives - 1890 in downtown Mount Vernon. That store, of course, burned to the ground many years later. On the left you can see the old hotel.

You can't really see it in this picture, but we had wooden sidewalks "back in the day" :-)

~paul

ATTENTION

Neighbors Driving Neighbors



- ◆ Are you looking for a ride to get your vaccine?
- ◆ Are you fully vaccinated and need a ride to the doctor or grocery store?
- ◆ Do you need food delivered to you from the food pantry?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, Neighbors Driving Neighbors is here for you! If you live in Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Belgrade, Vienna or Rome, please give us a call for **FREE**, confidential and safe transportation.

(207) 860-0677

We are looking for Local Artists who would like to show off their talent by displaying their art work in the Mount Vernon Town Office Lobby. We will rotate the artwork on a schedule to be determined. Please see Heather, Rachel or Alice at the Mount Vernon Town Office.

We are also looking for an Emergency Manager for Mount Vernon. This is a volunteer position and the applicant would be responsible for coordinating all aspects dealing with any natural disaster. Please contact Alice@MtVernonME.org or 207-293-1105 if you are interested.

We work for the Residents of Mount Vernon, and as such, we are interested in how we can better Serve you. Please contact Alice at the Mount Vernon Town office with any suggestions, improvements and/or complaints. You may remain anonymous if you so choose.