

Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter

www.mtvernonme.org

December 2015

Town Office:

Phone: 293-2379
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clerk@mtvernonme.org

Mon, Tues, Thurs:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Fourth Sat. of each month:
9 a.m. - Noon

Selectmen Meetings:

Every other Mon. at the
Town Office

Warrant 6:30 p.m.
Regular Business 7 p.m.

Planning Board:

John Hagelin, Chair
293-2157

3rd Tues. of the month at
Community Center, 7 p.m.

Transfer Station:

Wayne Colebrook, Mgr.
458-1425
Sat. & Sun.
8:30 a.m. - Noon
Wed. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
(Memorial Day thru
Labor Day)

Selectmen:

[select-
board@mtvernonme.org](mailto:select-board@mtvernonme.org)

Paul Crockett, Chair
293-2514
paul@@mtvernonme.org

Clyde Dyar
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clyde@mtvernonme.org

Sherene Gilman
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Selectmen's Assistant

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Treasurer

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[sherene@mtvernonme
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Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn
(h) 293-2179
(cell) 242-5828

Animal Control Officer

Kevin Wheeler
778-1815

Fire Chief

Dana Dunn
293-2114
(non-emergencies)

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson
293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Health Officer

Daniel K. Onion
293-2076

Newsletter Editor

Tina Mann
446-3297
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ter@gmail.com](mailto:mtvnewslet-ter@gmail.com)

RSU #38

Supt. Of Schools
Donna H. Wolfrom, Ed.D.
685-3336

Board Members

Michael Apolito (293-3155)
Trish Jackson (293-8012)
Michele Pino

Local School Comm.

Abby Dunn
Madeline Snow

CEO, Plumbing & Health Inspector

Richard Marble
293-2636
ceo@mtvernonme.org
Wed. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

293-2565

Mon. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed. 9 a.m. - Noon
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Library Trustees:

George Smith
Kathleen Kelley
Fred Webber
Dorcas Riley
Shari Hamilton

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Paid Business Advertisements

Bus. Card Size \$15/mth
1/4 page \$25/mth
1/2 page \$45/mth
Full page \$90/mth

Checks are to be made payable to: Town of Mt. Vernon. All ads must be prepaid with ad copy and payment sent to:

Tina Mann, Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 343
East Winthrop, ME 04343
FMI (207) 446-3297

Office of the Town Clerk

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

The office will be open on Thursday December 24th only from 9:00 - Noon. We will also not be open the fourth Saturday in December.

Do not forget to license your dogs by January 31st. to avoid the \$25.00 late fee. We have 2016 hunting & fishing, snowmobile and boat licenses available.

Once again, remember that even if our cars are not in the parking lot, and it is our regular business hours, we still are probably open. We sometimes get a ride in to work with our husbands. We will post on Channels 13, 8, and 6 if we close for storm days. If the State of Maine closes their offices, we will also be closed. If it is announced on the news that they recommend people to stay home because of road conditions we will be closed also.

Have Happy Holidays, and keep smiling!

Rachel and Amanda

Selectmen's Desk

Ho! Ho! Ho!

It's December already. Can you believe it?

Don't forget that the tree lighting at the Community Center is at 6:00 p.m. on December 5th and rumor has it that Santa will be there!

Your select board has recently completed a full inventory of town maintained roads. We will be keying the collected data into a program that will help us to make wise decisions such as which roads ultimately have the highest priority to the town and what work needs to be done. It is a real challenge to not continuously get further behind on road maintenance while trying to keep road related budgets relatively flat. With the help of a soon to be formalized road committee we want to be able to make sound recommendations to the taxpayers to get the best bang for your road maintenance buck, so to speak. Watch this column for more details over the next few months.

Now and again the subject of taxes comes up. Given that 67% of your local real estate taxes this year go to funding RSU 38 we just wanted to remind everyone that the RSU Board welcomes the public to attend their meetings and they always have a time slot for public questions and comments. Also their website has lots of detail about what is going on. You can see for yourself at: <http://www.maranacook.org/board-information/>

There are a few openings on the athletic committee. This is a group of dedicated volunteers who see to it that the children of Mount Vernon have excellent sports programs. Naturally as kids get into middle and high school there is turn-over on the committee. So if you have young children and want to join this committee please let us know. The kids are depending on you.

A quick Transfer Station note

Please remember when bringing your Christmas wrapping paper, boxes and so forth to the recycling compactor, to separate out all styrofoam as that is NOT recyclable at all. It is also not biodegradable. This, by the way, is why some communities in Maine have banned the use of styrofoam products in stores and restaurants. And remember when you put your tin cans, bottles, plastic, paper, magazines, boxes and so forth into the Zero-Sort recycling stream you are helping to keep local real estate taxes as low as possible. Every little bit helps.

And finally, a SAFETY note about speed limits. While speed limits in town are set by and enforced by the State, we have heard and observed too many complaints about speed in the village and surrounding area. Please remember that the entire village area is a 25 mph zone as are the roads leading out of the village. And Route 41 after the village area and all the way PAST the Flying Pond Variety is a 45 mph zone (NOT a 65+mph zone!!). Parents, please pass this reminder along to your teen drivers as well.

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Select Board, we hope you and yours have a joyous holiday season.

Paul Crockett, Chair

On behalf of the Mount Vernon Board of Selectmen

Town of Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Synopsis of Minutes for September 21, 2015

To view entire meeting minutes contact the Select Board Assistant at ajc couture2@gmail.com or call 458-6389.

Public Hearing General Assistance Ordinance. Updates Crockett opens public hearing. The state makes changes to the monetary levels that a citizen can claim if applying for General Assistance.

Crockett closes public hearing. Dyar motions to accept and file general assistance ordinance updates as required. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor.

7:02pm **Planning Board.** Crockett motions to appoint Nate Kane to the Planning Board. Dyar seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor. Kane will be taking the seventh seat on the board, which is an alternate position.

Appointment Renewals: Crockett motions to appoint: Jesse Jacobs and Tammy McLaughlin to the Athletic Committee, John Hagelin, (chair) and Fred Webber to the Planning Board, Carey Bor to the Events Committee, and Julie Weaver, Sue Emmerling, and Paul Crockett to the Transfer Station Committee. Dyar motions to approve the appointments as noted by Crockett. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor. Couture will contact the appointees to come in and get sworn in by Rachel.

7:07pm **Newsletter.** Crockett suggests something being added into the newsletter about encouraging citizens to recycle. According to the ordinance, recycling is mandatory in Mount Vernon. Putting this in the newsletter would be a good chance to remind people. The recycling at the transfer station is zero-sort and saves the town and taxpayers money.

Transfer Station. Dyar motions to hire Carol O'Connell as an employee at the Transfer Station. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor. Her hourly wage will start at \$9.00.

7:15pm Other Business:

- RHR Smith & Co does the town audit. Marti has received the contract and the auditing fee has gone up some. It was \$4,725 last year. The cost will be \$5,000 this year. Dyar motions for chair to sign on behalf of Board. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor.

- 30 mile watershed thanks the town for its \$1,000 donation

7:25pm **Executive Session with Legal Counsel.** Dyar motions to enter executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E). Crockett seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor.

7:45pm Gilman motions to exit executive session. Crockett seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor. No action taken. Dyar motions to retain services of David Sanders for the Appeals Board's upcoming meeting. Crockett seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor.

Town of Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Synopsis of Minutes for October 5, 2015

7:01pm **Update from the Travis Mills Foundation about what they are doing at the old Maine Chance Farm.** Dyar recently did an interview with Travis Mills which can be viewed online at CATV 7 & 11. You can also watch the interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un6nt4OTEjY>

The main building of the old Maine Chance Farm/Elizabeth Arden estate is in Rome, and the cottage is in Mount Vernon. Christine Toriello is here to give an update on the renovation currently underway by the Travis Mills Foundation, (TMF). They are working with several local businesses. Above and Beyond is the main contractor and the Lajoie Brothers are doing the concrete work. TMF hopes to raise \$2.7 million. They have raised \$600k so far. They hope to be open the summer of 2017.

TMF's intent is to go back to the historic nature of the property and return it to how Elizabeth Arden had it. They will even be trying to recreate the gardens out front as they were when Arden owned it. They will be installing an elevator to accommodate patrons unable to use the stairs. Once the property is completed, it will be able to handle about ten families a week. The goal is to have about five weeks of

programs running in the summer months. TMF has also acquired the cottage that is part of the property with a donation from Kennebec Savings Bank. The Mills Foundation can be found online at travismills.org

7:20pm **Lee Dunn- Roads Update.** Crockett asks about culvert on Bartlett Rd. Dunn talked to DEP and they do not need permits. Dunn has pulled up part of the road and has put signs and cones there. Dunn is waiting for the water level to subside some before continuing the work. The culvert ordered for the Bean Rd. came in last Monday and it happened to be the same size needed for the Bartlett Rd. The whole road will need to be closed to replace the culvert. Dunn will notify emergency vehicles and the public before the road is closed. In total the job will take a couple days.

A culvert washed completely out of a driveway on South Taylor Rd. Dunn put in a new culvert because the bottom of old one was rotted.

Dunn has done ditching and shoulders on Blake Hill Rd. He didn't have to change the culverts, just unplug them. The area near the stream has been stabilized.

Gilman thanks Dunn for putting a riser in for the septic system and smoothing out the turf. There is a discussion about whether or not to leave snow over the top of the septic system or not this winter. The town office driveway is supposed to be paved before winter.

Dyar talked to the state about the rise at the edge of the road by the Community Center being so steep. There was also a discussion about fixing the parking area at the Community Center, and adding striping so people know where to park. There was a discussion about possibly moving the large rocks and the bushes that are there to allow more room for parking.

7:35pm **Discussion with off-road plow contractor.** Jon Kent was awarded the off-road contract. He is here to sign that contract, which is a three year contract with no optional year. There is nothing else in the contract that is different than the previous contract. The areas listed on the contract to be cleared are listed in the order that they are to be plowed/cleaned. The Select Board and Jon Kent sign the off-road plow contract for 2015-18.

7:44pm **Update on down town drainage and other DOT work.** DOT started ditching today. They are going to be putting in the culvert near Tonny's that will run to the brook. DOT is going to be adding a catch basin near Dyar's rock wall, and putting in another catch basin near the fire station. They are also adding a catch basin near Tonny's before the water flows across the road. Dyar estimates the job lasting no more than two weeks. They are also going to pave part of Dyar's land where the ditch is now near the community center and then add gravel so people can parallel park there.

7:50pm **Other Business.**

- Subordination Agreement from a citizen who had received funding from the Community Development Program. Dyar motions to have Crockett sign the subordination agreement in front of a notary and two witnesses. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor.

- Letter from Maine Revenue Services valuation proposing that it goes up to \$255,600,000. Right now we are at approximately \$242,000,000. Crockett will forward the letter to the assessor.

- MMA Risk Management Action Plan- need to fix emergency lighting at library

- Review of General Assistance Audit reveals that the town's GA system is in compliance.

- Gilman was contacted by the Athletic Committee, who said the elementary school needs a certificate of liability of insurance on file at the central office which states if anyone of the town is in the building using it and something happens that RSU #38 is not liable. Gilman suggests putting an email out to the departments and asking them what they use the school for. MMA will construct the certificate.

Town of Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting Synopsis of Minutes for October 19, 2015

7:01pm **Appointment of Health Officer.** Dyar motions to appoint Dan Onion as Health Officer. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor.

7:02pm **Citizen question about old Bog Rd.** The Dearborns are here to discuss the old Bog Rd. They have brought a map showing exactly where they live. The Dearborn's state all landowners on this section of old Bog Road have covenants in their deeds stating they have access to the road and are not landlocked. In 1997, there was a public easement put on a portion of the Bog Rd by the Select Board. The Select Board at that time voted to abandon that road from Spring Hill Rd. to Wings Mills Rd. The Dearborns state the road does not go anywhere and there is no need for there to be a public easement on this road. The Dearborns state that this decision should have been made by citizen vote, not by the Select Board. By law, when the town votes to abandon a road after 1976, the road will maintain a public easement. The Dearborns want the Select Board to remove the public easement. There is further discussion concerning why they would like the public easement removed.

Dyar suggests obtaining copies of all evidence the Dearborns have gathered, then the Select Board will discuss the matter with the town's attorney. After consultation with the attorney, the Select Board will contact the Dearborns.

7:25pm **Review of Select Board's road assessment and talk about next steps.** The Board has finished the road assessment. Dyar motions to have Paul Crockett pick up the RMS Road Assessment program from the state. Gilman seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor. The Select Board members will add their assessment notes into the program and then meet with the Road Commissioner/Snow Plow contractor. The Board also discusses selecting citizens for the Roads Committee.

7:42pm **Other Business:**

-Mount Vernon **Municipal Valuation Return (MVR)**, for 2015. This is State of Maine Revenue Services mandated paperwork that must be turned into the state by November 2nd by Maine statute. The MVR relates the total value of real estate for the town according to the assessment. It also has tree growth, homestead exemptions, etc. During the winter, the state will schedule a time to sit down with the assessor's agent and take out the sales of different properties and check the assessor's analysis to ascertain whether the assessment is within reason or not within reason. Dyar motions to sign Mount Vernon's MVR and send it on to the Bureau of Taxation. Crockett seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor. Couture will send the MVR to the Maine Revenue Services

Abatement- Due to a software blip, there was a tax bill generated that should not have been. The tax bill was double taxation, so it must be abated. Dyar moves to approve the abatement.

-Permit Fee Schedules- This was inadvertently rolled back. It needs to be revisited before next town meeting and a decision made if something should be on the warrant. Dyar recommends putting it in the warrant as an article to put permit fee schedule back to Select Board decision.

-Mapping- Crockett talked to Juanita who said a mapping vendor called. The method for all town maps is old fashioned paper. The newest level of mapping is GIS. It would be very expensive to switch from paper to GIS, so Juanita suggests switching to CAD files, which would put maps into digital format so they could be published online. Dyar states the University of Maine has a program where they use students to come to towns and have the maps switched to GIS.

LUO ordinance- when the LUO was redone, it had to be filed with the state. The state has sent an official letter that the LUO is consistent with the required guidelines and in compliance.

-The **YMCA swim program** this year was successful and well attended. It has been set up to run next year for the same number of weeks and the same length of time. The Board thanks Trish Jackson for getting this program back for the kids and the community.

-Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center thanks the town for the \$574 that was voted in at the town meeting.

-There are three terms coming up for the Appeals Board.

Dyar hopes that these members will accept reappointment.

Town of Mount Vernon Select Board Meeting- Synopsis of Minutes for November 2, 2015

7:01pm **Citizen question about the old Bog Rd (part II).** Citizens attended the last Select Board meeting to discuss the status of a discontinued section of the old Bog Rd. that currently has a public easement. Bob and Susan Bell are here to discuss this same portion of the old Bog Rd. There are 12 lots on this section and the Bells own two lots. There have been issues with another landowner that Bell says wants the road to be private. Bell states that the lots were approved by the town and the Bells bought the property based on the fact that they can use this road. The Bells would like the public easement to remain on the road. Bell states he thinks this road should be open to the public for everyone to enjoy, and possibly eventually hook into the Augusta trails.

The Board will speak with the Town's attorney and then respond to the Bog Rd. issue.

7:57pm **Other Business.**

-Gilman will be the chairing the **Budget Committee** for the upcoming budget season. There is a discussion about nominating new members for the Budget Committee. The Select Board will ask Gerhardt to come in and participate in the budget process.

-Crockett nominates Dyar to take over as **GA officer** for fiscal year 2016. Gilman seconds. Two votes in favor and one abstention.

-Land Use Ordinance (LUO) Fee Schedule- The fee schedule was cut and pasted from the old LUO. There is a modified fee schedule that Marble has been working from. Marble would like the other fee schedule back in the LUO. Due to the fact that anything done in the Shoreland Zone takes much more work, the other fee schedule helps recoup the time and money the town spends on it. There is also an issue with one fee that may be being charged twice, depending on how the wording is interpreted. Crockett will speak with Sue Herman and put this topic on the agenda for next meeting.

Dyar asks about adding a time limit into the ordinance concerning how long a person has to rebuild or tear down a burned, derelict, or unsafe building. State law already states the town can take action on this.

-Dyar drafted a thank you letter to Jim Brooks for painting the signs in town.

-Boat launch- The State may help with the work needed to upgrade the boat launch. There is a discussion about either updating the boat launch where it is or moving it over to the fire lane. The work would be done as an even cost share with the State. Dunn states the FD would like to move the hydrant that is there 40' closer to the road.

-Dyar asks Select Board members to check the **street lights** on different roads in town.

-There is a discussion about the **excessive speed of people driving into the village.** Crockett suggests adding another street light near his house where the speed limit drops to 25 mph. There is more discussion about adding street lights in different areas around town, and changing some speed limits. Dyar suggests a solar powered flashing speed limit sign. Crockett checked on LED lights a few years ago and it would have cost \$236.73 for the year. The costs for the old style lights are approximately double the cost of LEDs for the year.

-There was a discussion about going over the **road assessment review.** Dyar suggests doing a work session on a weekend. Crockett needs to obtain the computer program first.

-Surplus property- The Select Board previously discussed sending Ron or Mark to look at the state surplus property for video equipment. Crockett will call state surplus to set this up.

-Time Warner Contract- the Board needs to decide what they are going to do. Dyar suggests negotiating with Mike again. Dyar states they need to try and get service to the townspeople who are not receiving it.



Mt. Vernon Fire Department

If your cooking prowess is anything like mine, then this past week served as a handy opportunity to see whether your smoke detector still works. Mine does. It let me know when I had left my own meager contribution to our Thanksgiving dinner for several minutes longer than it should have been. If you have not recently made a "blackened" green bean casserole (a dish that perhaps will not be on my families regular roster of holiday favorites), it may be a great time to test your smoke detector and see if it works. While you are at it, check the fire extinguishers as well. Make sure your family knows what to do in the case of a fire, and that you have evacuation routes planned for your family and all members know where to go in case of a fire.

As the weather turns colder and the days get shorter we begin spending more time indoors. The season of lights is upon us. Many of us will be taking to the woods in the upcoming weeks to pick out a live tree which we will festoon with lights. The majority of older lights are fairly inefficient and produce more heat than light. Couple this with the fact that some of us (myself included) often forget to keep our trees watered for several days, and you can have a recipe for a holiday that is more memorable in ways that you may not want. Check your tree daily, and if you have the means, look into investing in new LED lights which produce more light on less wattage with less wasted heat.

We at the Mount Vernon Fire Department have recently been called to a small woods fire that started in our community. Mutual Aid from surrounding towns came together and helped us get it under control. We worked into the early morning putting out a series of small fires that were burning as the underbrush caught fire and burned quickly. Luckily, we were able to stop the fire from continuing to spread. Although the cause of the fire is unknown, I would like to ask you to take precautions when going in the woods. Make sure that you don't accidentally start a fire while disposing of a cigarette, and make sure that the exhaust from your vehicle has properly functioning heat shields.

Before signing off this month, I would like to acknowledge the great work that Mount Vernon rescue does. They have recently been selected as our region's EMS service of the year. It is an absolute pleasure to work along side them and share a facility with them. On top of their usual work saving lives, this time of year they put up a giving tree at the General Store. This tree is filled with the names of people in our community who have an unmet need this holiday season. If you have the time, stop by and check out the tags. Take one if you can and help make this Holiday season just a little bit brighter for some of our residents.

Mt. Vernon Rescue



Mt. Vernon Rescue members June Leighton, Leslie Grenier, Laura Reville, Roger Scott and Pat Rawson recently attended the 35th Annual EMS Seminar during which Rescue was awarded the Atlantic Partners EMS Service of the Year Award for Region 3.

"Small town living and work ethic is evident in your desire to serve others, from your community health screenings and awareness, to your desire to protect the providers who serve as members is amazing. Always ready to lend a hand to all in your community without a second thought. We are grateful for your significant contribution to CISM in Maine through your encouragement and support of our CISM members. Always ready to provide fire rehab to not only your department, but also to those of the Lake Region Mutual Aid group provides a necessary role on the fire ground."

Congratulations to all Rescue members who made this award possible!

Tony Dunn, Leslie Grenier, Bo Jespersen, Becky Kent, June Leighton, Amanda Mills, Roger Pelton, Pat Rawson, Laura Reville, and Roger Scott

Watershed Survey Underway

After receiving 3 proposals from consultants, the Echo Lake Association (ELA) has contracted with the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District to assist it with its watershed survey.

ELA voted at its annual meeting to use funds from its Lake Improvement Fund to conduct a survey during 2016. A Steering Committee formed in September to guide the survey effort. Any one interested in joining the Steering Committee or who has questions about the project should contact the association at echo4me15@gmail.com.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

contributed by Mary Anne Libby



"All Librarians are Secret Masters of Severe Magic. Goes with the territory. A Library at its ripping, roaring best is a raucous beast to ride." Catherynne Valente, [The Girl Who Soared over Fairyland and Cut the Moon in Two](#)

It's that time of year. Remember to call us on snow/ice days to see if we are open, before you venture out. Generally we are closed when there are school closings, and there are other times when we can't get to the library to open. Call us!

Tax Help days will be coming up in February and March, organized by our AARP Volunteer Tax Guru, David Fuller. We will have four Saturdays available for appointments. Our dates this year are: February 13 and 27, and March 12 and 26. To make an appointment, call the library at 293-2565 – we'll start accepting appointments at the start of January. This is a wonderful service offered to our community elders and others who need help. Thank you, David, and Senior Spectrum!

You may have seen the article in the KJ about our community's latest project, Neighbors Driving Neighbors, which is now up and running. We want you to know that the wonderful volunteer drivers are very willing to bring you to the library! We are working to see how else we can provide library services to those in need within the community. We'll let you know about our efforts as we move forward.

We'll keep our Can Due program going for another week or two. Please bring in some items for the Food Bank and we'll deliver them. We've already gotten a lovely thank you letter from the Food Bank folks, for what has been donated so far!

After Alice Olson and Linda Smith held a homework help workshop for parents in early November, they and Sarah Caban (the school district's instructional math person) left us some notes on a couple of math websites which might come in handy for parents of young students. Try looking at these for a bit of help and inspiration for you and your children.

Math Tappers is a free app for your mobile device, just type in that name on your app store. There are math games about finding sums, time, and estimating fractions.

Mathsframe at http://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/category/ww/most_popular It helps with number lines, time, balance calculations, and more.

Talking math With Your Kids at <http://talkingmathwithkids.com/> gives ideas on how to integrate math talk into basic conversations.

One we've mentioned before: Bedtime Math at <http://www.bedtimemath.org> Lots of games and ideas for how a family can incorporate math into their household routines.

One more idea about online resources: If you are trying to learn a foreign language, or help someone else learn, you can get started via the BBC. Rosetastone.com and babbel.com are good sites, but there is a fee involved. At www.bbc.co.uk/languages you can get familiar with over 30 languages. You can look up essential phrases travelers might need, like "I need help, please", or find resources for teachers & tutors, and look into introductory instruction.

There is a Maine author of juvenile fiction we want to mention. Catherynne M. Valente has written a series about a young girl who travels back and forth between her home in the plains states, to Fairyland. There are lots of fantastical creatures, plenty of adventure, and the prose is beautiful. Some of the creatures start out scary, but you eventually learn why and how they can sometimes wreak havoc. Her books are reminiscent of classic children's literature like [Peter Pan](#), [Alice in Wonderland](#), or [Wind in the Willows](#). We have the first two in the series, and hope to get the next two. The first title in the series is: [The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairland in a Ship of Her Own Making](#). These books might make a good family read aloud during the long winter nights.

New adult nonfiction titles on the shelf this month are getting good reviews in newspapers & book blogs. We have Rinker Buck's [The Oregon Trail](#); [Dark Places of the Earth](#), about a slave ship, by Jonathan M. Bryant; [Voracious](#), by Cara Nicoletti (it's about cooking and literature – how can you go wrong with that?); a beautiful book by Robert Llewellyn entitled [Seeing Seeds](#) (gorgeous photography); and another to help you dream and plan your way to next year's garden – Ken Druse's [The New Shade Garden](#). It's beautiful.

I'm about to delve into some of Maine author Henry Beston's old books that have been sitting on my own shelf at home. What are you reading as winter approaches?



Guest Column

by Senator Tom Saviello

Veterans Legacy Project Preserves Living Histories of Maine Heroes

The Veterans Legacy Project provides an opportunity for all generations of Maine families to connect to our military heroes and enables citizens to actively volunteer to protect American history.

The Bureau of Veterans Services created the Maine Veterans Legacy Project with the mission of preserving Maine history by collecting first-person accounts of those who defended the United States during wartime and protected our borders during peacetime. The Bureau of Veterans Services collaborates with WABI TV5 of Bangor to film and produce the interviews and the State of Maine Archives will file the interviews, which will be made available to the public for view.

The Veterans Legacy Project initially will focus on interviewing veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf Wars, and Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. All veterans are encouraged to participate in the project. However, it is not exclusive to veterans; the project also seeks to share stories from civilians who were actively involved in supporting veterans and the innumerable number of family members affected by their service. The project will also offer war industry workers, medical volunteers, troop greeters and others to contribute in future months.

If you are a World War II veteran or you know someone who would like to participate in the Maine Veterans Legacy Project, contact: Laura Allen at the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services, (207) 430-5816.

The Veterans Legacy Project also coordinates with the Library of Congress and its Veterans History Project to archive information. There are now 460 national and local partners. A list of the project's partners can be viewed at www.loc.gov/veterans.

Information on Employment Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

Commissioner of Labor Jeanne Paquette has issued a reminder about the laws that protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in employment situations.

Under Maine's employment laws, an employee who is a victim of domestic violence must be allowed time off from work with or without pay to prepare for and attend court proceedings, receive medical treatment or obtain necessary services to remedy a crisis caused by domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The employee must request the time off. Leave must also be allowed if the employee's child, parent or spouse is the victim.

Under recent changes that went into effect in October 2015, if a worker is denied time off, the worker must report the suspected violation to the Department of Labor within six months of the denial of leave. If the department finds that the worker should have been granted leave, a fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation may be assessed against the employer. In addition, the employer is liable for liquidated damages in an amount equal to three times the amount of total assessed fines. If the worker was found to have been terminated in violation of the law, the worker may elect either the liquidated damages or reemployment with the employer with back wages.

If a worker needs to quit their job due to issues related to being a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, that person might be eligible for unemployment benefits, and the employer's experience rating will not be charged. If the worker has made all reasonable efforts to keep the job but voluntarily leaves work to avoid domestic abuse, the worker may be eligible to file for unemployment benefits. A worker may not be disqualified from receiving benefits because of misconduct if the worker's actions were based solely on the need to protect herself (himself) or an immediate family member from domestic violence, and she made all reasonable efforts to keep the job.

Maine CareerCenters are available to assist victims look for new employment. Visit <http://www.mainecareercenter.com> for locations.

Call the department at (207) 623-7900 for answers to questions about these laws or to obtain a copy of the laws. An optional labor law poster about these statutes is available at no charge for downloading or printing at <http://www.maine.gov/labor/posters/index.html>.

Legislative Council Makes Final Decisions on Bills for Second Session

The Legislative Council, made up of the ten members of legislative leadership, met following the Senate session on Thursday to consider appeals of bills for the 2016 legislative session.

Lawmakers appealed 147 bills. Of those, Legislative Council approved 54 to move forward. Those will be added to the 33 that were approved at the council's first meeting in October. I was successful in getting two of my bills in the first round and two in the appeal process.

During the 2016 session lawmakers will also be considering bills carried over from 2015, as well as bills submitted by government agencies. My committee has four carryover bills to consider.



Power of Attorney and Advance Directives

contributed by Dan Onion, MD

Mt. Vernon Health Officer

dkonion@gmail.com

293-2076

That's a skunk in church for a topic isn't it! And I bet fewer than half who saw the title read even this far. But hang in there. As discomfoting as it is to talk about death, particularly our own, if you don't at least do something about both these topics before bad things happen, you and your family may regret that you didn't. I'm in the business and have seen that situation way too often. So listen up and decide for yourself. There are two kinds of powers of attorney (POAa) needed by most people: a health care POA, and a durable POA.

Let's talk about the health care type and advance directives first. Maine is aging fast; I know that at least 20% of our town residents are over 65, and in another 10 years that number will have risen to 30%. That's the age when our mortality really begins to make itself felt. At age 65 and beyond, even though we feel and are fine right now, we have a 50% chance of dying over the next 10 years. In many cases, things go south so fast that no one has time to think about how medical decisions get made and who will make them. In the past, when medical interventions didn't do much good anyway, the default medical strategy was to let nature take its course without heroics; but nowadays, aggressive medical intervention has become the norm, and we have to speak up if we want to slow down and do less. As a result, a distressing number of people spend their last days in an ICU on a ventilator, or undergo surgical or other procedures which hurt, prevent the person from talking with family and friends, and may actually provide very little benefit. And then there are the cases of disagreements among a patient's children about who is in charge and how much to do for a very sick parent. Again the default is often to over-treat, which often prolongs the ordeal.

With an advance directive, you can describe some broad outlines of what you do and do not want done if and when you suffer a potentially fatal illness. Most of the time you can speak for yourself; even so takes a lot of effort to push back enthusiastic medical types who often don't know you and what you want at all. So something in writing that gives them some inkling of where you are coming from will make it easier for you to speak up and be heard. And if you are incapacitated, it helps a lot if you have designated a trustworthy family member or very good friend to make medical decisions for you. That person is legally called an agent, or health care power of attorney. Most people choose adult children or other close relatives, although sometimes a close friend can and will take on the role. And many people use the same person to be their durable power of attorney as described below.

You don't have to hire a lawyer to create advance directives; many good free ones are on-line. I like the one on the MaineGeneral website (<http://www.themha.org/policy-advocacy/Issues/End-of-Life-Care/advdirectivesform.aspx>). The crucial parts are:

1-Designation of your agent, as well as names of a couple others who could if your first choice can't for some reason when the time comes.

2-You can stipulate if the agent should start helping you now or only if you are incapacitated. In either case, you can decline their advice or fire them as long as you have the thinking capacity to do so, as determined by your doctor. You can also designate your agent or someone else as a guardian for you, should you ever need one because of prolonged incompetence from brain illness or injury (rare)

3-A request for, or refusal of life-prolonging treatments or feeding, if you develop irreversible dementia or other incapacity. And a request for adequate pain relief even if it may shorten life. There is also a place in this section to stipulate additional conditions. Most won't be able to imagine any, but for some ideas, I list my own here, based on what I've seen go wrong over the years.

Other wishes:

1. Pain control: Adequate, preferably with a PCA system, or offer pain meds regularly. But, if I am unable to request pain medications, I do not want others deciding to give them without direction from me. If am medically paralyzed, then stop the paralyzing meds; if stroked out, work on ways to communicate with me (eye blinking, etc.)
2. CPR up to age 75, unless I have a known terminal (under 1 yr) illness. No CPR over 75 unless defibrillation is possible within 3 minutes of loss of consciousness.
3. No respirator support beyond 3 days, except in the case of trauma without brain injury
4. No IV maintenance fluids or feeding tubes unless recovery is likely within 1 week and no terminal illness is present.

The last 4 sections in the advance directives allow you to list your primary care physician, your preferences about organ donations, requests about funeral arrangements, and include a very important form to inform rescue services of your preferences, an item many don't think of until it is too late.

Powers of attorney can be a little simpler but there are significant risks: on-line POA forms may not comply with Maine law; and incapacitated seniors can be taken advantage of by their POAs, even if they are their children. These POAs are often called "durable powers of attorney", because they still work if you are incapacitated; regular POAs are no longer valid then, so not much use. Maine's Legal Services for the Elderly office (<http://www.mainelse.org/content/powers-attorney>) recommends having a lawyer help; they can provide that service for those over 60. If or when you become incapacitated, the POA authorizes and requires your agent to manage your finances for your benefit only, until you are better or die, when your will's executor takes over. So you should also have a will.

Tough subjects to talk about, but if you are over 60 or 65, you really should have a durable POA, and advance directives designating a health care POA and giving him/her some directions.

**MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CORP.
(CPC)**



Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna

Volunteers providing rides for those who don't drive so they can more easily stay in their homes.

NDN'S
FIRST
RIDE!

Bill Latham
gives a
neighbor a



The CPC helped to found and has helped to coordinate this project for almost three years and acted as the fiscal agent for over two years. Members of the CPC are still active and will continue to be on the board. **More volunteers are needed. Do you or a loved one need a ride for shopping, errands, or medical appointments?** If you can volunteer or need a ride, contact NDN's Coordinator Irene Goff at 860-0677 or email her at neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com. **NDN now as its own 501c3** and depends on donations to provide this very important service to people who don't drive.



HELP A MOUNT VERNON FAMILY STAY WARM THIS WINTER. DONATE TO THE CPC FUEL ASSISTANCE FUND.

You can make a tax-deductible donation to MVCP at 1664 North Road, Mount Vernon. Contact Sandy Wright at scwright@fairpoint.net or call her at 293-2582 for questions.

School News

Maranacook Area School District—RSU #38

RSU #38 Board of Directors 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule

Maranacook Community High School Student Center
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)

December 2	Business Meeting
December 16	Workshop Meeting
January 6	Business Meeting (budget overview)
January 20	Workshop – Budget
February 3	Business Meeting
February 24	Workshop – Budget (invite auditor)
March 2	Business Meeting (invite Select Boards)
March 16	Workshop – Budget
March 23	Workshop – Budget
March 30	Workshop – Budget (if needed)
April 6	Business Meeting, including budget deliberations
April 13	Business Meeting – vote on budget
May 4	Business Meeting
May 18	Budget Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
June 1	Business Meeting
June 15	Workshop Meeting

Please visit www.maranacook.org for the monthly agendas.

UPCOMING EVENTS Mt Vernon Elementary

- Dec. 3 PTC Meeting 6:00
- Dec. 4 PTC Fundraiser Pancakes & PJ's
- Dec. 10 Winter Concert 6:30 - 8:00
- Dec.23 - Jan.1 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

Upcoming Classes– Maranacook Adult Education - Readfield

Look for our new Winter/Spring catalog in your mail the 1st week in January!!

HISet Preparation

Ongoing

CDL Class B Dump Truck Class

Begins 2/25/2016

For details or to register, please visit <http://maranacook.maineadulted.org>. For more information, email us at adulted@maranacook.org or call 685-4923, x1065.

Community Announcements and Events

Advent and Christmas at Readfield UMC Worship Services and Special Events

Dec 05	Saturday Christmas Fair
Dec 06	Sunday 2 nd Sunday of Advent <i>Peace</i>
Dec 13	Sunday 3 rd Sunday of Advent <i>Joy</i>
Dec 20	Sunday 4 th Sunday of Advent <i>Love</i>
Dec 24	Thursday 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Verses and Carols at Torsey Memorial
Dec 24	Thursday 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Light and Communion at Jesse Lee Church
Dec 27	Sunday 10 a.m., 1 st Sunday of Christmas
Dec 31	Thursday 7 p.m. Wesleyan Covenant/Watchnight Service
Jan 03	Sunday 10 a.m., 2 nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany/Magi Sunday



All services are at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise indicated. Readfield United Methodist Church, 1564 Main St. Readfield, ME 04355. Call 207-685-4211 office if you have questions or *Visit our website* www.readfieldumc.org for more information on these services.



Mt. Vernon-Vienna Giving Tree Help your Mt. Vernon & Vienna neighbors

The Giving Tree will be set up in the Mt. Vernon Country Store on Saturday, November 21. Help make a better Christmas for someone by purchasing a request on the tree.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

The AARP Tax-Aide program provides free Federal and State tax return preparation services at the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library in Mount Vernon. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are trained, tested and certified to prepare returns for low and moderate income taxpayers, with special focus on those over 60.

The free AARP Tax-Aide services are provided by appointment only. Call the Dr. Shaw Library at 293-2565 after January 1 for an appointment and a list of documents to bring. Tax dates for 2016 are Saturdays February 13, February 27, March 12 and March 26.

Community Announcements and Events *(cont'd)*

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Women's Guild

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



Saturday, December 5, 2015

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

219 Winthrop Center Road, Winthrop, ME

(Winthrop Center Friends Meeting House/One mile off Route 202 on Route 135 S)

Featuring:

Lovely Hand-Crafted Items: Knitted, Woven, Hand-dyed, and Felted, Art Glass, Sea Glass, Baby Gifts, Filled Gift Baskets, Wreaths, Poinsettias, American Girl Doll Accessories, "Scentsy," "Santa Mice," Rada Knives, Baked Goods and Lunch for Sale

Book Signing by Bill Nave, Editor

**"Student Centered Learning
Nine Classrooms in Action"**

(\$30.00 cash or check at the Book Signing, with \$5.00 from each book sold at the Fair donated to St. Andrew's Women's Guild Outreach Programs)

Minnehonk Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club

Winter is upon us! Members have been working on the trail system to smooth riding your machines. We need more members to help with this project which takes many hours to accomplish. Come and join with us for fun on the trails and meeting new people. The trails must be maintained to interconnect with other towns and areas. Club meetings are held the second and fourth Monday evenings at the club house on the North Road. For more information call Chris Currier at 441-5090.

Mt. Vernon Mason Lodges

Vernon Valley Lodge #99 meets the first Tuesday each month.

Vernon Valley Chapter #68 meets the second Tuesday of each month.

For further information, please contact Charles Wadleigh at moosemaster1940@yahoo.com

Community Announcements and Events *(cont'd)*

Join us Saturday, December 19 - 7:00 P.M.

The Third Annual

Vienna Union Hall

Winter Revels

Featuring:

Don Peterson

Laura Grams

Belgrade children fiddlers

w/ Silas Rogers on guitar.

A solstice story

and great fun with

Randy Judkins

For Advance Tickets call -

Marianne 293-2674, Libby 293-2362 or Dodi 293-2670

Adults - \$8.00 Children 10 and under \$4.00

Community Announcements and Events *(cont'd)*

Mount Vernon Community Center Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration



Saturday, December 5th

please bring cookies to share

we'll have plenty of hot cocoa for everyone

Festivities begin at 6:30pm

Mt Vernon Celebrity Teacher, Mrs. Sarah Caban will again read a holiday story for the kids and families will leave with their own copy of the book!

Make your own Christmas wish list to give to Santa.....

Christmas Tree Lighting at 7:00pm

followed by a visit from Santa Clause

Free to All ~ Weather Permitting

Community Announcements and Events *(cont'd)*

Winter Revels in Vienna - December 19

The word "solstice" is derived from the Latin words for "sun" and "to stand still." At high-noon on Winter Solstice the sun is directly overhead but this is the shortest and darkest day of the year.

As the days grow darker and the Winter Solstice approaches, the folks at the **Vienna Union Hall** are busily preparing for the third annual *Winter Revels*. Revels, an occasion of "boisterous merrymaking and festivity" is exactly what is planned! In the Vt. Vernon/Vienna community the Revels is a long standing tradition to lighten the winter darkness. It has been enjoyed by residents far and wide over the years since the mid 70's and for the third time is to be held in Vienna.

This year's Revels includes welcoming winter, community connections and the joys of the Christmas holiday. The sparkling lights of the season offer warmth, cheer and hope in this time of darkness. Decorated for the occasion, the historic hall is a welcoming refuge for this evening of music and fun. Delicious food and warm drinks enhance the feeling of camaraderie and warmth that is forever present during this time of year at the Revels.

This year's Revels features music from some of our most gifted local musicians, Don Peterson and Laura Grams. This is also a wonderful opportunity to hear the Belgrade Children Fiddlers, students of Ellen Gawler accompanied on guitar by Silas Rogers. A short playlet about the solstice written and directed by Pat Onion also features local children. To complete the evening, Maine comedian Randy Judkins offers an evening of fun and humor to lift the spirits of young and old.

Randy Judkins has become recognized throughout the United States as a popular vaudeville variety performing artist, an entertaining motivational speaker, master teacher and performance consultant. - Randy began his career in 1975 with the goal of performing in every town in the beautiful state of Maine. However, word of his playful, engaging performances spread beyond his home state and he was soon performing in the greater New England area and beyond. While he still travels outside of New England for events and presentations, Randy is still fully committed to his original goal of performing in every town in 'Vacationland'." Randy is the originator and one of the three founding members of the *Maine Hysterical Society* often called 'the best variety comedy act in New England'. He and has taught, among other things, at Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey's Clown College in Florida, Juilliard School of Drama in New York, and held a visiting artist position at Stephens College in Missouri teaching circus arts, mime and comedy. He is sure to leave the audience with a spring in the step and joy in the heart.

Join us at the Vienna Union Hall on Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM for this night of fun and community. Admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 10 and under and babes in arms are free. Get your tickets early since the show has sold out each year. For advance tickets call Marianne 293-2674, Libby 293-2362 or Dodi 293-2670 or email viennaunionhall@gmail.com.



Community Announcements and Events *(cont'd)*

Readfield United Methodist Church 

Christmas Fair

Rte 17 Kents Hill



Come and see our bountiful cookie walk!

Saturday, December 5th 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- *Famous Cookie Walk
- *Luncheon with chowders, sandwiches and pies
- *Wreaths custom decorated while you shop
- *Silent Auctions of gift baskets and goods and services
- *Supervised Children's Shopping Area
- *Fine crafts and handmade ornaments



Community Announcements and Events *(cont'd)*

MT.VERNON COMMUNITY CENTER



Mount Vernon Community Center

Available for public and private functions.
For information on the Community Center availability,
please contact: Linda Stanton 293-4082

Board of Trustees: Linda Stanton, Anna Libby, Kathleen
Farrin, Tom Ward, Tammy McLaughlin, Donna Williams,
Mariah Brinton, Julie Weaver and Jane Rogers

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of
every month at 7 p.m. at M.V.C.C.

Community Center Café

Saturdays:
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Come enjoy coffee,
eats and conversation.



Tuesday AM Breakfast Mount Vernon Community Center

6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.

For more information call 293-4082



Mt. Vernon Weekly Playgroup Mt. Vernon Community Center Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.—11 a.m.

Play, learn and socialize

Ages: 6 months—5 years

Contact: Jessica 480-0292

First Baptist Church Food Bank



Summer has come and gone and we want to thank the many people who raised gardens and brought so many fresh vegetables to the food bank to share with others. Children who come in were delighted to pick up their favorite vegetables to take home. We now have our forms for families to fill out requesting Thanksgiving and Christmas wish lists for the children. Thanksgiving boxes will be available on November 21st and Christmas boxes on December 19th. The food bank will not be open on November 28th or December 26th. The food bank is located in Mt. Vernon Village and is open each Saturday from 10 a.m. to Noon. If you are in need at other times call Helen Wilkey 293-2351 or Irene Wadleigh 293-2308. Leave a message if there is no answer and a call will be returned.

Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodges

Vernon Valley Lodge #99 meets the first Tuesday each month.

Vernon Valley Chapter #68 meets the second Tuesday of each month.

For further information, please contact Charles Wadleigh at moosemaster1940@yahoo.com



Our Churches



Belgrade

Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
Main St, Belgrade Lakes
(United Methodist)
Church Office: 495-3599
Rev. Bill Meyer

9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
(nursery care provided)

Children's Sunday School during
Worship

Wednesday – Adult Bible Study

Mt. Vernon

Dunn's Corner Baptist Church
Wings Mills Road, Mt. Vernon
Church Office: 685-9829
Rev. John Dunn, Jr.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes
toddler to adult

10:30 a.m. Worship service,
Nursery is available

Jr. Church for children up to age 9
during worship service.

6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Service

Wednesday, 7 p.m. Prayer meeting
- the HOUR OF POWER

Youth group Young Adults 4
Christ both Jr. & Sr. groups
meet 4 p.m. every Sun. at the
church, Sept. to June

Jr. ages 8-12; Sr. ages 13-18

For more information:

[youngadults4christ-
dunnscorner@yahoo.com](mailto:youngadults4christ-dunnscorner@yahoo.com)

First Baptist Church

Route 41, Mount Vernon Village
Church Office: 293-2141
Rev. Jay Wilson
10 a.m. Sunday worship service
Coffee and Refreshments follow

Thursday, December 24th Christ-
mas Eve Service 7 p.m.

North Vienna

United Methodist Church
572 Tower Road, North Vienna
Laura Church, Pastor
Church Office: 293-3710

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
Sunday School

Creation Station, an after-school,
faith-based, arts-intensive program
for any children in grades K-
6. Meets on Wed. afternoons from
3:30-5:00 following the MSAD #9
school calendar.

Youth Group for any youth grades
6 & up meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays
of each month.

North Wayne

North Wayne Church
(non-denominational)

10 Church St., Wayne
Pastor Jon Olson

Church Office: 293-2502

jolson@fairpoint.net

9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship;
Coffee, refreshments & conversa-
tion follow each service

Readfield

United Methodist Church
1564 Main St., Route 17
Rev. Desi Larson
Church Office: 685-4211
office@readfieldumc.org
“...extending God's open
arms in fellowship and
mission.”

10 a.m. Sunday Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery
Care

Vienna

Vienna Baptist Church
116 Main Street, Vienna

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Pastor Everett Maxim
293-3061

Winthrop

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
Winthrop Ctr. Friends Church
219 Winthrop Center Rd.,
Winthrop
Church Office: 395-4669
www.standrews.episcopalmaine.org
10:30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist, coffee
fellowship to follow

