

May

www.mtvernonme.org

MAY 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 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

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

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.

Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours Retail Window

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

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>

Important Announcements :

Special Town Meeting

May 9th @ 7 pm

Community Center



Hello to our friends and neighbors,

It's nice to see the grass turning greener and some of the early flowers blooming around town. Looks like spring is here! I'm hoping you're all able to get outside to enjoy the shift in seasons whether it's catching up on some yard or garden projects or getting outside to explore the local trails (and I know some of you have already gone for a dip in the lake!).

The shift in weather means that some of our spring and summer events are kicking into gear again. We plan to host the annual Memorial Day parade as usual this year. If you'd like to be involved in planning, please do reach out. We hope you'll also brainstorm with your friends and neighbors to put together some great floats to include. Other events are coming up as well including the annual craft fair at the Community Center, and as usual our friends at the Vienna Union Hall have some concerts lined up throughout the coming months.

A couple other important dates to note on your calendars:

- 1) On Tuesday, May 9th, there will be a special town meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. This is to see if the town would like to approve the use of federal ARPA funds for two projects: repairs to the firetruck and a pilot program to help folks access the internet and learn how to better use technology.
- 2) The annual town meeting is also coming up on June 17th (and remember to vote on Tuesday, June 13th, as well)

The budget committee has been meeting regularly to prepare the proposed budget for the annual town meeting, and many other committees are hard at work as well. Thank you to everyone for volunteering, as always!

One other important item to note - the warmer weather also means the transfer station will be opening on Wednesday afternoons soon. The first Wednesday of the season is planned to be May 24th. Thank you to Megan, George, and Leo for all their work!

Happy spring,
Anna and the Selectboard



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, 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.

If your SNAP benefits are being reduced starting March 1 and you need help meeting your food needs, please feel free to come see us at the food bank.

We now have a Facebook page (Mount Vernon Food Bank), please check us out on Facebook.

In case of inclement weather, please call us at 293-2141 before heading out to see if we are open or check our Facebook page.

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.

We also have a small supply of clothing and miscellaneous 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.

If you would like to support the food bank, a fundraiser is coming up. The Maine State Credit Union is having their annual 5K Walk to End Hunger on Saturday, April 22 from 9 am-11 am at Capitol Park in Augusta (The Kennebec River Trail, YMCA Entrance). If you are interested in walking, register at:

RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/ME/AUGUSTA/FEEDME5K

You can also donate on-line or drop off your donation at the food bank. And if you do participate in this event, please let them know that you are walking for the Mount Vernon Food Bank and then we will get the proceeds. It's a fun and fairly easy walk to do with your friends and for a good cause.

MAY 2023

CALENDAR OF HAPPENINGS

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Community Center Café Knitting, Crochet & Crafting - Library 1-3 pm	4	5	6 Mt Vernon Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30 am
7	8 Select Board Mtg @ Town Office—6:30 pm	9 Special Tow	10 Kids Create Library 4 - 5:15 pm	11	12	13 Mt Vernon Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30 am The Katahdin Valley Boys @ 7:00 pm @ Vienna Union Hall
14	15	16	17 Planning Board Library @ 7 Knitting, Crochet & Crafting Library 1 -3 pm	18	19	20 Mt Vernon Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30 am
21	22 Select Board Mtg @ Town Office—6:30 pm	23	24 Kids Create Library 4 - 5:15 pm	25	26	27 Mt Vernon Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30 am
28	29	30	31			

It may be chilly and rainy once again, but last Friday night it was vibrantly warm inside the Vienna Union Hall as we celebrated a beautiful Spring day with The Gawler Family Band. It was an evening of toe-tapping entertainment as the Gawler's performed with resounding participation by the audience during several songs. We retasted the pleasures in time with musical accompaniment. There were many of the evening. The love to everyone who was able to join us.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors



Next up v

Bluegrass music to our Hall. JEFF FOIGER (banjo and vocals, from Sidney), Dan Simons (multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, from Vienna) Ken Brooks (lead rhythm guitar, vocals, from Athens), and Steve Bixby (bass, vocals, from Round Pond) will present a fresh, personal approach presented by Neighbors Driving Neighbors Expanding to Readfield. The Katahdin Valley Boys have been recognized by both The Maine Academy of Country Music and The Maine Country Music Association with their respective "Bluegrass Band of the Year" awards on numerous occasions. They will present a quality

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 The Vienna Union Hall is honored that this group is returning this year, having missed last year due to illness. The concert is held at the Vienna Union Hall on Saturday, May 13th. Doors open at 6:30 and the show begins at 7 PM. Tickets for this special show are \$20 and may be purchased on-line through our website (<https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events>) Pay Pal account or at the door. We do encourage people to buy early as this is a popular group. If you have any difficulties obtaining a ticket or you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me: viennaunionhall@gmail.com. I will get back to you in a timely manner to guarantee your satisfaction. We are indebted to you, our patrons, for your generosity in supporting our efforts to enrich our communities by presenting a variety of performance artists.

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 admitting 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."

Thank you,
Tim Davis, President
Vienna Union Hall Association.

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.

Vienna Union Hall Summer 2023 Line-up.

The Vienna Union Hall Association is pleased to announce our line-up for this coming year.
For more information or to order tickets, please visit us on our website; viennaunionhall.org.

Please also visit and “friend” us on Face Book: Vienna Union Hall.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to offer quality entertainment in our communities.

April 8th, 7 PM A Nod to Jenny Lois Hinkley featuring local artists honoring one of our own.

April 28th, 7 PM The Gawler Family Band

May 13th, 7 PM The Katahdin Valley Boys

June 9th, 7 PM Greg Boardman, Elsie Gawler, and Steve Muise

July 1st, 7 PM The Oshima Brothers

July 20-22 (4 shows). The Vienna Historical Society - 2 plays by Beverly Smith

August 4th, 7 PM Kyle Knuppel and Matt Davis

August 10-12 The Vienna Woods Players - “Blithe Spirit” by Noel Coward

August 25, 7 PM Porch Party Mama’s

August 26, 7 PM Bearnstow Dancers (for info and tickets go to bearnstow.org)

September 16th, 4 PM The Pihcintu Multinational Girls Chorus - Voices for the Voiceless

December (TBD) The Vienna Winter Revels



Aging in Place (AIP) Committee News

The Aging in Place Committee was initially formed during the comprehensive planning process. There is an age friendly section in the plan that was adopted in 2019.

At the time our planning process was happening, AARP began its own age friendly initiative nation-wide around 8 areas of livability. Since many of these areas were reflected in our comprehensive plan section, the committee decided to join the AARP age friendly network. While COVID certainly affected work on the goals, the committee has continued to move forward.

Part of the work of the AIP committee was establishing a “Caring Ears” program in which committee members and others made regular calls to those known to be most at-risk health-wise. Due to success with this effort, in 2021, the Maine Health Access Foundation awarded the AIP Committee a two-year grant to expand the program to Vienna and Fayette and to establish a system in the three towns that will be more pro-active in ensuring that older residents are not only able to age in place but also be healthy at home.

To that end, the AIP committee has contracted on a part-time basis with 2 individuals to assist it. Amy Perez-Blaisdell is a Mt. Vernon resident and a Licensed Social Worker. Working through the committee, people making Caring Ears calls, members of Mt. Vernon Rescue and others working in the 3-town community can ask Amy for assistance in providing resources for our older residents. This service can be especially helpful for people living alone with no family in the immediate area.

Kelly O’Neil, a Vienna resident, is the new Outreach Coordinator. Because the three communities are rural, it can be difficult to know all the people who are most likely to benefit from Caring Ears and other programs that could improve social contacts. Kelly will work with town departments and other organizations to locate people at risk of isolation and/or who have difficulty accessing health care. Ultimately, through this grant, we will learn how best the AIP committee can help older residents maintain their health while continuing to live at home.

If you are interested in joining the committee, have suggestions to offer or would like to speak with either Amy or Kelly, you would be welcome to come to a committee meeting. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, at the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library at 4 p.m. You can also contact the committee through chairman Jon Olson at jonolson204@gmail.com.

MOUNT VERNON, MAINE IS MY HOMETOWN

Linda Horne Schultz

BROKER

207-215-9805 | SCHULTZREALTOR@AOL.COM



"Helping my neighbors buy and sell Real Estate in this town is not just my job, it is my passion. I know what it means to live here and love to help others in my community."

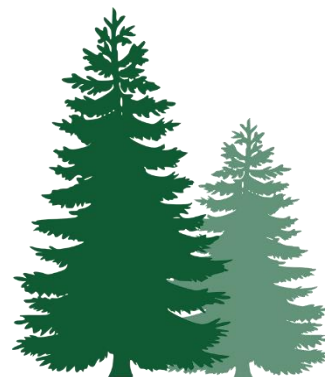
I AM PROUD TO CONDUCT MY REAL ESTATE BUSINESS WITH LAKEPOINT REAL ESTATE

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#1 INDEPENDENT AGENCY FOR LAKEFRONT IN THE STATE



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207-495-3700 WWW.BELGRADELAKEPOINT.COM



We are your premier vacation rental company in the Belgrade Lakes Region proudly serving our community for over 36 years. We have over 40 beautiful cottage rentals for the 2023 season to choose from. Visit our web-site to see our selection of rentals and to check availability.

WEB-SITE: WWW.BELGRADERENTAL.COM

TELEPHONE: (207) 495-2104 | EMAIL: BELGRADELAKESRENTME@GMAIL.COM

Where summer memories are made !



The **Mount Vernon Community Partnership (CPC)** is pursuing the possibility of housing for our seniors in Mount Vernon, which is a goal set forth in our town's 2019 Comprehensive Plan that calls for the town to create opportunities for more affordable/manageable housing for senior citizens.

The CPC is a **non-profit and non-governmental organization** that has been in existence since 1999. Its members are **volunteers who love Mount Vernon** and work to protect what's great about our town and to improve what needs improvement. Some projects have been to protect Minnehonk Lake from pollution, village traffic and pedestrian safety, and providing emergency fuel assistance to our more challenged citizens.

We strive to promote economic and community development for the benefit of the citizens of Mount Vernon and have been successful in many ways over the years with the input from the citizens, other organizations, and the select board.

We determined that one of the town's greatest coming needs is a place for people who've lived here, many for their entire lives, and who don't want to move but need to downsize.

We created a questionnaire to determine the support of the possibility of senior housing in town. The questionnaire asks what kind of housing they would prefer, what amenities they would want, and whether they would need transportation. The questionnaires are available at the town office, post office, and library. **YOUR INPUT MATTERS.**

We've gratefully received over 60 responses, and the majority of the responders are supportive of the effort. If you haven't filled out the questionnaire yet, please do so.

We are receiving guidance from nonprofits that work in the field of affordable housing, including one that may eventually be interested in developing a project in Mount Vernon. Finding a potential location has been challenging. Numerous property owners whom we approached were not ready to part with their land, but we have finally identified four properties that could be available to purchase for this project, and one of them looks feasible. If a nonprofit developer determines that it will take on the project, it will most likely consist of approximately 8 housing units and a community building that will be affordable for seniors. We have many more steps ahead of us in this process, and we'll keep you informed, but for now we want to make sure you know the facts.

If you have any questions, email Sandy Wright at scwright@fairpoint.net.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library
May 2023

Phone: 293-2565
Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

“The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries.” Kurt Vonnegut

Our children’s activities group, **Kids Create!** led by our wonderful volunteer Bobbi Jo, will continue through May, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 4:00--5:15pm. We will probably take a bit of a break in June, as we plan our upcoming summer reading program. Stay tuned! We’ll let you know scheduled times and themes soon.

The **Knit & Crochet group** meets each 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the library, from 1--3pm. All ages are welcome. This scheduled Crafternoon is well-received. You can learn skills from the folks who attend, or you can bring some other craft to work on while everyone works and visits. If you would like to know more or are in need of yarn, needles, or other knitting or crocheting supplies, come talk with Amy Jajliardo during craft time, or private message her on Facebook.

Tech Help is scheduled for each Wednesday morning between 9:00 and noon, by appointment. We are working with the town Digital Equity & Digital Inclusion committee to provide resources and training to help community members have access to digital resources and to help them learn skills so that they can communicate online with family, friends, and various services, as well as use programs like Word or Google Docs in order to create documents or papers they may need or want to put together. Please call or email us to see when we can schedule you and reserve a time with one of our tech help wizards! We are still in the early stages of this project, and hope to help make the internet more accessible for our local citizens as we reach out!

Botanical Gardens passes: We have purchased a Library Pass to the Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, for our patrons’ use. The pass is good from May until October (it does not cover a visit to Gardens Aglow). Once we are set up (soon!), we will be able to schedule one family (2 adults and any number of children under the age of 18) per day for visits to the gardens. You will need to call or email us at the library, and then we will check our calendar with them, and schedule a visit. We can print out passes for each member of the family that will be attending, for you to hand into the staff at the gardens when you arrive, or we can send the passes to you digitally so you can print them out yourselves or present them to the garden staff by showing them on your phone screen.

Events email list: Alice sends out an email once each week, listing various community happenings in Mt. Vernon, Vienna, Fayette, and other close communities. It is a helpful way to stay tuned in to what is going on in our towns! Please email or call us (leave your name and email address and use the word “events” in the subject line) to sign up to start receiving this weekly update, and we’ll put you on the list!

What I’m reading: Just finished Linda Hogan’s stark & beautifully written People of the Whale, about a Viet Nam veteran and his interactions both in his own remote coastal village on the far-removed western coast of North America and in Viet Nam. I am starting An American in Scotland, a cozy mystery by Lucy Connelly. What are you reading while we all pause in awe to appreciate all of the blooming flowers, shrubs, and trees?



CODE OFFICE REPORT
FOR
MONTH OF APRIL 2023

PERMITS.

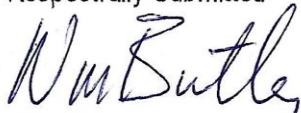
- Building Permits issued: 12 (two new structures)
- Internal Plumbing Permits issued: 3
- Septic System Permits issued: 3
- Floodplain Permits issued: 0
- Shoreland Zoning Use Permits: 4
- Certificate of Compliance Permits: 0
- Total Permits Issued: 22
- Site Inspections: 13

INSPECTIONS/PROJECT UPDATES

Camp Laurel. At the request of the town attorney, I sent a message to the U.S. Department of Justice requesting written clarification on whether pre-existing buildings after the inception of the ADA rules required buildings be retrofitted. I have received no response as yet. Camp Laurel has agreed that all new structures or new additions to existing structures will meet the ADA rules. In addition, they have hired a maine-licensed architect to evaluate the camp and provide a report to my attention this fall.

183 Pond Road. In response to a complaint, I visited the site and spoke with one of the property owners who was planning to burn a large pile of debris in the backyard. The property owner initially refused to pickout the non-burnable debris but after a call to the real estate agent who was selling the house the property owner called back and agreed to properly dispose of the debris pile in lieu of burning it. The fire chief was also consulted.

Respectfully Submitted



William W. Butler



HOSPICE
Volunteers
OF WATERVILLE AREA

PLANT SALE

Vegetable and Flower Seedlings
Perennials, Trees & Shrubs

Generously Donated by the Maine Department of
Corrections Agriculture Program, Fedco Trees &
Local Gardeners

FRIDAY, MAY 12 2-6

SATURDAY, MAY 13 8-2

304 MAIN ST. WATERVILLE



It may be chilly and rainy once again, but last Friday night it was vibrantly warm inside the Vienna Union Hall as we celebrated a beautiful Spring Day with The Gawler Family Band. It was an evening of toe-tapping entertainment as the Gawler's performed instrumental and vocal pieces - with resounding participation by the audience during several songs. We even watched Molly Gawler perform two interpretative dances in time with musical accompaniment. There were many bright eyes and wide smiles at the end of the evening. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us.

Next up we are proud to present another evening of award-winning musicians when The Katahdin Valley Boys bring their Bluegrass music to our Hall. Jeff Folger (banjo and vocals, from Sidney), Dan Simons (multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, from Vienna) Ken Brooks (lead rhythm guitar, vocals, from Athens), and Steve Bixby (bass, vocals, from Round Pond) will present a fresh, personal approach presented in an engaging, light-hearted, family friendly format that is sure to entertain. The Katahdin Valley Boys have been recognized by both The Maine Academy of Country Music and The Maine Country Music Association with their respective "Bluegrass Band of the Year" awards on numerous occasions. They will present a quality show featuring traditional, and contemporary Bluegrass and Bluegrass Gospel music.

The Vienna Union Hall is honored that this group is returning this year, having missed last year due to illness. The concert is held at the Vienna Union Hall on Saturday, May 13th. Doors open at 6:30 and the show begins at 7 PM. Tickets for this special show are \$20 and may be purchased online through our website.

(<https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events>) Pay Pal account or at the door. We do encourage people to buy early as this is a popular group. If you have any difficulties obtaining a ticket or you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me; viennaunionhall@gmail.com. I will get back to you in a timely manner to guarantee your satisfaction.

We are indebted to you, our patrons, for your generosity in supporting our efforts to enrich our communities by presenting a variety of performance artists.

Thank you,

Tim Davis, President

Vienna Union Hall Association.

