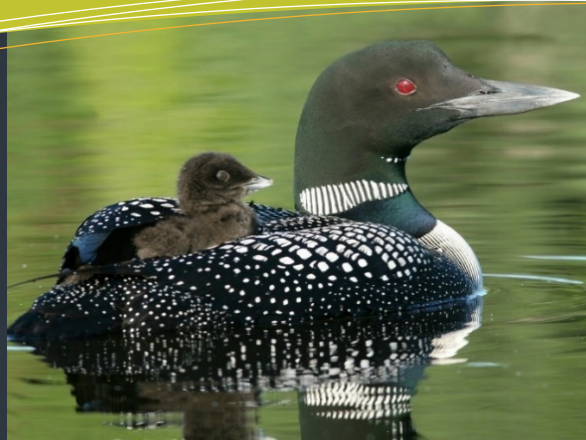


Aug 2025

Mount Vernon Newsletter



This Issue

Selectboard Letter **P.1**

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library **P.2**

Aging in Place **P.4**

Selectboard
selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Daniel Shea
207-620-2326

dan@mtvernonme.org

Robert Grenier
207-293-2783

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Carl Rogers
774-654-0008

carl@mtvernonme.org

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tyler@mtvernonme.org

Selectboard Assistant

Tina Cagle
207-707-2614

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newsletter@mtvernonme.org

Selectboard Meetings are held every other Monday at the Mount Vernon Community Center @ 2 North Road

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

Selectboard Meetings are live streamed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live>

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86936993828?pwd=4d1jZ2csB3aUyJjQcKjut9N3sdKkN.1>

Meeting ID: 869 3699 3828
Passcode: SBMTG

Selectpersons' News

Greetings!

Summer in Mount Vernon is always special—warm days on the lake, gardens in bloom, and neighbors pausing to chat as they pass through the village. It's a good time to appreciate the natural beauty and tight-knit spirit of our town.

I'm happy to report that we are finally moving forward with the construction of the Blake Hill Bridge. As you will recall, we approved the funds for that at the Town Meeting. A contractor is in place and ready to begin. The challenge now, however, is securing the necessary steel in time to complete the project before cold weather sets in. The Selectboard is monitoring this closely, and we remain hopeful. Fingers crossed we can get it done before November!

The board has also devoted considerable energy to reconfiguring the town's accounting system. This work has involved rethinking our financial software, improving transparency, and setting up systems that will better serve the town for years to come.

Along those lines, I want to take a moment to thank our retiring treasurer, Kerry Casey, for her many years of faithful service to Mount Vernon. Her steady hand and deep knowledge of town finances have helped guide us through countless budget cycles, and we are grateful for her dedication.

There's been a noticeable increase in activity in the village, especially with so many residents and visitors frequenting Scapes Café. This is great to see, and with the progress being made to transform the old mill into a craft center, we should begin thinking seriously about expanding parking options. It's a good problem to have, but one we shouldn't ignore.

Finally, given that that has transpired in the last few months, I'm increasingly convinced that we need a town manager. While expanding the Selectboard to five members has improved our capacity, I continue to believe Mount Vernon should hire a professional to run the operations. The select board should set policy, and professionals should run things. This change, which will be voted on next summer, would bring consistency, oversight, and long-term planning to town operations.

Enjoy the rest of this beautiful season in Mount Vernon—there's no place quite like it.

Best,

Dan

Town Office Staff

Town Office

Phone: 207-293-2379

Faxe: 207-293-3507

clerk@mtvernonme.org

Mon 9am-5pm

Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm

Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler

207-293-2379

clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Kelley Hutchins

207-293-2379

deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kelley Hutchins

207-293-1103

treasurer@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Treasurer

Remington French

207-293-1103

deputytreasurer@mtvernonme.org

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library 293-2565 librarian@drshawlibrary.org

Summer Hours: Monday 2-6PM, Wednesday 9AM-1PM and 3-7PM, Saturday 9AM-3PM.

"In principle and reality, libraries are life-enhancing palaces of wonder." -Gail Honeyman

Our usual weekly & monthly activities:

Drop-in Tech Help: Weekly Wednesday mornings 9AM-12PM with Remi. Bring your phone, tablet or laptop and ask for some help with navigating the internet or various programs/apps.



Yarn Group Crafternoon: The 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month from 1-3PM. Bring a yarn or craft project and visit with these knowledgeable, friendly folks.



Game Afternoons for Adults: The 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month from 3-5PM. They play all sorts of board games – bring your own or use what others bring and enjoy the laughter and chat as you play.



Upcoming Adult Programs:

1. **Chair Yoga Classes** is happening on six Thursdays in July & August, with Katy Martin. See notice in this issue of the newsletter.
2. **Upcoming Author Talk with Claire Hersom**, local Maine author, will be on **Wednesday, August 20, 4PM**. Claire has recently published her debut novel, Smithville Junction, and lots of libraries are asking her to come talk with their readers – we were lucky to get on her list! Claire will read from the novel, and tell us a bit about writing it. The novel is full of storytelling about the characters in small town rural Maine. Join us for a great talk!

Ongoing Activities:

1. **Drop-In Tech Help** with Remi, Wednesday mornings 9AM-12PM.
2. **Yarn Group Crafternoons**, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 1-3PM.
3. **Book Bingo** continues till the end of December. work at your own speed and fill in whatever parts of the grid you can. We'll have a raffle at the end of the year for those who finished individual lines or the entire grid.
4. A **Story Walk** is now available thanks to Dana and Judy. Up throughout the summer, this pleasant walk meanders around the upper field behind the library. Come read this beautiful story, The Tree Farmer, for a quiet family activity. We are grateful to the Eleanor Philbrick Arts Fund for their support.
5. Our **Book Sale** is ongoing! Come find your next book on the shelves near the main entrance and upstairs in the Dolloff room. All books are \$1 so come grab some for visiting family and friends or to bring to camp!

We hope our young patrons are finding time for reading! They can keep track on their **reading logs**, & then give them to us at the end of July through August for a certificate for a treat from Scapes!

Alice puts out a **weekly events email** through our library email account. It lists any local activities/events that groups sponsor (community meals, muffin mornings, craft sales, etc). If you would like to receive this email and keep up to date about local activities, email or call us to give us your email, and we'll add you to the list! If you want to let us know of an upcoming program, email us and put the word Events in the subject line. Our email is librarian@drshawlibrary.org.

We can also sign you up to receive the email of the **Mount Vernon Town Newsletter**, published each month. Let us know if you would like to receive it, and we'll contact the town office folks!

We do have a **keyboard** upstairs in the small meeting room. Please feel free to play a bit of music when you visit the library. We have some sheet music set up with it. There are headphones, if you just want to play for yourself, or you can play without them for a bit, as a treat for our patrons!

We still have openings in our schedule for our patrons to sign up for passes to either the **Botanical Gardens in Boothbay**, or to the **Maine Maritime Museum in Bath**. Contact us or come in and let us know when you would like to go, along with the number of people. Both places provide a beautiful place to visit. The Gardens of course give you a chance to wander outside, and the Museum has some spectacular exhibits.

I am reading Happy Land by Dolan Perkins-Valdez. What are you reading as you pick a few tomatoes & cukes, and stack firewood?

**Mount Vernon Fire Company
presents**

MOVIE NIGHT

**at the Minnehonk Beach
on August 1st**

**Grab a blanket or chair and come
join your neighbors at
8:30pm to watch**

LILO AND STITCH (2025)

**Special themed snacks available
(Donations appreciated)**

**First Baptist Church Mount Vernon
Food Bank**

End of Summer at the Food Bank

It's hard to believe that it's August already and it's time to think about the new school year starting. This year, the Dunn's Corner Baptist Church will be offering back packs full of school supplies appropriate for the child's age. This will take place at the food bank parking lot on Saturday, August 23 from 9-11AM. You do not need to be a food bank customer to participate.

If you haven't been to the food bank in recent months, we have moved the hours up to 9-11AM. This change is in response to customer needs; people were arriving early with very few customers after 11AM. If the new hours don't work for you, please let us know by calling 293-2141 or emailing mountvernonfoodbank@gmail.com, we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

The full food bank is available the first and third Saturdays of each month. Fresh fruit, produce, bread, bakery items and miscellaneous can be picked up any Saturday. You are also welcome to shop the clothing every week.

While the back packs will be distributed on the 23rd, we will continue to have a limited selection of school supplies throughout the fall.

We are located at 321 Pond Rd in Mount Vernon. Please reach out if there are any questions!

Mt. Vernon Fire Co.

FAMILY FUN DAY!!

August 9th 9am-3pm

JR. BASS DERBY - 15 & UNDER

Vendors Welcome

Call / Text: 207-458-9140 *or* email:
mtvernonfirecompany@gmail.com

**Bounce House, Dunk Tank, Food
50/50 Raffle, Pony Rides & More!**



Planning Board

David Sanders – Chair
Keith Coulling – Vice Chair
Ray Bizzari
Fred Webber
Chad Dwelley
Michael Smith
Ronald LaRue

The Planning Board meets every 3rd
Tuesday at the
Dr. Shaw Memorial Library
at 7PM.

Please email tina@mtvernonme.org
if you need to reach any of the
members.



The Transfer Station is now
open every Wednesday
from 3-6PM until Labor Day!



Mount Vernon Aging in Place

The mission of the Mount Vernon Aging in Place Committee is to assist older adults in finding the supporting resources and care we need to safely and comfortably age in our homes for as long as possible.

The Mount Vernon Aging in Place Committee has been hosting Monday Muffin Mornings in the three towns of Mount Vernon, Vienna and Fayette from 9:30-11:00AM on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of the month. There is often a speaker or topic of interest, and always time to share information and socialize. Coffee and muffins are provided, thanks to the generous donations from Scapes Café in Mount Vernon and the Apple Shed in Readfield.

The schedule is as follows:

1st Monday — Mt Vernon
Community Center
3rd Monday — Starling Hall in
Fayette
4th Monday — Vienna Grange

Regardless of the town you live in, these Muffin Mornings, designed for the older population, welcome people to come on any or all of the Mondays.

Christine Merchant, the Aging in Place Outreach Coordinator, and Amy Blaisdell, our resource coordinator, are ready to assist with information or resources that can help people continue to age safely and comfortably at home. Their contact information is below:

Christine Merchant — 207-344-7580
Amy Blaisdell — 207-485-4778



Beat the Heat

This summer has been scorching!
Here are 5 tips and tricks to stay
cooler during the warm months:

- 1) Take a cold bath or shower
- 2) Wear loose, breathable clothing
- 3) Stay hydrated
- 4) Avoid being outside during peak heat hours
- 5) Close your blinds during the day and open up windows at night

If you are experiencing severe headaches, dizziness, rapid pulse or nausea, these could be signs of heat exhaustion. If symptoms persist or worsen, call 911 immediately for help. Stay safe and enjoy the summer sun safely!

North Vienna United Methodist Church
is hosting a fundraising

BREAKFAST & BAKE/CRAFT SALE



Saturday, August 16th
9:00 to 11:00 AM
Mt. Vernon
Community Center
2 Main St, Mt. Vernon

The North Vienna United Methodist Church will be hosting the Saturday morning breakfast at the Mount Vernon Community Center, but with a twist. In addition to delicious homemade breakfast foods all available for a donation, we will have craft items made by the church members as well as baked goods available for purchase to take home. All proceeds will go to support church activities. Don't miss this event!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: DEBBIE ROE AT 293-4220

Mount Vernon Community Center

Summer Supper Celebration

Saturday, Aug. 16th
5-7pm

\$10/person or \$25/family

Please join us for a delicious
summer supper shared from the
bounty of the garden.

*All proceeds to benefit MVCC
building maintenance and
operations.*



Come enjoy breakfast with us at
The Community Café

Mt. Vernon Community Center

2 Main St., Mount Vernon, ME

Saturday, August 2nd, 9-11am

*Donations to help maintain and operate the
Community Center are welcome.*



REGISTER NOW FOR 25/26 SCHOOL YEAR

FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW
TO SECURE YOUR
SPOT TODAY!



MOUNT VERNON ELEMENTARY

AFTERCARE

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Are you looking for an affordable, safe place where your children can go after school? Our aftercare program serves all students attending full day school. For a low weekly fee of \$50, your child can be part of this exciting program!

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Guardian's Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

If you plan to enroll additional children, please add them below:

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Open M-F
2:30-5:30 PM
and
includes Early
Release Days!

HIGHLIGHTED BENEFITS:

Safe caring program

Healthy snack

Play with friends

Outdoor activities

\$50 per week!

*Your child's spot will be reserved when this form is received. Return to Mount Vernon Elementary School office.

**Please contact Lori Putnam at 207-215-2998 or lputnam8081@gmail.com for further information and to receive an application for the program.

***This is NOT AN RSU38 sponsored program but is a town supported opportunity for students, parents, and guardians.

Meeting Minutes

Selectboard and Planning Board

Town of Mount Vernon
Select Board Minutes
06/30/2025

Members' Present: Bob Grenier, Dan Shea, Carl Rogers, Tyler Dunn, Peggy Lancaster

Members' Absent:

Members of the Public: Kerry Casey – Treasurer, Remington French – Deputy Treasurer, Tina Cagle - Administrative Assistant, Ona Fast, Tom Jacobs, Cathy Jacobs, Noah Easter, Heather Wheeler, Kelly Hutchins, Christine Collins, Judith Dunn, Dana Dunn, Ben Myers

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm 06/30/2025.

Minutes of 06/16/2025.

Motion by Chairman Rogers to approve the minutes as read.

Second, by Selectman Dunn. Motion passes: 5-0

Summary of Last Meeting

The Select Board meeting covered a range of administrative and operational matters, including changes to public comment policies, discussions on payroll systems and audio-visual upgrades, and the hiring of a new CEO. The board also addressed policy revisions, infrastructure projects such as culvert improvements and bridge construction, and the development of a comprehensive town plan. Additionally, they reviewed contracts for ambulance and dispatch services and discussed improvements to the transfer station.

Chairman Transition Statement

Thank you, Bob! All the work you have done all the years is invaluable and thank you for being a great mentor.

Monthly or Quarterly Public Forums with Selectboard

The chairman would like to have a once-a-month meeting with residents, in smaller groups, to see what the residents are looking for the town to accomplish, etc.

TRIO Payroll Update

The board is looking to move forward with the TRIO payroll and accounts payable systems. TRIO is partnering with another software designer to integrate the tax programs. The board is currently waiting for the quote.

Audio and Video Equipment

Selectman Dunn presented a plan to upgrade with new wireless microphones, a refurbished projector (estimated at \$1000), and a sound board, with total costs around \$1749, which was within the \$2000 budget allocated. The group agreed to finalize the order after one (1) more check with Scott regarding the soundboard, with the equipment expected to arrive by the following Friday.

CEO (Code Enforcement Officer)

The group discussed hiring a new CEO, Garrett Lower, who has experience in similar roles and is willing to work for the current salary. They considered whether to hire him to replace Bill immediately or continue looking for a deputy CEO. The consensus was to have Daryl start on July 15th, with a 30-day overlap period to allow for a smooth transition. They also discussed the possibility of having Garrett work with Bill for a few weeks before he starts.

Resilience Grant Meeting

There may be another way to utilize the grant money that was awarded through the solar grant.

Blake Hill Bridge

The board discussed two main topics: culvert improvements and the Blake Hill Bridge project. For culverts, they explored options including solar and battery power, with a focus on minimizing climate change effects through larger culverts in flood-prone areas. For the bridge project, they received 5 bids ranging from \$849,000 to \$2.7 million, with the lowest bidder being a landscaping company with limited bridge-building experience. The group decided to interview both the lowest and next-lowest bidders before making a final selection, as the engineering company confirmed all bids met specifications.

Comprehensive Planning Committee

The town discussed the comprehensive planning process, focusing on creating a new plan to meet state standards for grant applications. Selectman Dunn explained that while the full plan would cost \$30,000, the town aims to stretch the existing \$5,000 budget and determine what parts can be done internally. The committee plans to bring in a state representative to understand document requirements and review past work with KVCOG (Kennebec Valley Council of Governments).

Other Business

Ambulance Service Contract Review

The town discussed the ambulance and dispatch service contract with Winthrop, reviewing costs and terms, including a new provision where Mount Vernon will cover uncollectible ambulance fees starting in FY25. They explored the possibility of terminating the contract early but determined they lacked alternatives in the short term, as other ambulance services were either unavailable or unwilling to service their area. The board expressed frustration about the lack of prior research into alternative providers and the last-minute nature of the current situation.

Motion by Selectman Dunn to accept the contract from Winthrop for Ambulance and Dispatch services.

Second, by Selectman Grenier. Motion passes: 5-0

Transfer Station Site Plan Review

The town discussed the need for a site plan review for the transfer station, which involves additional digging and the addition of a new pad. They also considered hiring an excavator for a 4-month period to handle bulky waste on Saturdays, with a budget of \$12,000. The board debated whether to extend the excavator's services for a full year on an as-needed basis. The conversation ended with a motion to enter an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to use the services of an excavator for three (3) hours on Saturday afternoon to compact bins and push back brush.

Second, by Selectman Dunn. Motion passes: 5-0

Motion by Selectman Rogers to adjourn at 8:15 pm

Second, by Selectman Shea. Motion passes: 3-0

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