



# NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 15 NUMBER 7

Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at [newportlandmaine.org](http://newportlandmaine.org)

JANUARY 1, 2009

## • HOURS •

### The Town Office hours are as follows:

**Town Manager:** Stacie Rundlett 628-4441

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Thursday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- First Saturday of each month 8:00 am - noon

**Town Clerk:** Mary Hutchins

- Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**CEO:** • First and third Tuesday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**E-mail for town business:** [nwprtlnd@somtel.com](mailto:nwprtlnd@somtel.com).

*The Town of New Portland is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.*

### *Remember:*

- **Selectmen's Meeting**  
1st Tuesday of each month at the Town Office at 6:00 pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**  
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
- **MAC Meeting**  
3rd Monday of the month at 7:00pm
- **NP Community Library Hours:**  
Mon, Wed, Thurs ..... 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Saturday..... 10:00 am - noon
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm
- **New Portland Water District**  
2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm
- **School Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm
- **Wire Bridge Thrift Shop** open every Saturday
- **Firemen's Auxiliary**  
2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

### Selectmen

Winter is officially here, and we have started off with a couple of good storms. Just a reminder for those of you that have plows, it is illegal to plow snow across public roads. Also, during the winter months please, do not park overnight at the town office. If we have a storm, it makes it difficult to plow.

We would like to thank all of the people who showed up for the special town meeting. These town meetings and the monthly selectmen meeting is the time where the residents of New Portland can have their voices officially heard.

Kip, Brian and Wayne went to Vermont on December 14 to pick up the squad vehicle that was purchased from funds that were appropriated at the special town meeting. Although \$55,000 was approved, we only needed \$39,000. The original asking price was \$42,000. Thanks to the fire departments negotiation efforts they saved the Town of New Portland an additional \$3,000.

We will be holding budget meetings over the next few weeks in order to put together a budget packet for the budget committee to consider for the March town meeting. The selectmen have asked all departments to keep their pencil good 'n' sharp so as to keep the budget line the same as the previous year.

We are reviewing the job description of the Town Clerk that Judy Wills of the Municipal Advisory Committee had revised. Also, if New Portland residents approve a recall ordinance that the Selectmen put forth, then the residents of New Portland will be able to recall the town clerk if the elected official does not perform his or her duties as set forth in the job description. We will keep you informed on this subject as it progresses forward.

Please drive safely.

*Submitted: Lorie Agren, Doug Archer, Janet White; Selectmen*

### Selectmen Meeting Minutes: December 2, 2008

Meeting called to order 6:05 pm; present at meeting: Stacie Rundlett, Janet White, Lorie Agren, Doug Archer, Wayne Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Al and Mary Bolduc, Mike and Nichola Dentico.

Janet White called meeting to order; we skipped right to manager's items since there were so many of them.

1. Selectmen reviewed information regarding abatement application, it was motioned, seconded and approved to abate \$125.75 - 2005, \$294.78 - 2007, and \$307.99 - 2006 for Charles Costello. Papers will be available for selectmen to sign at December 9 meeting.

### New Portlander deadline is January 24 by 4:00pm.

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

**Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961  
phone 628-4201 • email: [bigd@tdstelme.net](mailto:bigd@tdstelme.net)**

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the New Portlander, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.

2. Stacie discussed that her name is now on the towns banking accounts in replacement of Andrea and temporarily on account for town clerk until things are sorted out in that office. Stacie informed the selectmen that she has handled everything for the Department of Elections and found warrant for the district vote that occurred back in July. So things look okay at this point for elections. Stacie updated selectmen in regards to Animal Welfare with the state. And that no reports or funds have been sent to the state since Sept. of 2007. That will have to be sorted out and funds will need to be sent to the state and to the town for dog licensing. Stacie also informed selectmen the condition of the clerk's office. It is going to be a long process to sort through all documents in town clerk's office. Selectmen acknowledged the task at hand and realize it will be taken care of the best we can.

3. Stacie brought to the board the need to update the Trio Software Program from DOS to Windows version. She presented quotes to board for the conversion. The board agreed we needed to upgrade, it was motioned by Lorie to go ahead with the upgrade and seconded. All were in favor. Stacie brought up the internet connection for both the town office and fire station were very poor at this time and a necessity in this day with all the tasks that both town and fire department need to do on line. She presented a quote to the board for DSL through local phone company and then for C-Prompt to install a wireless connection for town office building and fire station. Doug was going to look into the quote from C-Prompt and discuss our options before a decision is to be made.

4. Stacie brought up the security for the building and who held keys and who had what codes for our security system. She brought up for all security purposes it was most logical for everyone to have their own code instead of people sharing codes. Selectmen agreed, Stacie is to find out maximum amount of codes we can have and try to figure out who has codes currently for the building.

5. Stacie informed the board she had contacted DOT in regards to Route 146 and water seeping from road then draining onto the end of Old Kingfield Road. DOT stated that there was nothing that could be done and that plow contractor would need to keep that area well sanded if the water didn't stop seeping.

6. The board told Stacie that we did have an emergency operations plan and that currently Lorie was the contact person for our town.

7. The board made the decision that if Andrea worked more than 33 hours during the months of October, November or December that they would pay Andrea \$19 an hour for her time. They were already paying for her insurance during those months, even though she was not working for the town anymore. Her insurance through Poland Spring starts January 1, 2009. If she provides services for the town after January 1, 2009 the board agrees to pay her for all of her time.

8. Stacie informed the board that she did get confirmation from Dale Earle's bonding company and he is currently bonded.

9. Stacie informed the board there was still an outstanding invoice from the salt company, in the town's name that Dale Earle uses to purchase salt. Dale stated to Stacie that after he received his payment on December 4, he would pay that invoice and order two more loads at the same time. Stacie is to look to see if the town's name has to be on the account.

10. Stacie notified the selectmen that they are scheduled to meet with Dale Earle on December 9 at 6 pm to review things.

11. Stacie brought to the board's attention that we are currently locked into a contract signed by Andrea in July with the school district. The price is \$4,319. Gallons that we are locked into is not known, Stacie is to look into that and get back to the board.

12. Stacie brought to the board's attention that currently the town is paying for a subscription to Thomson West for Maine State Law books. With the Maine State Laws being available for viewing on the

internet, it was agreed to no longer subscribe to Thomson West and save the town approximately \$1000.00 per year.

13. Stacie questioned the board on a bill received from Northeast Paging for a pager. No one was aware of findings and board instructed Stacie to go ahead and cancel account for such pager, since no board members or other departments were currently using a pager for town purposes.

14. Stacie informed the board she had contacted DOT in regards to the trailers on the Wire Bridge Road left by the contractors, and that they had been moved and would not create a problem for the plow this winter.

15. Stacie was asked to contact the Handrahan's about decorating the Wire Bridge this year. Terri advised her since the contractors were not finished with the bridge if they put lights on the bridge, they would need to be taken back down before contractor completed his work. She told Stacie they would rather skip a year because of this. But if the selectmen would rather they didn't she would have to solicit help with the decorating and dismantling of decorations process. The board suggested that maybe we just hang large wreath at ends of the bridge. Al Bolduc suggested we go see Josephine Swain at the Apple Shed in Kingfield; she makes beautiful wreathes. No definite decision was made, and Stacie will ask again at the December 9 meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm so everyone could attend Special Town Meeting that was to begin at 7:00 pm

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

## **Town Manager**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

After the Special Town Meeting December 2, 2008, the Municipal Advisory Committee and I started working together with MMA on options to resolve issues regarding elected offices and how to hold those officials accountable to their job descriptions. I am pleased to say we have found a solution and are currently working on finalizing some details. Once we have finalized everything, we will be holding a public hearing to inform all New Portland residents of all our options and any changes that need to be made.

Nomination papers for the following municipal offices are available at the town office. 25 signatures are required for any person running for office. All nomination papers must be turned in to town office by January 20, 2008. Town Clerk — 3-year term, Town Select Person — 3-year term, School Board Director — 3-year term.

I would also like to bring to your attention that the selectmen would like any and all road complaints to be directed to the town office. Please call 628-4441 during office hours or feel free to leave a detailed message when the office is closed. We will do our best to work with you and respond to your complaints.

As some of you may already be aware, Mary Hutchins is no longer with the Town. She has resigned from the Town for personal reasons. I have been appointed town clerk by the selectmen until the March 2009 town meeting when we will elect a new clerk. In the meantime, I will be taking over Mary's duties as town clerk.

I would like to encourage all townspeople to attend a Public Hearing to be held at the Carrabec High School on January 14, 2009, at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearing shall be conducted on the following article, which will be the subject of a referendum vote on January 27, 2009. Article 2: Do you favor approving the school administrative reorganization plan prepared by the Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize the school administrative units listed below into a regional school unit (RSU), with an effective date of July 1, 2009?

The proposed RSU includes the following school administrative units: Maine School Administrative District No. 13 (Bingham, Moscow); Maine School Administrative District No. 59 (Madison, Starks, Athens, Brighton Plantation); Maine School Administrative District No. 74 (Anson, Embden, New Portland, Solon); Town of Caratunk, a municipal school unit; Dennistown Plantation, a municipal school unit; Pleasant Ridge Plantation, a municipal school unit; The Forks Plantation, a municipal school unit.

I would also encourage any town residents who intend on voting on January 27, 2009, on the proposed referendum for the district to call or stop by the town office to make sure that you are on our voting list. I am currently working with others to have a valid voting list for this date. It has been brought to my attention some residents have experienced difficulties when trying to vote. The state requires all towns have voting residents entered into their database, Central Voter Registration (CVR), which is what we are currently working on.

As interim town clerk, I would also encourage any and all dog owners to please come to the town office to license their dogs. Your 2008 dog license expired on December 31, 2008, and you have until January 31, 2009, to license your dog for 2009. After that the state imposes late fees that will be added onto your licensing costs. Please bring proof with you that your dog is current on its rabies vaccination.

Remember, we are all part of a community trying to work together. Please check on your neighbors during these cold winter months to make sure they are safe and warm.

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

## **New Portland Fire Department**

Happy Holidays to the Good Citizens of New Portland.

It was brought to my attention, and rightfully so, at our recent Town Meeting that I should be using the New Portlander more to communicate with the residents. I'm guilty as charged, but I will try to make amends and keep you better informed.

There was a lot of discussion at the Special Town Meeting in December pertaining to the replacement of the squad/rescue vehicle that the Department was seeking. Some of the residents expressed concern that this was a spur of the moment decision, not true. We have been talking to the Selectmen for a quite some time on the need to replace this apparatus with a more suitable vehicle. We tried requesting funds from an area business that has donated monies for similar causes to no avail. We reached a point where the old squad was no longer worth continuing to put money into.

We talked with the Selectmen about purchasing a used ambulance as a replacement. This was a cheaper option, but after some discussion it was felt that the town and the department were no further ahead and the vehicle still didn't meet the town's needs. We looked at a new apparatus, which is very costly and really not a viable option for our town. That led us to the town meeting to ask the town's people what they would prefer.

The Department has purchased a 94 rescue from the Town of Bradford, Vermont. It was in service in their town until they received a new unit that replaced it. This is a purpose built Rescue Unit, not an old ambulance. It has a lot of compartment and space to carry our equipment and gear. It came with a on board cascade system to fill SCBA bottles on scene, a diesel generator to power lights and power tools. We now have compartment that can be dedicated to the EMS first responders and their equipment. This is the only vehicle that responds to all of the Departments calls.

We had requested for up to \$55,000 to spend on a replacement vehicle. The '94 Rescue was purchased at \$39,000, down from the original asking price of \$45,000. I believe we have made a purchase that will be a great benefit to the town and its residents.

*Submitted: Kip Poulin, Fire Chief*

## **MSAD 74 School Board**

The regular meeting of MSAD #74 Board of Directors met on December 3 at Carrabec High School. Highlights were as follows:

Superintendent Ken Smith discussed the State Revenue shortfall and its implications for all Maine School Systems. Our district will be able to cover the \$88,000 shortfall this time. The bigger challenge will be next budget season when we receive the same amount of subsidy despite the increase in expenses.

Elementary Report announced the classrooms whose performances were exemplary on the District Writing Assessment. Based on a class average, the exemplary classrooms were the following: Mrs. Starbird's second grade class at Central School, Mrs. Steven's third grade class at Carrabec Community School, Mrs. Simpson's third grade class at Garret Schenck School, Mrs. Dodd's fourth grade class at Embden School, Ms. Belanger's fourth and fifth grade classes at Central School, Mrs. Knowles's fifth grade class at the Embden School, Mr. Corson's fifth grade class at Solon School, and Mrs. McCluskey's fifth grade class at Carrabec Community School.

Carrabec High School has been concentrating on student failure/success rates with the help of teachers adopting strategies to support student accountability around assignment completion. The Carrebec's Business league took first place at the 2008-2009 Kennebec Valley Business Education competition, competing against much larger schools from throughout the district.

Patrick Willihan, Director of Special Education, reports that MSAD #74 special education enrollment has consistently declined over the past several years.

There continues to be much work though, as our district and MSAD #13 share administrative services through an inter local agreement passed in June 2008. A reminder that MSAD #74 and MSAD #13 have shared administrative support not only in Special Education, but also in the Maintenance and Transportation Department. Regina Campbell serves as Assistant Superintendent of MSAD #13 and MSAD #74 and provides Food Service and Adult Education support to MSAD #13. Ken Smith serves as Superintendent of both districts. Eight other administrative positions are divided between four people: Regina Campbell, Jamie Weggler, Jean Butler and Patrick Willihan. With that said, the board feels like it has got a jump start on working on issues centered around the consolidation law. Now, it is up to the voters on January 27, 2009. Maine law requires current school districts to consolidate their services into an RSU (Regional School Unit).

Proposed partners with MSAD #74 are MSAD #13, MSAD # 59 and the townships of Pleasant Ridge, Dennistown, and The Forks/Caratunk. Please be on the lookout for a mailing that will explain many of the details. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Ken Smith at 672-5502 or Regina Campbell at 635-2727 EXT 1. You may also go online at [www.msad74.org](http://www.msad74.org) and click on the area called Consolidation Plan.

*Submitted: Rosemary Underwood-Nadeau*

## **Central Elementary School**

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Happy New Year!

Well, Elfie the Elf and his sister Sally did their annual visit to Central. It is amazing what messes those two can make. Glitter and glue went an exceptionally long way this year. Elfie also had an e-mail address that students could e-mail letters to him and Santa. Elfie would, in turn, get them to Santa, then return them to students, as Santa isn't really great with the e-mail thing yet. Sally and Elfie made a huge sledding place down the stairs out of quilt batting; it worked much better than shredded paper. Students enjoyed the Christmas season, but are upset that Elfie and Sally will no longer have a place to call home during the holidays.

Our storm days were December 12 and December 22. We will certainly have a white Christmas. December flew by with our Christmas play on December 16. The play was based on all the different types of Santa that are celebrated around the world. Parents and citizens truly enjoyed the performance "Santa's Central Christmas Shop" was a big hit; all the students purchased gifts for their families. I'm sure some parents were surprised by the thought and love that went into picking out those gifts.

Thank you to all that made donations for the children to shop and for buying pizza products. With your help Central students made a profit of \$550 on their pizza sales.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!  
- Central School: students and staff

*Submitted: Bonnie Atwood, Secretary and the Central Staff*

## **Animal Control Officer**

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It is time to license your dog(s) for the 2009 season. You can do this at the Town Office with Stacie. If you need a kennel inspection, please call Lorie Agren and leave a message. Make sure to have proper shelters for your animals. Any problems with domestic animals please call me at 628-2919.

*Submitted: Lorie Agren, Animal Control Officer*

## **New Portland Community Library**

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The New Portland Community Library Book Club will meet at 6:30 pm. on January 8 to discuss William Faulkner's novel *As I Lay Dying*. Please join us!

*Submitted: Kay Michka, Volunteer Librarian*

## **Citizen Corner**

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What a great attendance at the special town meeting that was held in November. First, it was wonderful to see so many people there who really wanted to understand what was happening in our town. Everyone who wanted to speak did so, and it was very clear that we all want what is best for New Portland. Many important messages came out of that meeting, but the strongest was communications.

Dallas Landry reminded the citizens and selectmen of the "vehicles" we have available to New Portland citizens to keep them informed and for the citizens to express their needs. Many years ago the New Portlander was created because of problems of citizens not knowing what was going on in town until it was too late, so the selectmen, com-

mittees, organizations and citizens can keep us all involved or in the know of what is happening. We also have a web page for the Town of New Portland, which should have all the latest news and events on it and kept up to date. These two forms of communications are not being used efficiently.

I would like to see more information from the Fire Department about what they are doing for training, new equipment they have and how the training is being done, share with the citizens the people you have involved in your department. The town had a chance to see a number of firemen who are on the department when most of them attended the special town meeting. The department has a great number of men who are really committed and are proud to be part of New Portland Fire Department. Share with the citizens what they are doing and their needs. It would make asking for money a little easier. The citizens of New Portland appreciate all you do and your willingness to volunteer. Keep up the good work, keep us informed.

The selectmen have been putting their notes in the New Portlander, which is helpful. Many people can not make the meetings due to the time and working out of town. Citizens not able to make the meetings does not mean those citizens do not care or that they are not interested. Please continue to inform us so we can support changes and needs.

For the people who did not attend the meeting, decisions were made that you may agree with or may not like. It is done, but you still can stay involved by asking for information and one message was clear at this meeting. Use our "vehicles of communications."

I would like to wish Mary Hutchins all the best. She has served this town for many years and has been a valuable person. I enjoyed visiting with her when getting the hunting licenses or licensing my dog. She shared pictures of her grandchildren and shared the adventures they created. The town will have a void with her absence and I will miss her.

Thank you Mary for all the years of service to our town. Best wishes to you

*Submitted: Judi Wills, An Involved Citizen*

## **Thank You**

I would like to thank a few people who came out early on November 30 to help decorate the bridge in East New Portland. We weathered the cold, the traffic and managed to laugh while we decorated. First, I would like to thank Mark McLaughlin who fixed our electric problems and then continued to wrap lights and put up trees. The other people are Wayne Rundlett, Brian and Stacie Rundlett and Devin Rundlett. Also Stacie's brother and his wife who came to visit with them stayed and helped. I do not remember their names and they were from out of town. Also a big thanks to Lewis Wills for helping me fix lights, get the garland and trees. I want to remember to thank Jim and Jane Heickel for allowing us to store the garland in their shed.

Every year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the bridge is decorated. All the necessary supplies are ready and at the bridge. It is meant to be a community project. Everyone is welcome to help and I would sure love to have more people there. I hope more people get involved so it does not die away when I decide I do not want to do all this work. We gather on New Years Day, early in morning about 9:00 am to take decorations down. Anyone who has the time or enjoys the decorations in our town, call the people you know who are doing the work and get involved. To keep projects happening in our town you need to be involved.

Happy Holidays!

*Submitted: Judi Wills*

# 2009

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DECEMBER

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Permit No. 1



# NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR JANUARY 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>January 1 - January 30 2009 Dog Licenses Due</b>				1 Volunteers to remove lights at East Bridge 9:00 am	2	3 Town Office Open 8 am - noon
4 West Village Church 11:00 am	5	6 Selectmen's Meeting 6:00 pm	7 School Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Planning Board Mtg 6:30 pm	8 NPCL Book Club 6:30 pm	9	10
11 West Village Church 11:00 am	12	13 NPCL Board Mtg. 5:30 pm NPF - 7:00 pm	14 Water District 7:00 pm Firemen's Auxiliary 6:30 pm RSU Public Hearing - CHS	15	16	17
18 West Village Church 11:00 am	19 MAC Meeting 7:00 pm	20 RSU Nomination Papers Due	21	22	23	24
25 West Village Church 11:00 am	26	27 NPF - 7:00 pm RSU Vote Town Meeting Room Fire Station	28	29	30	31