

Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

February 2023 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 207-293-2379
Fax: 207-293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org
Mon 8am-6pm
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 207-293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Rachel Meader @ 207-293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 207-293-1103
treasurer@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Wed 10-12

Select Board

selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Anna Libby @ 207-951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Robert Grenier @ 207-293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

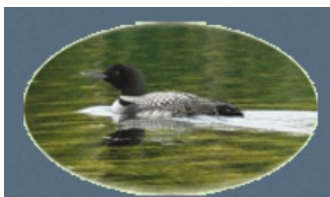
Carl Rogers @ 207-200-8058
carl@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant

Tina Cagle @ 207-293-1105
tina@mtvernonme.org

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

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



TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

Animal Control Officer

Eric Johnson 207-931-7684
dogs, cats and other domesti-
cated animals only.

Cemetery Sexton

Bob Grenier @ 207-293-2783
bob@mtvernonme.org

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Bill Butler Work: @ 207-293-2636
Cell: 207-446-6541
CEO@mtvernonme.org
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 207-293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance

Anna Libby @ 207-951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

Rachel Criswell, MD

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 207-293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn @ 207-242-5828

Tax Assessor

Roger Peppard @ 207-293-1105
3rd Thursday of each month
Call Town Office for Appointment
assessor@mtvernonme.org

Transfer Station

Megan Goucher @ 207-213-3523
Sat & Sun 8:30 am - Noon

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

207-293-2565
Website: drshawlibrary.org
Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

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

*Masks appreciated.
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:**

newsletter@mtvernonme.org

Paid Business Advertisements

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

Select Board Meetings are now live streamed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live)

Important Announcements :

**For Saturday February 4th, due to the extreme
cold weather, the transfer station will be closed.**

See you Sunday :-)

Also the Community Café is cancelled 2/4/23

From the Select Board

Hello to our friends and neighbors,

We hope you're all well and enjoying the winter weather. It's nice to get outside and enjoy the beauty of our home in every season. The winter weather also means there is lots of work to be done by Lee Dunn, our Road Commissioner, and the crew. Thank you to them for all they've been doing to keep the roads clear and safe. It's a big job and we appreciate their work!

Other town departments and buildings are busy as well. Work continues to make some shifts at the transfer station and the Community Center to improve the buildings and ensure they are safe places to be. The Selectboard is also looking at bids for generators at both the community center and the town office.

Various town committees are also hard at work. The Ordinance Review committee has begun work to update our ordinances to be in accordance with new State laws. As Carl wrote last month, the Governance committee is also researching the possibility of a town manager (this will be a multi year process and discussion). The budget committee will also be meeting soon to work on the budget for the coming fiscal year.

Other committees and groups in town continue to provide other programming and services to the town. Check out their columns and updates to learn more about their programs - for example, did you know the library helps to provide assistance with taxes, and that the Community Center is hosting a "Cabin Fever Reliever" day on February 18th (with support from the Fire Department and Neighbors Driving Neighbors)?

Thanks to everyone who works so hard to make our town a great place to live!

See you around town,

Anna and the Selectboard

Did you know....?

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry maintains a website where you can book State park campground reservations and NOW is the time to do so.

The Maine Bureau of State Parks and Lands' reservations system and call center opens for **Sebago Lake State Park and Lily Bay State Park campground reservations only on Wednesday, February 1, at 9:00 a.m.** (storm date February 2 if State Government is forced to close), and for **all other state park campgrounds on Monday, February 6, at 9:00 a.m.** (storm date February 7 if State Government is forced to close).

Although fees do vary between campgrounds and depend on location, state residency and the need for water and electric hookups, we are happy to announce there will be ***no new fee increases for the 2023 season***! As always, our friendly and helpful reservation staff will be happy to assist with your questions or concerns as you plan your 2021 Maine state park camping adventure.

FMI: [Click here](#)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK**

The First Baptist Church Mount Vernon Food Bank serves the communities of Mount Vernon, Vienna, Readfield and Fayette. We are located at the First Baptist Church on 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141. Our hours are from 9:30 to 11:30 Saturday mornings.

We offer full pantry items, eggs, meats, meals and toiletry items on the first and third Saturdays of the month; however, customers may come in every Saturday for fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, pastry items and deli items.

If you are a new customer, you may come in any Saturday and we will provide you with enough food to get by until your next scheduled visit.

We also have a small supply of clothing and miscellaneous items.

If it is snowing or freezing rain on a Saturday, we will attempt to open the food bank if volunteers are able to get there safely. In these conditions, we suggest that you call before leaving home.



**Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation,
Inc. (CPC)**

**DO YOU LIVE IN MOUNT VERNON AND NEED
FUEL ASSISTANCE?**

The Community Partnership has a fund that **may** be able to help. Do the following first:

- Contact Anna Libby, General Assistance Manager for the Mount Vernon Select Board, at 293-2532. Make an appointment to meet with her and apply for town assistance. She'll determine if the town can help or she'll contact the CPC and request our help.
- If you qualify to get food at the Food Bank, when you go there to get your weekly food, let them know you need fuel assistance. They will contact the CPC.

February Dates to Remember:

- **Community Center Café—1st Saturday of the month (cancelled due to the cold for 2/4/23)**
- **02-01-23—Community Center Board meeting at 6:00 PM**
- **2-01-23—Ordinance review committee at the library at 6:30 PM**
- **02-09-23 —Governance committee , 6:30 at the library**
- **02-13-23— Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**
- **2-15-23—Ordinance review committee at the library at 6:30 PM**
- **02-21-23 — Planning Board at the library. 6:30 PM**
- **02-27-23— Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00PM**

If you have a meeting you want to post, please Email newsletter@mtvernonme.org

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2022

Attending: Select Board: Bob Grenier (Chair), Anna Libby, Carl Rogers

Kerry Casey (Staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01

A motion was made to accept the amended meeting minutes from December 05, 2022. Approved 3-0

Committee – Aging in place

The Aging in Place Committee recommends that Amy Blasdale be accepted as the social worker hire.

The Selectboard motioned that Amy Blasdale be accepted as the social worker. Accepted 3-0

Bob contacted Amanda Meader about becoming the town attorney. A meeting will be scheduled to talk with Amanda in the new year.

Bob indicated an MMA course is available - 30A focusing on laws municipal officers need to be aware of surrounding elections.

Transfer station – several corrective actions in progress

Braces were added to the transfer station shed roof to reinforce the rafters

New gates are expected to be put in this year

Tire bumps were moved away from the dumpster but can't move more than 1-2 feet without making it impossible for trucks/trailers to dump into the dumpster and Lee needs to be able to crush the material in the dumpster when it gets filled

Funds are available for a charging station in town – need to evaluate whether this is something we should consider.

Website training for Bob and Anna were discussed.

Public hearing was opened at 7:10 for adopting the General Assistance Ordinance updates.

Anna indicated the State of Maine periodically updates GA ordinances including updates to the language and assistance amounts pursuant to 4305(1).

The updated ordinance replaces all previous versions

The updated ordinance is to be made available for public review

If adopted, we are to submit the signed statement to DHS

Anna moved we accept the new GA ordinance – Accepted 3-0

A motion was made end the public hearing on GA ordinances at 7:12

Transfer station shed

cost – noted as \$2250 plus a donation.

Prior discussion about using existing shed that Lee is using and subsequent investigation: Bob noted that shed is quite full and will not likely withstand another move

Current shed used by George is not in good shape. Bob expects Lynn to say the shed is not usable.

Bob will talk with Lee and Sid about cost to move the new shed

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:23 – Accepted 3-0

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2023

Attending: Select Board: Bob Grenier (Chair), Anna Libby, Carl Rogers

Staff: Kerry Casey

Guests: Doug Stevens, Wendy Stevens, Ron LaRue, Nancy LaRue, and Barbara Skapa

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from December 19. Approved 3-0

Limit mowing in May – Barbara Skapa

Barb advocated leaving lots owned by the town unmowed during the month of May to allow pollinators to have access to the natural habitat that would emerge if green spaces were not mowed.

Recommended a program about greening

Pollinators are key to the ecology and May in this area is high season for pollinator activity

Asked that the town replace the plants and flowers that previously lined the walkway to the town office

Violets and milkweed, in particular, are needed for monarch butterflies to thrive.

Barb advocated beautification around the town.

Bob indicated Charlie starts clearing town cemeteries of winter debris right after the snow melts and begins mowing the 1st of May.

Barb to get together with Charlie to see when the last time he saw honey bees was.

Would like to see “no-mow” Mays and that mower decks be raised to give grass and other plants more time to flower.

Bob indicated cemeteries need to be mowed by Memorial Day.

Barb expressed concern about the loons not having successful chicks for the past 2 years. She felt this could be a function of the additional pressure from more houses on the lake and dogs associated with those houses.

Transfer Station Update

Shed replacement – can’t find someone to haul the shed from the technical school to Mount Vernon.

There is now discussion about building a new shed on site by volunteers.

Bob did not feel the old shed near the gravel and sand area was suitable. It was 2/3 to ¾ full of Lee’s signs and the shed probably would not survive another move.

Generators for the Community Center and the Town Office – still waiting for a 3rd bid.

Budget – Bob recommended we start working on the town budget by early February.

Junk Yard Ordinance – junk yard owners need a waiver from any abutting owner that can see the junkyard graveyard.

MMA indicated the waivers need to be obtained every year. If an abutter doesn’t sign the waiver, the Selectboard may have authority to grant the permit.

Selectboard Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2023 , Continued

- ◆ Issue on Bean Rd where a resident was threatened

Accident in town – Volunteer Insurance

A volunteer was hurt working in one of the town buildings. No volunteer accident insurance was in place.

The cost for volunteer insurance is \$2.00 per person. This is not pro-rated.

Need to keep a list of volunteers

MMA to talk with the injured person. Bob noted MMA should have already reached out to the individual injured to get details of the accident.

Committees will need to keep accurate lists of committee members. Blanket coverage versus named coverage.

Anna made a motion to complete the paperwork for accident insurance for volunteers –
Approved 3-0.

Other business –

Bob wants to come up with names for the Spirit of America award, due within 2 months.

Quarterly tax review

Towns are required to look at ¼ of parcels quarterly

Can increase the value of each parcel during the review

Assessments reviews are:

a way to look for things that got missed during a permitting process.

Pays for itself and fulfills state requirement.

Full town re-evaluation – do every 10 years.

Anna to reach out to DOT to get the Blake Hill bridge work scheduled.

The town has the money for the project

We want to get on the DOT schedule this year (even though the work won't be done until 2024).

Motion to adjourn at 7:43 – Approved 3-0.

Mount Vernon Selectboard Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2023

Attending: Select Board: Bob Grenier (Chair), Carl Rogers

Staff: Kerry Casey

Guests: Doug Stevens, Wendy Stevens, Ron LaRue, Nancy LaRue

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM

A motion was made by Bob to accept the meeting minutes from the January 1, 2023 meeting. Approved 2-0.

Lawn Mowing & Pollinators -

Per our last SB meeting when Barb Skapa requested that mowing be reduced in May to allow for pollinators to have more flowering food supplies, Bob checked the mowing schedule from last year.

Bob stated that all town lots were mowed at least 2 times by Memorial day. This included 14 cemetery lots, the town office, memorial, library and ballfield lots.

It was noted that the cemetery lots have veterans and need to be mowed by Memorial Day.

Selectboard Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2023 , Continued

It was suggested that an article be drafted for release in the town newsletter adopting a perspective aimed at increasing wild flowers and reducing mowing, especially in May. Creating gardens at the town office, library, memorial and west mount Vernon was discussed. This would need to be developed by volunteers. Residents of Mount Vernon could also be asked to refrain from mowing in May.

Transfer Station Updates

A resident offered to provide structural wood to build a new shed at the transfer station. Other residents would assist in building the structure.

Bob noted the transfer station has not been taking used LP tanks but that they found one inside a plastic bag in the metals dumpster. It was noted that Tim's RV in Chelsea will take old LP tanks. Other places will take the tanks if the valve is taken off the tank prior to dropping them off.

Tasks updates:

Trading shed needed hangers attached to support the roof trusses properly – completed
Chains to be replaced with gates – need gates installed. Should be done soon
Move bumpers – completed.

KVCOG – Rejoin?

Mount Vernon was previously in the KVCOG but dropped out a few years back, given the new mandate regarding more condensed housing, LD2003, the Ordinance committee needs advice from KVCOG to update our ordinances.

Bob noted the state is not giving any help in updating ordinances

It was also noted that KVCOG will help towns to write grants which could help cover the cost of dues to join.

The cost to join KVCOG is \$1600.00 which is pro-rated for this year.

Special Town Meeting Needed

The authorization to join KVCOG would be brought up during a special town meeting in March.

Another reason for the special meeting is to appropriate funds needed for the repair of fire truck #53

Generators –

2 bids received. Looking for 1 more bid. Bob has the name of another company and will meet with them on Wednesday 1/18 to review requirements.

Budget – get reports ready

Kickoff with a joint meeting with the budget committee
Lucas is planning to call a meeting.

Auto Graveyards –

Bob talked with Bill Butler – will write a letter to Lucas stating she is not an auto graveyard and doesn't have to recertify going forward.

The other 3 auto junkyards will need to obtain a waiver from neighbors. The town will not write the waiver letter. The applicant will need to write the waiver letter and have it signed off by abutters who can see the junkyard.

Beginning next year, the selectboard will go with the CEO on the site visit. This should address the issue effectively.

Selectboard Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2023 , Continued (2)

Swim program –

Bob talked to a person who wants to be a swim instructor. We will need that person to be trained by the Red Cross

We need to run an AD for someone to run the swim program

We will pay the swim instructor through the YMCA

Looking for someone to run the Athletic Department and beach program.

Gerhard headed up beach committee, Heidi was head of the athletic committee.

Community Center stairs to the basement

MMA's risk pool to look at the stairs going to the community center basement to provide advice about what we should do.

No Blake Hill bridge update since Anna is out

Zoom and Youtube meeting concluded at 7:40

Move into Executive Session per MSRA 405(6)A at 7:48

Executive session ended at 7:50 – Moved that we hire Tina Cagel for the administrative assistant role for a 6 month period.

SB meeting adjourned at 7:50

Mount Vernon/ Vienna Giving Tree Covid-19 Year Three 2022

When Santa and his Elves began thinking about this year's Giving Tree, they realized that because of the continuation of Covid-19, things still weren't going to be the same as in the pre-Covid years. They wanted families to receive help at Christmas, but the usual "take a tag, buy a gift, drop it off" still wasn't going to work.

The idea of buying gift cards began to take shape last year and we weighed the pros and cons of doing it that way again. So, as you know, we asked for money donations rather than gifts. Oh, my goodness, and did the donations pour in! It was truly remarkable how many of you contributed!

We were able to help 24 families and 56 children with Visa gift cards for each child. Parents were able to buy Christmas gifts for their kids that they knew they wanted. We know many of you missed going shopping, but this was the safest way for everyone. For those who preferred shopping, there was the Cheerful Gift option and we received a record 40 Cheerful gifts!

This was an amazing, combined Mt. Vernon-Vienna effort and the Cheerful Gifts were delivered by Neighbors Driving Neighbors. The drivers spread the cheer and the recipients basked in the warmth of having been remembered. Everyone had a wonderful time!

Thank you all for your generosity! It couldn't have happened without you.

With much love, gratitude, and cheer.

Santa and his Elves.



Mount Vernon Broadband Committee Update

February 2023

At its first meeting of 2023, your Broadband Committee renewed its commitment to bringing the benefits of high-quality, affordable broadband to everyone in Mount Vernon. This update focuses on two key elements of that commitment: 1) making using broadband easier and 2) improving broadband infrastructure.

Closing the Digital Divide

The goal of the [Mount Vernon Digital Equity and Digital Inclusion \(DEDI\) Plan](#) is to narrow the digital divide by reducing barriers and making it easier to use broadband in town. The DEDI subcommittee has been seeking out other organizations in town who share this interest. These currently include the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library, the Mt. Vernon Aging in Place Committee and Neighbors Driving Neighbors.

Consistent with the long-range goals of the DEDI Plan the DEDI subcommittee is collaborating with the Library to redevelop a volunteer Tech Support service. The demonstration pilot project will seek out volunteers and town members to try out the service. If successful, the project may serve as a basis for future grant applications to sustain it. The concept was based on similar projects currently supported by the National Digital Equity Center and others in Maine. Examples of support services include:

- a. Assistance enrolling in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program
- b. Procurement of free or low-cost computers, tablets or smart-phones
- c. Instruction on safely sending and receiving e-mails
- d. Instruction on conducting video and voice dialogues with friends and family, e.g., FaceTime, Zoom
- e. Instruction on safely searching on the internet

If you might be interested in these or other services, please send comments to the Broadband Committee via email to mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com or drop them off at the Town Office addressed to "Broadband Committee."

Improving Broadband Infrastructure

"Provision of 100% access to state-of-the-art fiber to the home technology is no longer a luxury – it's a necessity..."

Diane MacGregor, Technology
Director
RSU 38/ Maranacook Area Schools

As a result of the November 8 election, the Committee recommended deferring submission of a proposal for grant funding to the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) by its November 9 deadline. Rather, the Committee is studying the grants (including Vienna's) approved by the MCA Board at its January 20 meeting and listed on [MCA website](#) to determine potential technology and financial paths forward.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors



**CONTACT: Joe Austin, Executive Director,
NDN**

TEL: 207-860-0677

E-MAIL: jaustin.ndn@gmail.com

Neighbors Driving Neighbors Expanding to Readfield

MT. VERNON, ME (January 19, 2023) – Neighbors Driving Neighbors will soon provide free transportation to residents of Readfield who don't drive. In announcing this expansion of NDN's service area, Harald Bredesen, NDN's President, said, "Readfield and we have had each other in our sights for over a year and are thrilled that this collaboration is now being realized." Readfield Town Manager Eric Dyer echoed Bredesen, noting, "We've been admiring the value NDN delivers to its service-area communities and look forward to a successful launch over the next several months. This is an important piece of the puzzle for communities like ours with close proximity to service centers but limited transportation options."

A working group made up of representatives of NDN and Readfield is now recruiting an initial group of drivers and riders with a plan to initiate service provision in the Spring. "We'll be scheduling training sessions for prospective drivers and conducting intake interviews of residents who are looking for rides," said Joe Austin, NDN's Executive Director.

Bredesen added that NDN volunteer drivers have now driven more than 100,000 miles to help over 180 different riders get to where they need to go. "The heart of NDN is the volunteer driver. It is that community spirit that makes NDN possible and that makes Readfield a natural next step. What better way to mark the 100,000th mile than to invite the neighbors."

About Neighbors Driving Neighbors: NDN is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 to enrich participating communities by matching volunteer drivers with those who do not drive. NDN's current service area comprises Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Rome, and Vienna, and 40 volunteer drivers provide rides to 58 registered riders. For more information including FAQs, visit neighborsdrivingneighbors.org.



**KEEP A MOUNT
VERNON
FAMILY WARM
THIS WINTER**

**DONATE TO THE
MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP'S
FUEL ASSISTANCE FUND**

**TAX
DEDUCTIBLE**

**AND A
REALLY NICE
THING TO DO**

You may send your checks to the Community Partnership (made out to MVCPC) and mail them to Sandy Wright, 1664 North Road.

We work with the Board of Selectmen's General Assistance Manager and the Food Bank* to help people who need fuel or firewood.

(*People needing fuel assistance must apply to the above before assistance can be given. For more information, contact Sandy at 293-2582 or scwright@fairpoint.net.)

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library—February 2023

Phone: 293-2565

Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.”

- Sidney Sheldon

With all of the storms we’ve had this past month, it is always good to check our FaceBook page or to call the library (293-2565) during our regular hours, to see if we will be open, before you venture out onto the roads.

Memorial Tree: Our local artistic forger, Perry Johnson, is ready to inscribe some more metal leaves to put on the Memorial Tree near our driveway. Last summer the Library Trustees commissioned Perry, proprietor of FoeHammer Forge Works, to design and construct a memorial tree to add to the garden landscape. The metal leaves are available to purchase, with engraved loved one’s names. Proceeds from the sale of leaves will go to the George Smith Memorial Fund at the library for the continued upkeep of the gardens. Pricing for the leaves is \$20 for each of the large leaves, and \$15 for the smaller ones. We have samples of the leaves on the counter at the library. Orders and payment may be given to the librarian in attendance, and Perry will add the leaves as he finishes them. This is a beautiful way to honor local loved ones!

How do you keep track of **Community Events** throughout the year? Sign up with us to receive our weekly **Events Email**, so you can see what is happening. To sign up to receive the email, please send us an email at librarian@drshawlibrary.org In the subject line, use the word “Events”, and then in the body of the email, just ask us to sign you up, using your email address. If you have a community event that you would like us to post, write a brief description (title of event, what it is about, time and place) in the body of the email, and also use the word “Events” in the subject line. It is an easy way to stay informed about happenings around Mt. Vernon, Vienna, Fayette, and neighboring towns.

Tax Help days: We still have a few appointment slots for Tax Help with our tax gurus, David and Christine, who provide tax assistance to community members each year as a service of AARP. Our tax help days are all Saturdays: February 25, March 11, and March 25. Call us at the library (293-2565) during the hours we are open (Mondays 3-6, Wednesdays 9-12 and 3-7, Saturdays 10-3) and we’ll sign you up and mail you the information you will need to provide. And – thank you, David, for your valuable information on Maine tax law changes during your Income Tax Workshop this past week!

Alice will have some **Take&Make kits** ready for families to grab by February 11th. You can grab some for your young ones when you come in for your next stack of books!

Bendable Maine: Some of our patrons attended the local zoom meeting sponsored by all of our local libraries last week, to hear about the learning opportunities provided by Bendable Maine, which is a robust learning marketplace. Maine residents of all ages can easily discover content on a wide variety of subjects, and acquire new knowledge & skills through online resources as well as in-person learning opportunities. Because this is offered through Maine State Library, the majority of resources featured are free to Maine residents. You can go to: <https://maine.bendable.com> and create your own free account, and start your next learning adventure!

ComicsPlus: We are now offering free unlimited access to digital comics, graphic novels, and manga, through a site called COMICSPLUS on Maine Infonet. There are no holds, wait lists, or borrowing limits. You can go to: <https://www.maineinfonet.org/comicsplus> and scroll down to the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library. Note that our library is listed twice. The second listing says: The Dr. Shaw Memorial Library – Children. The children’s listing blocks adult content but includes material for younger children through teens. Set up your own account by using your 4 digit library number and creating your own password.

The night sky is so beautiful during winter months. If your young ones are intrigued by all the stars in the sky, here are a few astronomy sites for young patrons to explore. They feature either constellations or planets:

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>

<https://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>

<https://www.planetsforkids.org/>

<https://www.astronomy.cafe/astronomy-for-kids-the-constellations-of-winter/>

I just finished Ross Gay’s Inciting Joy. What are you reading in between cleaning up after the storms (and maybe making plans for your garden)?

FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES

The AARP Tax-Aide program provides free Federal and State tax return services. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained, tested and certified by the IRS to prepare returns for low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with particular focus on those over 50, but all are welcome!

Low-income taxpayers should note that the only way they can receive the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Sales Tax Fairness Credit is to file a Maine Income Tax return. Even if you pay no income tax you may be eligible for these credits. These may be worth several hundred dollars, depending on your circumstances.

At this point, Covid-19 masking is optional. Tax counselors will mask, if requested by the taxpayer.

The free tax services are provided by appointment only by calling January 3rd or later and are available at the following sites:

The Dr. Shaw Memorial Library in Mount Vernon (call 293-2565 when the library is open on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays). Tax dates are Saturdays, February 25, March 11 and March 25, with April 8 as an additional day if needed. This site is intended primarily for Mount Vernon and Vienna residents, but is open to all.

The Cohen Community Center in Hallowell (call 626-7777 Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm). Tax dates are Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 31 through April 13.



Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation, Inc. (CPC)

c/o PO Box 272

Hello Neighbors,

The Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation is providing this survey to learn your opinions about the possibility of having a non-profit, non-governmental developer create affordable senior housing in Mount Vernon. We are looking into developing affordable senior housing (that is, affordable for people making up to 80% of the median household income for Kennebec County, based on household size) in accordance with the Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan.

Kindly take a few minutes to mark your answers to the questions below and return the completed questionnaire to us by dropping it into the questionnaire boxes located at the town office, library and post office or mailing it to our address above.

We thank you for your participation in this exciting possibility.

QUESTIONS:

Do you support having affordable senior housing in Mount Vernon developed by a nonprofit entity?

☐ Strongly support ☐ Support ☐ No Opinion ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

Do you know anyone in Mount Vernon who could benefit from affordable senior housing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which of the following types of affordable senior housing would you prefer to have in Mount Vernon?

☐ Clustered small cottages.

☐ Duplexes

☐ Single multi-unit building (in the style of a small apartment house)

☐ Row houses

☐ Other (describe) -----

What amenities would you want an affordable senior housing development to offer?

☐ Community Center

☐ Walking Trails.

☐ Garden Plots

☐ Exercise Room

☐ Other (describe) -----

If you were to live in an affordable senior housing development in Mount Vernon, would you need transportation provided by an outside, unrelated nonprofit provider (such as Neighbors Driving Neighbors)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Many thanks for your participation.

The Town of Mount Vernon Aging in Place Committee, coordinating with Vienna and Fayette, intends to contract with a consultant on a part time basis to act as Outreach/Project coordinator for our Caring Ears and Tri-town Health program.

Besides liaising with our Social Worker, the health officers of the three towns and the Aging in Place Committee the duties will include:

- ◆ Help to develop a supportive network with various departments and volunteer organizations in the 3 towns in an effort to support a regional health outreach program focused on the medical, behavioral and social health needs of the older residents in our towns
- ◆ Develop partnerships and resources to identify older residents and their care partners in need of assistance and support
- ◆ Recruit volunteers who can be trained to assist in meeting the needs of older residents and their care partners
- ◆ Establish data collection needs and procedures
- ◆ Identify spaces in each community that can be used for telehealth visits and establish protocols for use of those spaces
- ◆ Meet with older residents in the 3-town community to determine what types of assistance they need to age in place, be it social opportunities, better access to health care, information/resources to maintain better health etc.
- ◆ Provide support to volunteers in meeting those identified needs
- ◆ Determine how best these efforts can continue once the grant period is complete

COMMUNITY DINNER



with Live Acoustic Music provided by
Dan Simons and Stan Keach

Proceeds benefit Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area

March 4th, 2023 | 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Mt. Vernon Community Center

Suggested Donation:

\$10 Adults

\$5 Kids age 10 and under

Kids under 3 **free**



Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area
serves 27 communities in Central
Maine including Mt. Vernon, Vienna,
Belgrade, and Rome.