



NEW PORTLANDER



INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY — THOMAS JEFFERSON

PUBLICATION VOLUME 16 NUMBER 6

Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at newportlandmaine.org

JANUARY 1, 2010

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office hours are as follows:

Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett 628-4441

Tax collecting, registrations, hunting & fishing licenses

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: Becky Taylor

Vital statistics & dog licensing

Monday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm & 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Thursday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
First Saturday of each month 8:00 am - 11:00 am

CEO:

First and third Tuesday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

E-mail for town business: nwprtld@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 7:00 pm
- **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 6:00 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**
3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

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

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**

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

Selectmen

Another year has come and gone, we hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

The next year for the Town will be difficult financially, due to the very weak economy with which we are all dealing. The State has already stated they will be cutting the Town's financial aid that they give us and also they will be cutting what the State puts into the education budgets. Both of these decisions will effect the Town's mil rate. This month of January is the month that the Selectmen put together our suggested budget for the annual town warrant that is presented at the March Annual Town Meeting. The selectmen will be meeting weekly during this process, but those dates have not been set yet. The belts will be very tight this year. Please check with the Town Office after our monthly meeting on January 5, and they can give you those dates and times of the budget meetings. Remember all are welcome to attend any of our meetings.

The selectmen take turns writing the newsletter, and this month is my last letter.

I want to thank you all for reading this letter and all of my other ones. This is a great format to communicate through and thanks again for the honor of being your selectman over the past twelve years.

Happy New Year from Janet White, Chair, Lorie Agren, Doug Archer

Submitted: Janet White for the Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting, December 01, 2009

Present: Janet White, Doug Archer, Stacie Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Mike Malesky, Becky Taylor, Gilbert Taylor, Mary Butler, Al Bolduc, Joe James; Absent: Lorie Agren due to illness

Meeting called to order 6:20 pm

Mike Malesky inquired of the board if the Cemetery Association could store a riding lawn mower at the old fire station in the West Village. Janet stated she didn't have a problem with it but thought Mike should be discussing this with Gary Agren too, as he stores some of his equipment through the winter there as well. Doug brought up the question about the public records which are being stored there, and if there was an issue having access to those records or not. In an earlier conversation between Lorie Agren and Stacie, Lorie had thought there was a door that could close off the upstairs where the records are currently being stored. No one else could confirm this at this time. The board told Mike that temporarily the lawn mower could be stored, but he would need to make arrangements with Stacie to get the mower in the building. And as far as in the spring when they would start using the mower, our options about the storing of our town records would have to be looked into. Temporarily it was approved for the mower to be stored there through the winter. Mike also took a moment to thank the fire department for assisting in a recent accident in which he was involved.

Kip Poulin discussed with the board the department made some changes with the air compressors in the station. Now the trucks are ready to go

all the time; there is no wait time for the air to be up to pressure in all of their trucks. He shared with the board that it was a very minimal cost for the department, roughly \$180.00. He will be ordering some turn out gear once he gets a status report from Stacie regarding his budget. Doug questioned Kip about the sand in the pump problem and where that stood. Kip told Doug it still needs to be overhauled but is waiting for next year's budget. He also shared with the board the pumps are sucking up a lot of sand when they do draft from the dry hydrants, even when back flushing. He still can't figure out why there is such an issue with the sand. It was questioned if maybe someone was tampering with the dry hydrants. There was some discussion about vandalism that has been occurring in the area. There was also some discussion about options to locking the dry hydrants. Janet took a minute to update some of people who were in attendance who might not be aware about what Kip and the selectmen were talking, having not attended a previous meeting. There was some discussion between Kip and Stacie about contacting the insurance company regarding the damages being covered by insurance company. When Kip receives itemized document on what needs to be done, Stacie will contact the insurance company about what might be covered.

Becky Taylor updated the selectmen about nomination papers being available as of December 11, 2009. There are two positions for which terms run out in March, one being selectman (Janet White's term is up in March 2010), and the second is school board member (Valerie Pinkham's term is up in June 2010). Papers can be taken out any time after December 11 and need to be returned to Becky no later than December 19 by 4:00 pm. Candidates considering running must obtain at least 25 but no more than 75 signatures of registered voters from the Town of New Portland. Becky also shares with the board her continued work on the CVR system through the State of Maine dealing with registered voters. There were a lot of names and information to be updated. The Board of Selectmen signed appointment papers for the following people to be on the Recreation Board: Heidi Tolman, Judy Wills, Jessie Campbell, Cindy Atwood, Alisha Wills, Colby Atwood, and Stacie Rundlett. They also signed appointment papers for Mary Butler to be on the Planning Board.

Stacie discussed with the Board of Selectmen about the generator and the arrangements that were supposed to be made for it to be picked up at Somerset County Communications Center. She brought to their attention that there was a possibility that the County might give it to another town if we do not expedite the moving of this generator from their facility. Gilbert inquired how big it was as he may be able to pick it up for the Town depending on the size of it. Janet and Al gave Gilbert directions as to where the generator is currently located. Stacie would try and find out more details. Stacie shared with the board the results of the survey question which was informally posted in the post offices, Robinson's Store and at the Town Office.

The question was would you like to have the Town Office open more even if it meant an increase in salaries for office staff? Results were as follows; 86-NO; 67-YES; and 3-OTHER realizing that this was also from obvious duplicate entries. Due to these results the Board of Selectmen have decided not to have the Town Office open more hours.

Stacie took a moment to remind everyone that the Holiday Dinner was scheduled for Sunday December 6 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the community room in the fire station. The dinner was free to all New Portland residents and sponsored by all department heads working for the town. The menu was a traditional one of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, rolls, cranberry sauce and choice of dessert. Stacie asked the selectmen about the Labor Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy, which she gave the board to review at the last selectmen's meeting. Janet and Doug both admitted they did not have a chance to review the policy and apologized. Stacie stated it could be tabled until the next meeting. She was just trying to finalize some things that MMA had suggested to her earlier in the year to get finished this year.

Stacie brought up the subject of changing the name of Bartlett Bridge to be renamed after Joshua Bernard. Janet again brought the audience up to speed on this subject. Janet stated she believed we should leave the name as Bartlett Bridge and continue with the memorial. Janet asked Stacie to contact Wright Pinkham and let him know we do not want to change the name of the bridge, so he can remove the bill from legislature.

Stacie notified the selectmen the paperwork was signed so that our new supplier of electricity was with Glacial Energy. Stacie also told the selectmen that the Somerset United Bikers of Maine donated four holiday baskets that Stacie delivered to families in town. Somerset UBM also donated Christmas gifts for area children that the Kingfield/New Portland Fire Department Auxiliary gift wrapped and Stacie will distribute before Christmas. Janet asked that Stacie get a thank you card to the representative from Somerset UBM with whom she had dealt. Stacie assured Janet that she would.

Stacie brought up having data backed up that is on our computer systems. Trio offers such a program for \$660.00 per year. The selectmen agreed we needed to do this but would like Stacie to find out about other options. There was some discussion on possible options.

Stacie reviewed with the selectmen the totals of abatements that had been signed for this year. She reminded the selectmen there was an \$18,000 overlay since the selectmen asked about these issues at the November meeting. Warrants were signed.

Stacie asked the selectmen about picking a date for the next transfer station meeting. Stacie informed Janet and Doug that Mondays were not a good night for Lorie. Janet and Doug picked December 9 in New Portland. Stacie would relay that information to the Kingfield office.

There was some discussion on times for the meeting. Stacie discussed with the selectmen a complaint that had come in regarding a driveway on Bennett Hill Road. Gilbert discussed this as well with the selectmen. When the road was tarred, the dirt that was brought in on the sides was pushed back into a driveway when Gilbert plowed during a recent storm. If the dirt was not removed, it would freeze, and the driveway would not be able to be plowed. Janet asked Stacie to contact Gary to see if the dirt could be removed. Gilbert also brought the boards' attention to an issue with a culvert up the road at Rosemary Allen's property. Janet also asked Stacie to contact Gary about the culvert and a hole on the corner of Old Kingfield Road and Wire Bridge Road.

There was some discussion about swearing Mary Butler in as a member of the Planning Board. There was more discussion on Planning Board meetings and agendas. Becky also asked the board if they would approve Stacie to inquire about a clerk module offered through Trio. The board authorized for Stacie to find out the cost. Stacie inquired if the board had been thinking about options for proper storage of town records. She had informed the board before that currently the town records were not being stored properly according to State Law. None of the members had any input currently, but Janet and Doug did agree since it was near budget time it was possible to get some estimates to see if it could be put in the budget for the year 2010. The board asked Stacie to contact a few local businesses to have them give estimates on a small addition to store records. Kip also suggested that there be enough room to store the town's riding lawnmower, so it doesn't need to be stored at the fire station. Al Bolduc suggested a container that could be set anywhere the town wanted it, and it could be painted. There was some discussion on options. There was discussion on town records and what was public information to be viewed by anyone, and what was not. Joe James stated that he would like to review some records some time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Town Manager

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We had our first annual Holiday Dinner on December 6, 2009, and I am pleased to say it was a success. We had approximately 60 - 70 New Portland residents turn out for a free holiday dinner and lots of good company. This dinner was funded and hosted by all town employees. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who helped with this event. I very much appreciated it. Also, for those residents who made it out that afternoon, I thank you for attending. I hope we can make this an annual event in our town. I believe, we need to create more opportunities for our community to gather and grow relationships. Unfortunately, there still seems to be some separation amongst our community. I am saddened by this. We live in such a beautiful little town. I truly believe with a united effort from everyone we can change some of the separations in our community and possibly develop this town to a place where people would want to move and raise their families, where businesses would want to move to and be welcomed. ONE TOWN, ONE COMMUNITY... My New Year's resolution this year will be to try even harder to unite OUR town, OUR community. What will yours be?

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." ~ Vince Lombardi

Submitted: Stacie Wills, Town Manager

Recreation Committee

The committee was unable to meet in December due to a storm. We will meet on January 6, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the community room at the Fire Station. Plans will be organized and finalized for the February fun day, which will be February 6, 2010. The day's events will start at 12:00 pm (noon).

We will have five piles of snow in front of the Fire Department for people to do a sculpture. The first five people to call and request and fill out an entry form will have ownership. Rules and entry forms will be available by contacting the Town Office or Alicia Wills. All entries must be completed before or by 12:00 pm February 6, 2010. No more work will be allowed after 12:00 pm. Judging will take place shortly after and will be announced during the other events.

Maynard Handrahan will organize and set a golf game. The field will be designed as a golf course, and the game is played just like regular golf. Prizes will be awarded. This will start at noon and continue to 3:30 - 4:00 pm.

Terri Handrahan will set up a Bowling game. Bowling lanes will be set up with pins and you will be given a frozen Cornish hen to bowl. Prizes will be awarded.

Colby Atwood has gathered information and will set up and organize a snow softball game. The field will be smoothed and bases will be set out. All we need is people willing to play.

We are in hopes to do a soup/chowder cook off. We decided to try this in place of a chili cook off. We will ask people who would like to enter to call Heidi Tolman, Jessi Campbell or Judi Wills. We will ask people to sample the soup/chowder and make a vote. The soup/chowder will be available with bread and a beverage for a meal.

Jessi will be getting banners to be hung in different areas of the town to help remind people of the fun times coming up. Cindy Atwood will be making posters and flyers to post around town and area towns announcing the event.

Stacie Rundlett has talked with the firemen of New Portland to organize and standby a bonfire for this event. We have heard the firemen are willing to do this.

An event like this was held during the Town's Bicentennial Event and it was thought to be a great time. We are in hopes that all the citizens will come and enjoy the day of games and sculptures. Ice skating will be going on at the same time, along with a bonfire. There will be something for everybody and anybody to do.

If you have ideas or need more information please call Jessi Campbell or Judi Wills. Save the date: February 6, 2010.

Submitted: Judi Wills

New Portland Community Library

Friends of the Library: Our next activity night on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 pm will feature Scrapbooking with Shelby Newell. Bring some pictures with which to work. If you have scrapbooking items, bring those along and work with us. Refreshments will be available for the price of \$3.00. Come join your neighbors for an hour of fun, talking, and sharing. **Knitting Group:** Three people have contacted me. ***Will the lady from Lexington who spoke with me at the Christmas Fair, please call me?*** I lost your name and phone number when I was cleaning up. Sorry. The people I've chatted with want to meet in the afternoon any day but Tuesday. I plan to be at the library on January 6 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm unless it's snowing. If you are interested in starting a knitting group, please come and we will get organized. Contact Petrina "Pete" Bearor at 628-3061, email pbearor@tdstelme.net.

Submitted: Petrina "Pete" Bearor

The New Portland Community Library Book Club will be reading *Bluebeard* by Kurt Vonnegut for our January 14 book discussion. Join our Book Chat and Snack Fest (a.k.a. leftover holiday goodies!) at 6:30 pm at the library, located across from Town Hall. Please, bring book suggestions for future discussions, too. Enjoy the fireside reading until then...

Submitted: Kay Michka

The 100 club winners for October and November are:

\$25: Nan Berry, Donald Newcomb, Anne Hunter, Phil Robinson, Bob Whitton, Anonymous, Rae Simpson, Ryan Kost and Jane Kannally Emery

\$15: Linda Miller, Kyle Handrahan, Sally Jo Sherrill, Ryan Kost, Andrea Reichert, Stephanie Rushton, Joan Moes, Cindy Atwood, Ezra Pease

\$10: Ruth Parent, Kay Michka, Doug Archer, Alison Thayer, Morgan Dunham, Nancy Trudeau, Anonymous, Dotti Carter

As we near the renewal date of the 100 Club, The New Portland Community Library would like to thank everyone for their support, and we hope you will continue to enjoy the fun of the weekly draw by renewing your membership.

Thank you, as ever, to the generous members who donate their winnings.

Submitted: Deborah Clague, Treasurer

Announcement

The Friends of the Highland Mountains invites everyone in the community to a free baked bean supper and informational gathering at the New Portland Community Building, adjacent to the Fire Station on River Road. The event will take place Saturday, January 16 at 5 pm.

Come join your neighbors to learn some of the facts surrounding the industrial wind turbine developments proposed for rural Maine and Highland Plantation. Our special guest speakers will be Mainers who can share their experiences of living with large wind turbines in their communities. We are hosting them in our homes, so they can tell you their stories first hand. A brief PowerPoint presentation and other information will also be included in the evening's events. Besides free food, each person in attendance will be given a ticket for door prize drawings at the end of the night. You've got to be there to win!

No R.S.V.P. is required; just load up the car with friends and family to join the activities. If you need a ride, call Karen or Steven Pease at 628-2070 or The Friends of the Highland Mountains at 399-4850 to leave a message or email highlandmts@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted: Karen Pease and Alan Michka

Citizen's Corner

Remembering Dianne Pease

New Portland has lost a wonderful friend and worker; Dianne was always ready and willing to do whatever it took to finish any project that needed to be done. She worked tirelessly for the New Portland Historical Society, the town's bicentennial and the year long history project with the Maine Historical Society even when she may not have felt her best. Dianne and I shared many things together, and I will always cherish her friendship. She will be sadly missed by many.

Also, I want to thank every one who attended the New Portland Historical Holiday Fair on December 5; it was a great success. Thanks to all of the town officials for the great holiday dinner that they put on. It was delicious! Thank you all.

Submitted: Marilyn Gorman, N.P Historical Society

New Year's Eve Party For Kids

Ring in the new year together, with these kid-friendly New Year's party games, activities and fun family ideas! Put away the formal gowns and champagne and bring out the board games, party hats and sleeping bags!

New Year's Eve Party Supplies

Your kids will know it's time to celebrate when you begin with New Year's Eve party supplies; kid's favorites are hats, party blowers, glow in the dark items and special decorations! Then invite one or two other families/relatives that may want to join your New Year's Eve Family Bash (sleepover is optional). Include several of the fun kid-friendly party activities listed below and you'll get the new year off to a great start!

Here are some New Years Eve party activities that are sure to please:

Play "balloon volleyball" with several silver and gold balloons. You'll want a large space, free of fragile items. Don't let the balloons touch the floor. Then, after midnight, you can all sit on the balloons until they pop!

Craft your own noisemakers by filling empty plastic soda bottles with dry beans. Cover them with construction paper, wrapping paper, stickers etc. Tie several strands of curling ribbon to the top. At midnight run outside and make a lot of noise!

It wouldn't be New Years Eve without elaborate party hats. Purchase several paint caps from your local paint or hardware store. Party guests will use permanent markers or gel pens, feathers, and other adornments to embellish their own hat. For fast drying time, use a glue gun when necessary.

Create a family digest of the year gone by. Use printer paper, a three hole punch, construction paper and a glue stick to construct and decorate your book. Add family photos taken throughout the year. Mom, Dad or older children can write the captions.

Camp out in your family room and merely enjoy each other's company. Make a tent in the living room big enough for everyone to sleep in.

Create a "Time Capsule" with an empty tennis ball container. Fill the inside with pictures, mementos, and comments about what is currently happening in the world and with your family. Go out and bury it in the back yard.

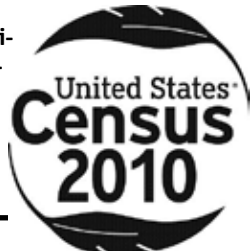
You can also provide several board games, craft supplies, movies, fun treats and just enjoy each other's company.



The U. S. Census Bureau is currently testing individuals who would like to become Census Takers for the 2010 U. S. Census. These are part-time, temporary jobs, which last from 5-10 weeks and pay between 13.25 and 16.25/hour, plus \$.55/mile. The hours range from 20 to 40 hours a week, mostly spent on weekends and evenings.

There are several local testing sites, including Kingfield, Stratton, Rangeley, Farmington and Wilton. To schedule a test time, call 207-203-1020, or 866-861-2010.

Applicants are required to bring identification with them; either a valid passport, or two forms of ID: a driver's license and social security card or birth certificate. Veterans can bring their DD 214.



New Year's Eve Treats for Kids

New Year's Eve doesn't have to be just for grown ups! Children can make these fun and festive recipes to celebrate the coming of the new year.

CONFETTI POPCORN BALLS

Vegetable spray
4 cups popcorn, popped
1 cup multicolored gumdrops, chopped
1/2 cup peanuts, chopped
3 cups miniature marshmallows
3 tbs margarine



Spray large bowl with vegetable spray. Combine popcorn, gumdrops and peanuts in bowl. Combine marshmallows and margarine in large saucepan and melt over medium heat, stirring constantly. Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn, candy, and nuts, toss until coated. With buttered hands, shape popcorn mixture into 8 balls. Work quickly to shape balls before mixture cools and hardens. Allow to set until serving time.

Variation: Use Gummy Bears, M&M's, small fruit snacks, or other colorful additives instead of gumdrops.

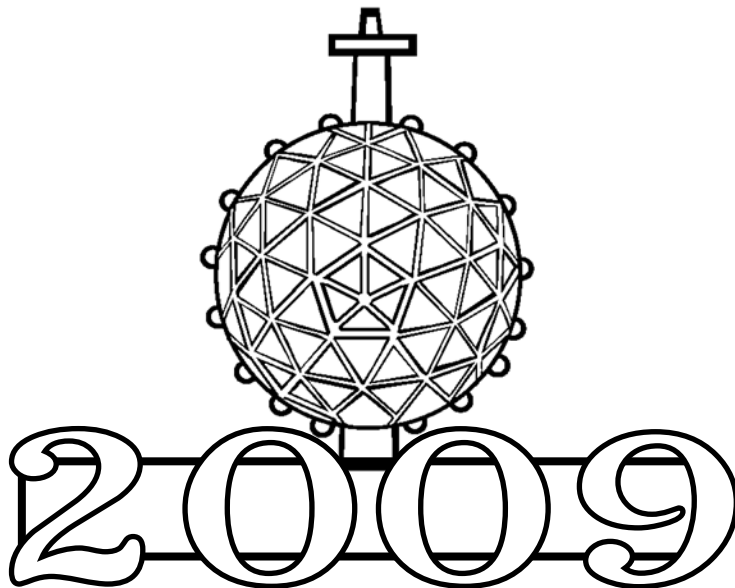
PINK CHAMPAGNE PUNCH

1 12-ounce bottle white grape juice
1 6-ounce can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
1 16-ounce pkg. frozen whole strawberries, thawed
1 12-ounce can lemon-lime soda, chilled
8 cherries (optional)

Combine 1/2 of the grape juice, lemonade, and strawberries in a blender. Whirl until smooth and pour into drink container. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with remaining juice, lemonade, and strawberries. Add soda and stir well. Pour into 8 fancy plastic glasses. Add a cherry to the glass for garnish.

Variation: You can substitute regular grape juice for white grape juice.

Note: Add more soda if you want a less slushy drink. Use plastic champagne glasses; they look great and won't break.



SPARKLING FRUIT SUNDAE

1 cup red, green, or purple seedless grapes
1 10-ounce can mandarin orange slices, drained
1 8-ounce can pineapple chunks, drained, but reserve the juice
1 pear, apple, or 1/2 melon, cubed
1 banana, sliced
1/4 cup orange juice
1 cup sparkling apple cider

Combine grapes, oranges, pineapple, pear, and banana in a large bowl. Distribute mixed fruit into 8 individual dessert bowls. Combine reserved pineapple juice, orange juice, and sparkling apple cider. Pour juice into each dessert bowl and stir gently.

Variations: Substitute ginger ale or other bubbly drink for apple cider. Use any fruits you like to make your sundae.

Note: Refrigerate fruit for half an hour to blend flavors before adding sparkling apple cider.

WINTER SNOWBALLS

1 12-ounce pkg. white chocolate chips
1.2 cup walnuts or peanuts, chopped
1/2 cup dates, chopped
1/2 cup cherries, chopped
16 cherries, cut in half

Cover a cookie sheet with wax paper. Melt chips in microwave for 1 minute, and then in 20 second intervals, until melted, stir until smooth. Stir nuts, dates, and cherries into melted chips. Drop by teaspoons onto cookie sheet to form snowballs. Place half cherry in center of each ball. Refrigerate until serving time (at least one hour for cookies to set).



NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961
 POSTAL PATRON

Established July 1994

The New Portlander



BULK RATE
 US POSTAGE
PAID
 New Portland, ME
 Permit No. 1



NEW PORTLANDER CALENDAR
JANUARY 20 10



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Town Office Open 8 am - noon
3 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	4	5 Selectmen's Meeting 6:00 pm	6 School Board Meeting - 6:00 pm Planning Board Mtg 6:30 pm Recreation Committee 6:30 pm @ Fire Station	7	8	9
10 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	11 MAC Meeting 7:00 pm	12 NPF - 7:00 pm Library Board of Trustees 6:00 pm	13 Water District 7:00 pm	14 New Portland Community Book Club 6:30 pm at NPCL	15	16
17 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	18	19	20 Firemen's Auxiliary 6:30 pm Friends of the Library Activity Night - 6:30 pm "Scrapbooking"	21	22	23
24/31 New Portland Community Church 11:00 am	25	26 NPF - 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30