







www.mtvernonme.org JULY 2023 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 207-293-2379
Fax: 207-293-3507 clerk@mtvernonme.org

Mon 8am-5pm Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector Heather Wheeler @ 207-293-2379 clerk@mtvernonme.org

<u>Deputy Clerk</u> Rachel Meader @ 207-293-2379 deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

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

<u>Select Board</u> <u>selectboard@mtvernonme.org</u>

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 domesticated 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

<u>Fire Chief</u> Jason Beckler @ 207-293-2114 (non-emergencies)

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

<u>Health Officer</u> Rachel Criswell, MD

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

<u>Road Commissioner</u> Lee Dunn @ 207-242-5828

<u>Tax Assessor</u> 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
June thru September 30th open on
Wednesdays from 3-6pm

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

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

Select Board Meetings are now live streamed here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3U CAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Under Appeals Board Peter Walsh was listed it should have been Peter Lewis!

We apologize and thank you for your service!!



Our Tax year has come to a close. We have had our elections and our Town Meeting is over. We would like to thank the members of the Budget Committee for their help in putting together this year's budget. They were Tyler Dunn, Lucas Rumler, Daphne Sanders, and Aaron Berls. We would also like to thank all those who showed up for the Town Meeting.

The question of the Blake Hill Bridge came up again. We have three options.

- 1. If we were to go ahead and do the bridge now, we would have to pay the full price of the removal of the bridge and the building of the new bridge. The cost to the Town would be close to \$1,000,000.
- 2. If we wait for the state to do the work, it estimates their cost to do the bridge would be about 2.5 million dollars. Our cost would be zero.
- 3. If we wait until the state approves us doing the building of the bridge the state will pay 60% of the cost. In that case our cost would be between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

This year's Spirit of America award went to June Leighton. Here is a list of past recipients:

2007 First Baptist Church Food Bank
2008 Community Center Board of Trustees
2010 Mount Vernon Rescue Unit
2012 Mount Vernon Fire Department
2013 Carol Fuller and Judith Weaver
2014 Community Center Committee
2015 Betty White
2016 Dr.Shaw Memorial Library Volunteers
2017 Robert Grenier
2018 George Smith
2019 Sandra Wright
2020 Pat Rawson
2021 Clyde Dyar
2022 Dana Dunn
2023 June Leighton

Please feel free to join us at any Select Board meeting the next meetings will be July 17 and the July 31 at 7 PM at the Town Office. You can also reach us at selectboard@mtvernonme.org.

Bob for the Select Board

JULY 2023 CALENDAR OF HAPPENINGS

July 1st – Community Gathering at the Community Center 9 am – 11 am July 1st – July 28th– Neighbors Driving Neighbors – Auction July 1st – The Oshima Brothers – Vienna Union Hall July 8th - Torsey Pond Association Meeting - 10 am July 8th – Public Supper – Readfield United Methodist Church – 4:30 pm – 6 pm July 9th – Household Hazardous Waste – Readfield Transfer Station – 9 am – 12 pm July 12th – Summer Reading – Dr. Shaw Memorial Library – 4 pm July 15th – Kindness Food Box – Jess Lee Church – 9:30 am – 11:30 am July 19th – Summer Reading – Dr. Shaw Memorial Library – 4 pm July 22nd – Neighbors Driving Neighbors – Community Breakfast at the Community Center 9 am – 11 am July 23rd – Sarah Carlson reading *In the Currents of Quiet* – Community Center – 3 pm July 26th – Summer Reading – Dr. Shaw Memorial Library – 4 pm Dr. Shaw Memorial Library Summer Hours Monday 2 pm – 6 pm Wednesday 9 am - 1 pm, 3 pm - 7 pm Saturday 9 am - 3 pm First Baptist Church Food Bank Saturdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am Readfield United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School Sundays 10 am

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Hosted by the Town of Readfield and The Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

Mount Vernon is invited to participate in a one-day household hazardous waste collection. The event is scheduled for Sunday July 9^{th} , 2023, and will run from 9 am - 12 pm at the Readfield Transfer Station.

Many chemicals commonly used around the home are hazardous — either alone or when combined with other chemicals and need to be disposed of by professionals trained to handle hazardous materials. Improper disposal of these materials can disrupt the function of sewage treatment plants or private septic systems, contaminate ground water, and harm animals and residents. Difficult to recycle or dispose of items can also become harmful if left unmonitored, items like electronic waste, paint, old fuels, mercury thermostats, etc.

Mount Vernon residents must register with Megan Goucher prior to July 9th!! 207-213-3523 or at the Mount Vernon Transfer Station.



Town Of Mount Vernon Household Hazardous Waste Collection Pre-Registration Form Sunday July 9, 2023, 9AM-12 Noon

Collection taking place at the Readfield Transfer Station 14 Recycle Road, Readfield, ME

Pre-Registration is Required. Pre-Register at your Town Office

Resident Name:		
Physical Address:		
Telephone Number:	Assigned Time-Office Use Only:	

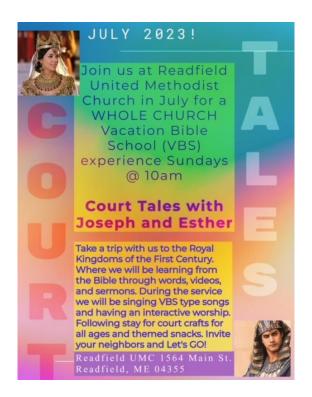
Actual	# Units:	Garage and Workshop Related
Volume:	5 gal/20 lbs=1 unit	
Estimate		*
gallons		Water-based/Oil-based/Latex Paints, stains, and primers in cans
gallons		Anti-freeze
gallons		Cleaners/Degreasers e.g., acetone
gallons		Flammables such as Gasoline, Kerosene, Charcoal Lighter Fluid
gallons		Aerosol cans/flammables
gallons		Misc. e.g., Brake/Transmission Fluid, waxes, polishes
gallons		Solvents, Paint Thinners, Paint Strippers
gallons		Adhesives
gallons		Driveway Sealer
gallons/lbs.		Other List:
		Kitchen/Bath/Home
		Cleaners:
gallons		-Bleach- based
gallons		-Alkaline such as Lye, Sodium Hydroxide, Drain Cleaners, Oven cleaners
gallons		-Ammonia-based such as Windex
gallons		-Acid such as Muriatic acid
gallons		Other: Toilet Bowl cleaner, drain opener, mildew remover, lime/rust stain remover,
galloris		hydrofluoric acid, ammonium bifluoride
gallons/lbs		Other List:
		Lawn and Garden
gallons/lbs		Pool cleaners
gallons/lbs		Pesticides/Herbicides/Fungicides-solids or liquids
gallons/lbs		Poisons: rat/mouse poison, arsenic, strychnine, cyanide, formaldehyde, mothballs
gallons/lbs		Other List:
		Miscellaneous
gallons/lbs.		Photography chemicals
Per item		Fire Extinguisher-Carbon tetrachloride only
		Other List:
		Electronics
Per item		Televisions/Monitors/Household Electronics-LIMIT OF 2 Per Household
7 CT ILCHI		List Electronics:
		Batteries-All types
gallons		Waste Oil
gailons		
		TOTAL ESTIMATED UNITS

Questions?? Call your Transfer Station or Town Office

Readfield United Methodist Church

1564 Main St. Readfield, ME Phone number: 207-685-4211

Email: office@readfieldchurch.net Website: readfieldchurch.org
Come worship with us every Sunday 10:00 a.m.
The church is handicap accessible



Public Supper

July 8th 4:30-6:00 pm

Baked Beans, pot pies, casseroles, salads & desserts

Adults \$10.00, Children 5-12 \$5.00, Under 5 free



Our next kindness food box giveaway is scheduled for July 15th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Jesse Lee church. Anyone is welcomed to come get a box of non-perishable food. You just pull up in the parking lot and we put a kindness box in your vehicle. No questions asked. If you would like to help us with filling these boxes there is a list of items, we suggest on our website or you can call or email the office and we will get the list to you. For more information visit our website or call the office.









Neighbors Driving Neighbors Community Breakfast



Please join us for our annual Community Breakfast!

Mount Vernon Community Center Saturday, July 22, 9—11 am

Come by for a delicious breakfast buffet and to catch up with your neighbors!

www.neighborsdrivingneighbors.org











2023 Neighbors Driving Neighbors Online Auction Fundraiser



Don't miss this FUNdraiser that you can attend from the comfort of your own home!

www.biddingowl.com/NeighborsDrivingNeighbors

Find a special piece from one of the many talented artists and craftspeople in our area. Last year, we had art and homemade items, desserts, gift cards, and adventures—including a ride of a lifetime in a 1968 Amphicar!

Bidding will be open from July 1 to 28. Pickup on July 29 at 120 Belgrade Rd, Mt. Vernon.

www.neighborsdrivingneighbors.org



Vienna Union Hall

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our sold-out concert last Friday night. Greg Boardman, Elsie Gawler, and Steve Muise entwined traditional tunes from various cultures, a few originals, and a warm serving of cultural awareness mixed with heart and humor. It was reassuring to see the old Hall held up to all the toe-tapping that was going on, as well as thunderous applause on several occasions.

Coming up on Saturday, July 1st, the Vienna Union Hall is honored to host The Oshima Brothers. This is a special treat and if you haven't heard them before, it's worth your time to search their video's on their site (https://www.oshimabrothers.com) or at YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/@oshimabrothers).

"Maine-based indie duo, Oshima Brothers' have been creating music together since childhood. The brothers blend songs from the heart with blood harmonies to produce a "roots-based pop sound that is infectious." (NPR) On stage, Sean and Jamie offer lush vocals, live looping, foot percussion, electric and acoustic guitars, vintage keyboard and bass - often all at once. They want every show to feel like a deep breath, a dance party and a sonic embrace. When not recording or touring they find time to film and produce their own music videos, tie their own shoes and cook elaborate feasts. Maine Public Radio's Sara Willis describes their songs as "beautiful, those brother harmonies can't be beat. They are uplifting and, let's face it, we need uplifting these days."

This popular duo has a wide following in Maine and we anticipate that we will sell all available seating in short order. In fact, half of the seats are already reserved and we suggest that you act quickly to reserve one for yourselves. You can pre-purchase tickets on our website (https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events), also linked through our Facebook page. If you have any trouble using these sites you can contact me, Tim Davis, at viennaunionhall@gmail.com. If you want to take a chance and come last-minute to buy a ticket at the door - please visit our website and/or Facebook page for the concert seating availability.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of a handful of people who make these concerts possible. Our mission is to create a warm and welcoming space that fosters and sustains connections within our communities through presentations of various performance arts and artists. These folks include Marianne Archard (Website and Paypal), Misty Beck (Facebook), Board members John and Marianne Archard, Rosemary Baker, Brian Church, Mark Rains, and Donna Williams - with lots of support from Jim Anderberg, Eric Johnson, and Alan Willams - as well as many others - including You! - our patrons.

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- And there's more to come! Please visit our site and Facebook page to see what other wonderful performance opportunities (music, theatre, dance) that lay ahead. Of course, I'll let you know as we move through the summer. Thank you for your support (and your kind words) that makes this venue sustainable. If you'd like to join us in our efforts, please don't hesitate to contact me (see above).

Tim Davis, President Vienna Union Hall Association



Food Bank Update and Information on Heating Assistance

With the high price of food in the grocery stores and reduction in SNAP benefits, you may be having a hard time feeding your family. If that sounds like you, please come to the First Baptist Church Food Bank any Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30. The food bank has an excellent selection of fresh, frozen, canned and dry foods. A local church purchases farm shares from a local farm to provide the freshest produce during the summer for customers.

In addition to food, the food bank provides a wide array of personal care items, clothing, and school supplies.

Though summer hasn't begun yet, it is time to begin applying for HEAP (home energy assistance program). Applying early means that you will have heat once cold weather arrives.

KVCAP is the organization that coordinates this program in our area. The best way to start the process is online. Go to their website kvcap.org, go to For the Home tab then Heating Assistance. If you do not have internet at home, do not despair. The Mt. Vernon, Readfield and Fayette libraries all have fast internet and public computers.

If you are unable to complete the form online, you can call KVCAP at 207-858-1500 or toll free 1-800-542-8227, extension 1500 or email them at energy@kvcap.org.



Torsey Pond Association Annual Meeting July 8, 10 a.m. at the Readfield Town Office

The Torsey Pond Association (TPA) will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. on July 8 at the Readfield Town Office. Anyone interested in helping to preserve this pristine pond is welcome to attend. To become a member of the TPA, or to donate, go to www.torseypond.org/membership.

One of the main goals of the association is to keep invasive plants out of Torsey, which is surrounded by ponds infested with variable-leaf milfoil and other invasive plants. Torsey is a shallow pond, and any infestation would quickly take over, destroying native wildlife and plants, ruining fishing and other recreation on the pond, and devastating property values.

Half of the annual membership dues (\$50) go toward funding our invasives protection program. This includes paying for annual plant surveys of the pond and for Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI), who check for plants on any watercraft entering or exiting the pond. These essential services are managed by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, but volunteers are also needed and much appreciated. If you would like to volunteer to be a CBI, please visit torseypond.org for more information.

At the annual meeting, Bill Monagle, executive director of the Cobbossee Watershed District, will talk about a grant the TPA has received to help protect the pond from erosion and runoff. Board members and officers will also be elected.

We hope that if you live on the pond, or boat, fish, or swim in Torsey that you will consider joining us. Torsey is at the head of the Cobbossee Watershed, which makes it especially important since other ponds in the watershed take in what Torsey sends out! FMI email: TPAinfo@torseypond.org.



"Sandhill cranes build their nest in a marsh on Torsey Pond. Photo by Keith Coulling."

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

July 2023 293-2565 librarian@drshawlibrary.org

"Every book is a key that unlocks another world, leads us down the path of a different life and offers the chance to explore an unexpected adventure. Everyone is a gift of either knowledge, entertainment or pure escapism and goodness knows we all need that from time to time." Bella Osborne, The Library

As always, there is a lot of activity at the library (and all over town) throughout the summer. To try to accommodate our patrons' busy schedules, for the months of July and August, we are opening for a few more hours each week. During those 2 months, our hours will be: Monday 2PM - 6PM, Wednesday 9AM - 1PM and 3PM - 7PM, and Saturday 9AM - 3PM. We'll be glad to see you when you wander in during our extended hours!

Upcoming children's programs include our Summer Reading Program, based on the theme of "All Together Now", as well as a special event at the Mt. Vernon Community Center:

Summer Reading Programs: Children are invited to track their reading for the summer (you can sign up at the library) and then bring their reading records to us once they have achieved their personal reading goal and exchange them for a Gifford's ice Cream Cone certificate! All 4 SRP programs will be held at the library on Wednesday afternoons at 4PM:

- **Wednesday June 28 at 4PM: Kirsten Heck will teach us about pollinators
- **Wednesday July 12 at 4PM: Design your own symmetry art project using earth materials.
- **Wednesday July 19 at 4PM: Make a tissue paper sun catcher
- **Wednesday July 26 at 4PM: Make and decorate a box

Mr. Drew and His Animals Too! Mr. Drew is known all over Maine for his fun, educational programs about all kinds of rescued, rehabilitated, and exotic animals. He will bring some of his animal friends with him and will talk with us at the Mt. Vernon Community Center on Friday, July 7th at 4PM. We might even get to hold some of the animals! This free event is family oriented. Join us!

And Alice is busy putting together our annual Story Walk at the Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area managed by the Kennebec Land Trust on Pond Road. We hope to have it up by the first week of July. The story will be posted along one of the paths, and a family will be able to stroll from page to page and enjoy the story as they also take note of ferns and cool rocks and other bits of the local environment. The story Alice chose this year is Maureen Wright's picture book, Share, Big Bear, Share. We also have a copy in our collection at the library. Enjoy this wonderful, local, quiet outdoor activity together. Many thanks to the Kennebec Land Trust for always welcoming us!

A program for our adult patrons: local poet Sarah Carlson will share readings from her book, In the Currents of Quiet, on Sunday afternoon, July 23rd, at 3PM at the Mt. Vernon Community Center. Sarah did a reading for us a few years ago, and it was well received. Join us for her reading and the chance to ask questions and hear her speak about writing poetry. Refreshments will be served!

Services at the library:

On Wednesday mornings, 9AM – Noon, you can come meet with the Aging in Place Committee Outreach Coordinator, Kelly O'Neil, to discuss needs and suggestions, thoughts, or concerns for sustainably and comfortably aging in place. Kelly will share these ideas with the committee so they can focus on the particular needs of our community elders.

On the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons of each month, from 4pm – 6pm, the Social Worker who meets with the Aging In Place Committee, Amy Perez-Blaisdell, is available at the library to answer questions and help connect residents with resources regarding such topics as filling out Advance Directives, pre-burial planning, caregiver help at home, Meals on Wheels referrals, companionship, and other concerns.

Each Wednesday morning from 9AM – Noon, we provide Drop-In Tech Help. Bring your phone, laptop, or tablet with you and learn about its various uses. Or you can learn particular skills, programs, or apps on one of the library public access computers. Our wonderful Tech Help navigator is willing to help you connect to the world via your device.

This summer we are able to provide free passes to the Coastal Botanical Gardens in Boothbay for up to 2 adults and a small group of children under the age of 18. You can email or call us or come to the library to sign up. Please give us the date you wish to make your visit, and an alternate date in case the first date is already filled, the number of people in your group, and let us know the time of day you want to arrive (between 9AM and 3PM). We will sign you up and can email your passes to you or print them for you. People have definitely been enjoying their visits to the Gardens! 293-2565, or librarian@drshawlibrary.org.

Remember that on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, from 1PM – 3PM, the local group of knitters, crocheters, and crafters meet at the library for their Crafternoon. They visit together and teach each other new skills. Everyone is welcome – bring a craft to do (they usually have extra supplies, if needed), or even just bring a crossword or puzzle to work on while you visit with them! A good bunch of folks.

You can ask to be added to the email list of people who receive our weekly "events" email that lists various activities and programs around the area. Just email us your request, with the word "events" in the subject line, and we'll put you on the list. It is a helpful bit of information each week to help you plan which events you might want to put on your calendar!

We have started to place "staff picks" – books, audios, DVDs, children's lit – that we like to recommend to our patrons, on a table in the main room. Take a look and see if anything looks good, and then check it out! We will change it up each month.

We have often recommended the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website for all sorts of great information of birds. We want to remind you that they also have an app for identification of birds (song or sightings) that comes in handy when you are out traipsing around the woods (for instance, maybe when you visit the Story Walk this summer). The app is free and works with iPhones. You can download it from here: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/merlin-bird-id-by-cornell-lab/id773457673

I just finished Julie Carrick Dalton's novel, The Last Beekeeper. It is circulating right now, but it should be available soon. A good read. What are you reading as you weed the garden and start drying herbs for winter soups?

This article was not included in the Annual Town Report

Broadband Committee Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2022

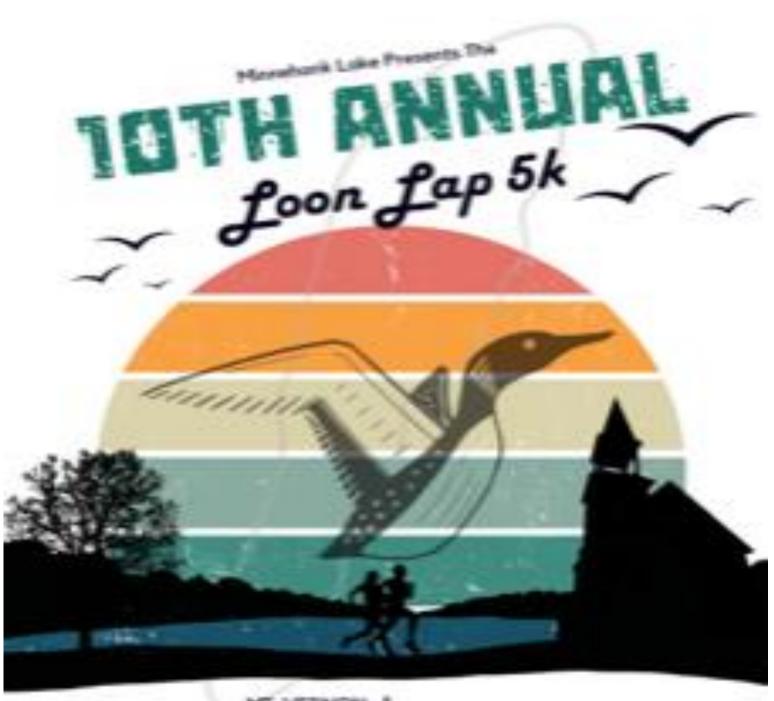
The Broadband Committee was in full swing during FY 2022, meeting over 20 times as a committee and additionally with outside agencies, consultants and prospective suppliers. Documents from these meetings as well as a July 29, 2021 public presentation of survey results can be found at https://sites.google.com/view/mtvbroadbandinternetcommittee/home. All of this hard work was aimed at fulfilling the 2019 Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan's mission for the Committee, i.e.:

Mt Vernon has appointed a Broadband Committee to monitor events, study options, and recommend solutions that best meet the needs of the town. The committee is charged to measure cost and assess funding options needed in order to implement an infrastructure. In addition, the committee will do the following: Measure success of internet strategy as it pertains to creating business opportunities. Coordinate necessary citizen education as needed through Anchor Institutions. Assure citizen knowledge of opportunities to connect with Health Care Providers. Coordinate with Aging In Place committee to capitalize on Broadband for seniors. Identify solutions to assist low-income citizens to afford high speed internet. Determine and monitor best practices with Internet Service Provider(s). (Comprehensive Plan, p. 22)

To this end, the Committee is pleased to report three major accomplishments during this reporting period:

- 1. Release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to four prospective Internet Service Providers: Charter Communications, Matrix Design Group, Axiom, RedZone in February, 2022. The RFP was focused on the first half of the above mission, namely *infrastructure*. Evaluation of these proposals took place during the Spring and a decision to enter into negotiations with Matrix Design Group was reached in July, 2022;
- 2. Initiation of a Digital Equity & Digital Exclusion (DEDI) initiative to address the second, equally important half of the Comprehensive Plan's mandate, namely education about and access to the internet. The resultant DEDI Plan, September, 2022 and can be viewed at: https://sites.google.com/view/mtvbroadbandinternetcommittee/digital-equity; and,
- 3. Conducting detailed analysis of properties in Mt. Vernon, combining the results of the prior year's Casco Bay report and the Town's tax records to estimate the % of tax records with buildings that have access to cable-based broadband (61%) and those without (39%).

[Postscript: The Maine Connectivity Authority's (MCA's) Fall 2022 Grant Window saw \$100 million of applications for \$50 million in grants. As a result, towns like Mt. Vernon, with over 50% of residents having access to cable-based broadband, were not deemed high enough priority to warrant funding. That said, the data assembled by the Committee for the RFP process and the analysis of properties in town, proved essential to broadband infrastructure development in FY2022-2023.]



OMPRINITY CENTER SUNDAY, AUG. 13TH

Register in selvance or at the door (poplias/\$42523.exectled) 8-35on registration, 9-30on start SSI T-Start

Interested in supporting the Laure Lop?* Contact the Loon Lap Committee at burning Skilligmail.com



Vendors will be set up in the Community Center and on the beach (2 North Rd).

