

THE

BRIDGE

Fall 2018
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

Library Trustees Team Up with Chewonki Foundation for Programming Success

“Owls of Maine” Program drew approximately 150 attendees

The Norridgewock Board of Library Trustees has worked to create a more frequent and more diverse slate of programming at the libraries. In cooperation with the Chewonki Foundation (Wiscasset, ME), the Trustees welcomed a group of over 150 to the Somerset Grange. The “Owls of Maine” program ran about 90 minutes and was an opportunity for people of all ages to learn more about owls and have the opportunity to see live owls.

The program began with an informal classroom setting; there was a slideshow presentation, taxonomic displays, diagrams, and more. The program also taught students how to recognize different owl calls and what to do in the event they find an owl in the woods.

The highlight of the program was the feature of live owls. Three owls were observed: great horned owl, barred owl, and eastern screech owl. The owls participating in the program are not held captive, but rather are considered non-releasable as a result of injuries that prohibit their ability to survive in the wild.

The Trustees welcome you to visit the library during regular hours to find out more about future programming. Mercer Road Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 10 AM to 6 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM. Sophie May Library is open Wednesday 10 AM to 2 PM. ♦



The Chewonki program educator allows an owl to perch on her hand at a recent event sponsored by the Norridgewock Library Trustees. Photo courtesy of Kelly-Ann Withee



Downtown Stroll & Tree Lighting Returns Winter Celebration Planned for December 8

Last year, Norridgewock revived its annual tree lighting combined with a downtown stroll. The event was successful and a new group of event organizers is working to make this year bigger and better than the last.


The event will begin on December 8 at 2 PM. Businesses and organizations will be along Main Street and welcoming guests to participate in various activities and offerings. From the Historical Society and Fire Station east to Dunkin Donuts, Norridgewock's Downtown will be bustling that afternoon. The afternoon of winter fun will be capped off with the tree lighting at Emery Town Square (next to York's Market).

There will be some of the same from last year, but expect to see new and expanded offerings. Santa Clause will be greeting children at the fire station until it's time for him to attend the tree lighting. Mail your letter to the North Pole, while enjoying crafts, snacks, and prizes!


We look forward to seeing everyone there as Norridgewock kicks off the Christmas season!

If your business or organization would like to participate in the stroll or support the events, you may contact Kerri Everett at thequimbycenter@gmail.com ♦

The Norridgewock Historical Society
2nd Annual Classic Christmas Tree Open House




**Saturday,
December 8th
2 to 4 PM**



**At the Museum
11 Mercer Road**

Enjoy the tree . . . and some sweets prepared by our elves !

This event is held in conjunction with the Norridgewock Downtown Stroll & Tree Lighting.



VOTE 2019

TOWN MEETING
March 4, 2019

**Nomination Papers for elected
municipal offices are available
November 26, 2018**

2019 DOG LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE
Register before January 31, 2019 to avoid the \$25 late fee
Dogs can be registered online or at the Town Office during normal business hours

STORY HOUR

Pre-K Story Hour and Crafts at the Library!

Join us at the library for story hour and crafts on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10 AM, Unless otherwise posted. The program is free!

Special thanks to Ruth Keister who has agreed to coordinate this program!

TIF Committee Explores New Program Options

Local Facade Program among Those Seriously Considered

The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Advisory Committee has been working diligently in order to use the TIF revenues in order to improve local economic conditions. The scope of the work is tremendous and the committee is exploring a variety of programs. Past projects have included partial funding of the new fire station, gateway signage throughout the community, and the installation of additional electricity options in the downtown.

TIF Committee members have reviewed facade program guidelines that could potentially be implemented within the TIF District. The fund could ultimately allow for matching grant assistance to local businesses in improving the curb appeal of commercial properties. Projects could include painting, upgrading signage, landscaping, reconstruction, window replacement, among other options. While the program guidelines are still being developed, there stands to be great potential for the community.

It is important to remember that the committee serves in an advisory capacity and the Board of Selectmen provides the approval for projects. The public is encouraged to attend TIF Committee meetings and provide expanded perspectives and fresh ideas for consideration in implementation.

Oosoola Park Boat Launch is also planned for rehabilitation; the project was expected to be completed in October 2018 but was ultimately delayed due to permitting obstacles. At present time, the project is planned to be completed in June 2019. This upgrade will be funded largely through a grant from State of Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands; however, the local share will be mitigated through the use of TIF funding. The committee has also been working to explore upgrading street lighting to LED, which can be more attractive and provide cost savings for the Town. ♦

Wastewater Facility Upgrade Moves Forward

Project Awarded to New Hampshire Firm, Penta Corporation

The Norridgewock Wastewater Treatment Facility has been the subject of many local conversations over the course of several years. After being cited for violations in 2015, the Boards of Selectmen and Sewer Commissioners joined together to identify a cooperative, long-term plan for operating and maintaining the facility.

In April 2017, the Town secured \$5 million in funding from USDA, which opened the door for a much-needed facility upgrade. The loan/grant combination will help to fund upgrades at the facility, as well as the system's three pump stations (Mechanic St., Perkins St., and Rebecca St.).

The bidding process was completed, resulting in 4 competitive bids. 3 of the bids were within approximately 2.7%, which indicates that the Town likely received fair proposals. Ultimately, the lowest responsive bidder was selected; Penta Corporation of Moultonborough, New Hampshire, has been preliminarily selected. The proposal must ultimately gain approval of relevant State and Federal agencies before the Town can move forward.

The current bidding environment brought bids in above what was expected, so the Town has worked closely with engineering firm Olver Associates to trim project costs and fully leverage funding opportunities available. A series of reductions, combined with contract negotiations have brought the project within financial reach.

Groundbreaking is expected in Spring 2019. ♦



Airport Rd.
634-2714

*Waste Management is a private business.
As a convenience to residents, we provide
their back gate hours.*

Sun, Mon, Tues Closed
Weds, Thurs, Fri 9:30am – 6:00pm
Sat 7:30am – 4:00pm

The Town Office will be closed:

December 25 in observance of Christmas Day
January 1 in observance of New Year's Day
January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 18 in observance of Presidents' Day

**Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting*



Nomination Papers Now Available

Papers due back no later than January 3

It's that time of the year again- believe it or not, we are planning ahead for Town Meeting. There are many offices that will be elected by secret ballot throughout the day, prior to the traditional open meeting. Are you interested in participating in helping guide Norridgewock forward? There are different boards and committees, with varying levels of commitment and responsibility required.

For more information on nomination papers and open offices up for election, contact the Town Office. Completed papers are due back to the Town Clerk no later than close of business on January 3.

The following is a list of seats that will be elected on the March 4 ballot:

- Selectman & Overseer of the Poor (5 seats, one year terms)
- Assessor (3 seats, one year terms)
- Budget Committee (2 seats, three year terms)
- Budget Committee (1 seat, two year term)
- Planning Board (1 seat, three year term)
- SAD 54 Board of Directors (1 seat, three year term)
- Library Board of Trustees (1 seat, five year term)
- Library Board of Trustees (1 seat, two year term)
- Sewer Commissioner (2 seats, three year terms)
- Sewer Commissioner (1 seat, two year term) ♦

Village Improvement Society to Award Scholarships to HS Grads

The Village Improvement Society ("VI") is pleased to announce that it will be awarding scholarships to two of Norridgewock's senior class graduates in 2019. The funding of these scholarships comes primarily from the community's support of the VI's annual plant sale in June and election/town meeting day baked good sales. High school seniors who are interested in learning more about the VI scholarships should speak with their guidance counselor. VI wishes to thank the community for their support in the fundraising that made these scholarships possible.



For information about becoming a member of the VI, contact Sallie Wilder at 634-2215. ♦ --RK

Somerset Grange #18 Announces Upcoming Community Events

The Grange has announced that it will continue hosting its Community Game Night this winter. The games will be held at the Sophie May Library on the fourth Friday of each month (November 30, December 28, January 25, and February 22). Game time is 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Come solo, play with a partner, or bring in a carload! Games (player's choice—dominoes, cribbage, cards, checkers, board games, etc.) and snacks are free. This is an adult only event.

The Grange Hall will also be the setting for the performance of the Snow Pond Pantasticks Steel Drum Band on December 8, during the Downtown Stroll. The band will begin playing at approximately 2 PM. Grangers will provide free refreshments for those who stop by to listen to the band. ♦ --RK