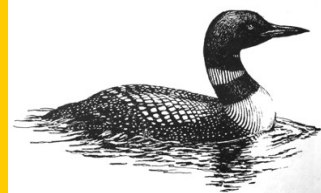


Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter



www.mtvernonme.org

August 2021 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 293-2379
Fax: 293-3507
clerk@mtvernonme.org
Mon 8am-6pm
Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm
Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 293-2379
clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Amanda Wheeler @ 293-2379
deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 293-2379
treasurer@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Wed, Fri 10-12

Select Board

selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Mac Hardy, Chair @ 293-4646
Cell @ 207-754-6468
mac@mtvernonme.org

Anna Libby @ 951-2385
anna@mtvernonme.org

Paul Crockett @ 293-3000
paul@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant

Alice Counts @ 293-1105
Cell @ 714-403-6076
alice@mtvernonme.org
Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thu 6am-3pm

**Select Board Meetings are held
every other Monday at the Town
Office @ 1997 North Road**

Warrant @ 6:30 pm
Regular Town Business @ 7:00pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

Animal Control Officer

Trish Davis @ 491-0410

Cemetery Sexton

Robert Grenier @ 293-2783

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector

Bill Butler @ 293-2636
mtvernonceo@gmail.com
Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 293-2114
(non-emergencies)

General Assistance

Paul Crockett @ 293-2532
paul@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

Daniel K. Onion @ 293-2076

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 293-2597
(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn @ 242-5828

Tax Assessor

Roger Peppard
3rd Thursday of each month
assessor@mtvernonme.org

Transfer Station

Carole O'Connell @ 458-1425
Sat & Sun 8:30 am -Noon
**May 1st thru September 30th open
on Wednesdays from 3-6pm**

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library 293-2565

Website: drshawlibrary.org
Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

Mon 3pm-6pm,
Wed 9am-12pm & 3pm-7pm
Sat 10am-3pm

*Masks Required.
Curbside always available.
Call or email us in advance.*

Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours Retail Window

Mon-Fri 7am-10am, 11am-2pm
Sat 9am-11am

Newsletter

All articles to be submitted by 25th
of each month to

alice@mtvernonme.org

Paid Business Advertisements

- ◇ Business Card Size \$15/month
- ◇ 1/4 page \$25/month
- ◇ 1/2 page \$45/month
- ◇ Full page \$90/month

From the Mount Vernon Select Board

July 30, 2021

One of the great reporters of all time once profoundly stated, "The news wouldn't be the news without the news." Following this line, the monthly article will be mostly news, some of which will have a negative effect and some a positive effect on all of us living and doing business in Mount Vernon.

Yesterday was a busy day for staff at the Town Office for many reasons. The most important reason being we were losing our Deputy Clerk, Amanda Wheeler, who is moving on to the Town Office in Farmington to continue her work there as a Deputy Clerk. So, we tried to keep it light, inject humor when we could, but behind the façade there was a heaviness that we were going to be losing a faithful employee with a wonderful smile, great sense of humor, and kind heart. We all wish her well in her new endeavor and will miss her in the office.

The business of running a municipal government is messy at best especially when done on a part time basis for all concerned. You as citizens are the "legislative" branch of our local community. Each year we meet the 2nd Saturday in June for our Annual Town Meeting, and it is on that day that we vote "yea" or "nay" on the Annual Town Warrant Articles. Your elected Selectboard, which is your Executive Branch of the Town, is responsible for overseeing and carrying out the votes taken by the citizens. At the June 2021 Town Meeting you voted to raise \$3,060,797.00 to pay for our RSU #38 annual assessment. The good news is the RSU #38 recently received State Funding Dollars to help offset education costs which will have a positive impact on the taxpayers of Mt. Vernon. The State Funding lowered our assessment share down by \$160,544.00 to the new assessment of \$2,900,253.00. This means that when we do the Tax Commitment for the Town this Monday, August 2, 2021, your taxes will go down from last year and the "extra" money raised will go into the undesignated fund. Please keep in mind that this is most likely a one-time reduction and that next years tax rate will probably go up depending on how much we have to raise for special projects like replacing the Hopkins Stream Bridge on the Blake Hill Road as well as improving Broadband for our community.

One big advantage we have is the putting together of a Grant Writing Team for the Town headed up by Jenn Dube and Tom Ward. I had the honor of sitting in on their 1st planning meeting and was amazed and humbled by the talent in the room. Their goal is to plan and prepare requests for grant dollars as they become available at the State, County, and Local level. They realized that there are many areas where we could use help in improving on our needs. Thanks to the latest Comprehensive Plan Committee, which was chaired by Trish Jackson, a few members of the Grant Writing Team used the Plan to prioritize the areas where grant dollars could best be utilized to move Mt. Vernon forward into the future. They looked at: Recreational Opportunities, Technology, Affordable Senior Housing, Water Quality, and Transportation as just some of the areas to target with the grant requests.

Lastly, the Selectboard has negotiated a Tentative Tentative Agreement (TTA) with the RSU#38 Superintendent, Jay Charest, to split the cost with the Town to install a generator at the Mt. Vernon School. It is large enough to run the school when there is a power outage or an extended major emergency in the Town where many citizens might be without power for a lengthy period of time. If the RSU#38 School Committee votes in support of this in their first meeting this fall then the Town will have an **Emergency Shelter** pending any major emergency in our County and Town.

(Representing the Mt. Vernon Selectboard)
Mac Hardy

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting of 07-05-21

Anna Libby, Paul Crockett, Mac Hardy (Chair)

Support Staff & Guest: Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant)

Sign Weekly Warrant

Paid Bill Butler at Andrew Marble's wage which is over the agreed to amount.

Treasurer Casey suggested we don't take back any wages but going forward pay at the agreed to wage.

Paying Heather Wheeler by the hourly rate. Need to have a timecard each week. Transfer station employees are paid up to amount. Pay according to the spreadsheet.

Animal Control Officer asking for a pay increase. New pay is 44.12/hr.

Heather Wheeler new pay is 22.29/hr.

Amanda Wheeler new pay is 16.00/hr.

Call Meeting to Order by SB Hardy at 7:06PM

Additions and/or Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Motion to Accept Minutes for the 6/21/21 Minutes and Discussion/Adjustments

SB Hardy to accept minutes at 7:08. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote is 3-0. **PASS**

Take a formal vote for naming of the Fire Station Naming.

SB Crockett motion to name the Primary Fire Station "The Dana L Dunn Fire Station". 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote is 3-0. **PASS**

Do we need to Vote on the Transfer Station salaries.

Motion by SB Crockett to increase Transfer Station Manager to 17.58/hr and the Assistants to 13.00/hr. 2nd by Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Cooperative Agreement with DOT.

Motion by SB Crockett that SB Hardy sign the DOT agreement for the drainage system. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion was carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Alice Counts to send Agreement via certified mail.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting of 07-05-21 (Continued)

Swim Program

One applicant has registered, waiting on two more. Status update? Gerhard Spoke with SB Hardy. One candidate has agreed to take the training. There will be a swim program only if we can find one more Life Guard. The date is to be determined (TBD).

Certificate of Appointments for the following:

Maureen Murray for the Beach Committee
Garrett Murch for the Economic Development Committee
Andre Dube for the Planning Board Committee
Charlene Lockwood for the Dr Shaw Memorial Library Board of Trustees. Motion by SB Libby

Dispatch Service Contract for State of Maine, Dept of Public Safety (DPS).

SB Crockett motioned that SB Hardy Sign the Dispatch Service contract. SB Libby 2nd. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
Alice Counts to fax over the signed contract to DPS.

Worker's Compensation Fund Safety Incentive Program.

Motion by SB Crockett to sign Resolve for MMA Discount. SB Libby 2nd. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**
Alice Counts and SB Hardy to set a time for the initial inspection of all departments.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting of 07-05-21 (Continued)

Other Business

Delineator Project for Bicycle Coalition – Signed letter sent 06-28-21 to Jim Tasse, 38 Diamond St, Portland, ME 04101. This is for the town people's safety and will delineate a safe bicycle lane.

Select Board Televised Meeting Audio quality was poor and extremely low. Can this be fixed so that those watching from home can hear the conversation? Streaming Video has perfect audio. There is a problem with Televised audio. This is being looked into by our Channel 7 team.

Josh Morse is asking for Right of way across town property to access his land locked 10 acres at R08-039 behind the town cemetery. He is willing to establish and maintain a gravel road access. MMA Advised to reject this. Will postpone the decision until next meeting.

Broadband Committee Newsletter – Alice Counts given the ok to send out on a separate email to newsletter recipients

MMA Logins for Anna and Alice have been secured. Alice to Call MMA for her account details.

Bond and Insurance for John Currier, received 07-02-21. Alice Counts to contact John Currier via phone call or email regarding acknowledgement of receipt.

Office 365 – SB Crockett to get logins for all employees needing access and to Get the email up and running

If SB Meeting falls on a holiday, motion by SB Hardy to move the meeting date to the next available work date. 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0.

PASS

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn by SB Crockett at 7:39, SB Libby 2nd. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 07-19-2021

Board Members Present: Anna Libby, Paul Crockett, Mac Hardy (Chair)

Support Staff & Guests: Alice Counts (Administrative Assistant), Ron Lockwood (Ch 7), Tom Ward (Aging in Place), Kerry Casey (Treasurer), Joshua Morse.

Sign Weekly Warrant

SB Crockett noted that Dana Dunn and his wife still have Computer Tablets checked out in their names and this equipment needs to be returned to town inventory. SB Hardy will call Jason Beckler.

Meeting Called to Order

SB Meeting was Called to Order by SB Hardy at 7:00pm

Additions and/or Adjustments to the Agenda

SB Hardy added Nomination Process MMA Board Election

Motion to Accept Minutes for the 07-05-2021 Minutes and Discussion/Adjustments

Motion by SB Crockett to accept meeting minutes of 07-05-21, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0.

PASS

MMA Board Election

Motion by SB Crockett to vote for all MMA candidates running, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0.

PASS

Alice Mailed this on 07-20-21.

Vote for Fire Chief

Motion by SB Crockett to Appoint Jason Beckler Indefinitely as the new Fire Chief, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

By State Statute the Fire Chief may employ all municipal firefighters, appoint a deputy and other officers in a municipal fire department and remove them for cause after notice and hearing.

Sign Tax Commitment Papers

Mil rate will be lowered from 17.5 to 17.

A vote by RSU 38 is to take place on 07-21-21 regarding new funding coming in from the state. The calculations we are paying 258,587.43/month, was lowered to 202,798.44/month, a reduction of 16,899.87/month. All four towns accept the payment schedule set up for each town. If we drop the tax rate even further there is concern it would raise even higher the following year. The town could mitigate the increase in taxes by leaving the excess in the overage fund. Mac will contact MMA to verify the higher amount can be authorized but pay the lower amount and use the excess amount deposited into the undesignated fund at next year's town meeting to lower that year's taxes.

Motion by SB Crockett to accept the tax rate calculation as modified tonight to correct the total assessment pending review by the tax assessor to keep the mil rate at 17, 2nd by SB Libby. Total assessments were increased to 4,888,001.69. Alice to contact Roger for approval and/or further changes. Select Board members need to come into the Town Office to sign the Commitment Paper.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 07-19-2021 (Continued)

Broadband Meeting – Taken off Calendar

Meeting may take place at the Mt Vernon Beach – SB Hardy mentioned that arrangements for events on the Beach should be made either through the Beach Committee or the Select Board.

Safety Inspection Notice –

We are required to begin Safety inspections of all town buildings/structures in exchange for a 7% discount on MMA Worker's Compensation Insurance. It was determined that SB Hardy and Alice Counts will perform the initial Safety Inspection and then require each department to assign someone to complete monthly inspections thereafter. Spot inspection may be done periodically at the discretion of SB Hardy. Alice Counts sent all Fire Department checklists to Ron Lockwood upon his request during the meeting.

MMA question of Access for Right of Way –

Joshua Morse brought in all previous emails related to his landlocked property and Right of Way requests. He bought a 10 acre lot where the right of way was not clear. Josh mentioned that John Harriman told him the access used to be via the old school house on the corner of the cemetery, however the school house has long ago been torn down. Josh's lawyer advised him that his best bet would be to measure the nearest access to a road which happens to be off North Road. This best option is across town property next to an unmaintained brush area. This would give Josh access to his property for maintenance of his wood lot. Josh will contact his lawyer for the language necessary to further his case. SB Crockett will then forward the information to MMA for their comments and recommendations. If given the go ahead, this action would need to have town's approval at the next Town Meeting in June 2022. Easement can be limited to certain restrictions. Access by necessity was a term used which need to be further defined.

Planning Board and Appeals Board Inconsistencies –

CEO Butler discovered inconsistencies on how business is conducted on both the Appeals Board and the Planning Board. The Chairman of each Board should designate someone to mail Abutter Notices and publish Public Hearing notices in the newspaper as well as post at 3 locations around town, such as the Community Center, the Mt Vernon Post Office, the Mt Vernon Town Office, the Mt Vernon Library and/or Flying Pond Variety. These fees are then passed down to the property owner who brought the action, along with any other fees associated with this action. There should be consistency between boards. It appears we got off the track many years ago and we need to realign to the Land Use Ordinances for the Town of Mt Vernon. Alice Counts is currently performing these duties for the Planning Board.

The Land Use Ordinances –

The LUO Manual has not been updated for over 2 years. Alice Counts was approved to start this task with the help of SB Crockett. All changes to date will be incorporated into a new version and published upon Select Board's review of the completed project.

Receipt of Gifts Clarification –

There currently is no policy regarding accepting gifts however it gives the appearance of favoritism and should be avoided.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 07-19-2021 (Continued)

Community Concepts –

received a request for letter of support so the org can obtain financial backing from USDA. Their mission is to provide affordable housing for low income persons. Their deadline for this letter is 07-23-21. Motion by SB Crockett that SB Hardy sign the paperwork, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0.

PASS

Alice Mailed this on 07-20-21

Appointments

Motion by SB Hardy to appoint Nancy Henika to the Beach committee. 2nd by SB Crockett. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Trio Software.

When can we get everyone on board with Trio? The taxpayers were promised to have everyone migrated to this system over a year ago. This is a liability issue for the Town. Select Board needs to research how many towns are currently using Trio for budgetery. SB Hardy stated "At the very least, the taxpayers are owed an explanation".

Kerry Casey, Treasurer listed the following as reasons this transition to Trio has not yet taken place.

- Trio has No documentation, no manual or online help. Trio will email you a tip sheet when you call with a problem.

- Lack of data validation during data entry. Lets you enter things and then says the warrant doesn't have an account. In calling Trio, they explain I cannot fix it, they 'take the data', 'fix it', then send it back. Fastest turn around is 3 days. Select Board needs to review.

- Exporting to excel is difficult, the data becomes skewed without any columns or rows. It requires a lot of data manipulation to put data into a useable format.

- Errors are induced easily, but not fixable by user.

- Lack of ability to enter details. Memo field only allows 20 characters.

- Invoice numbers, no way to differentiate multiple areas for one vendor, requiring issuing multiple checks.

- Not data entry friendly. Most of the data entry screens require clicking, searching, and do not allow for repetitional data entry.

- Data pulls up by Vendor number instead of name. One either has to know the vendor number or do a search.

- Not a real accounting package. Need to be able to do bank reconciliation, etc. Accounting firms do NOT recommend Trio for budgetery.

SB Crockett is on board for the online version of Trio provided the issues mentioned above can be mitigated or corrected. SB Crockett wants to move off of the in house server. SB Crockett agreed to reach out to Nadine Campbell and Allison Witchell. Kerry Casey agreed to work with SB Crockett and Trio to see if they can mitigate the issues.

Dump Yard Trash –

Can we open up the Yard Trash area via the snowmobile path, to allow 24/7 access and lessen the Transfer Station traffic on the regular trash days? We could rope or chain off that area from the rest of the Transfer Station and use the alternate snowmobile path. SB Crockett said there was too much liability.

Select Board Televised Meeting –

Audio quality is poor and extremely low. Checked with the Ch 7 Team and was told this is an issue with Spectrum who has been extremely slow to resolving the issue. The Channel 7 Team has a work around with their live streaming and is now on YouTube.com. You can search for Mt Vernon Maine Select Board Meeting and the date.

Mt. Vernon Select Board Meeting Minutes of 07-19-2021 (Continued)

Blake Hill and Cotter Hill Bridge Replacements Decision

Estimate is 35,230.00 instead of 200k+. The cost for the 20 ft Box Bridge crossing package is \$35,230.00 and guaranteed for 40 ton with a liability warranty. It includes all pre-cast concrete pieces, on site pouring of concrete footings, guardrail, installation and delivery. Lee Dunn will have further information regarding this improvement and bids regarding the Bridge Improvement and Bean Road tar-ing project.

Aging in Place Candidate for award of 6-month contract recommendation –

This contract is fully funded by the Maine Community Foundation grant. Tom Ward presented the committee's recommendation, Laurie Rodrigues, from the 3 out of 4 Licensed Social Worker candidates interviewed. The Aging in Place committee currently serves 76 people, 56 of whom live alone, with the majority being widows. Funding will be thru the first month of next year. The position includes 8 hours a month for 4 months, to start August 1st, 2021. Laurie Currently works for Belgrade Regional Health and is an LCSW. The committee needs to submit a proposal, to expand a similar project to Mt Vernon, Vienna, and Fayette, with funding for 2 years. Motion by SB Crockett to accept the recommendation of the Triage subcommittee, for Laurie Rodrigues, 2nd by SB Libby. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Other Business

New Town Website. This will take a major effort in manpower and funding to get updated and online. The Town's money would be better spent on purchasing a custom built website which we can maintain through the Admin access and is up and running in 4-6 weeks. This price is approximately \$3k with a yearly maintenance of \$1300 and free technical support. Select Board to take another look at the feasibility of this product and vote next meeting as to whether to bring this before the town at the next Town Meeting in June 2022.

Clean the AC Filter in Selectmen's Office. Train Alice Counts or Nancy Dunn on the process so this can be accomplished. SB Crockett cleaned the filter during the meeting with relative ease. Alice will clean the filters in the other office areas.

Computer and Printer Issues – Nate Savage was able to fix these issues and update drivers.

Mail Chimp Training. SB Crockett will meet with Alice Counts before the August Newsletter so we can fully implement this process.

Guest Password at Town Office for Residents Use – There is no reception at all for the Town Residents when they are visiting the Town Office and need connection. The SB will look into the feasibility of doing this but there was some doubt as to whether the Town Office signal was strong enough to be able to offer this feature.

Delivery of Town's Dividend Check for MMA Worker's Compensation on 07-22-21. This is a non-issue as a face-to-face meeting with MMA was deemed to be unnecessary.

Note: Transportation Funding Update. This was informational only.

Fireworks – Noise Ordinance. The SB members took this paperwork home and any comments will be considered at the next SB Meeting.

Motion by SB Hardy for Kerry Casey to sit in on Executive Session, 2nd by SB Libby at 9:05pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Motion to go to Executive Session by SB Hardy, 2nd by Libby at 9:06pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(B) Personnel Matters

Actions/Motions as a Result of Executive Session

No Action from Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by SB Hardy to Adjourn, 2nd by SB Libby at 9:24pm. Motion Carried, Vote was 3-0. **PASS**

COMMUNITY CENTER CAFES CONTINUE!!

Community Center cafes Open 9-11 am

Our Continental breakfast is available the following dates: August 7th, 12th, 28th and Sept 4th.

Cafe breakfasts will have take-out available and eat-in for those who have been vaccinated using the honor system.

The Annual summer Crafts Fair was a huge success. We lucked out with the weather and it started to drizzle just after everyone left!

Many Crafters wanted to know if we could do this again....like soon...like monthly. I would not object! However, the responsibility for organizing this has to go to the Crafter's themselves. If they would like to form a Crafters Co-Op and organize this, we would be happy to host the occasions. For a list of the crafters, contact Leslie Grenier.

For those who have not been vaccinated, we ask that they do a take out meal to help protect those in the community center who are still at risk even though they have been fully vaccinated. We are talking about the many senior citizens who come into the cafe who may have underlying conditions that would make them susceptible to an infection and worse.

All donations are very much appreciated as it helps with the upkeep of this wonderful building.

Also, the Board of Trustees is looking for community **volunteers** to pair up with a Trustee member to help on Saturday cafes. This IS a Community Cafe for you to socialize and enjoy a bite to eat. Proceeds to help with the running of the Community center. If you are interested in helping on Saturdays, please let me know at jrcauldwell@gmail.com or at 931-8012. The more the community gets involved the more the community benefits in general.

Food Bank News

Now that warmer weather is upon us, First Baptist Food Bank invites customers into the Food Bank for shopping. There will be some restrictions; only 2 customers (one per household) inside at a time, masks must be worn inside and there will be hand sanitizer at the door. We will be ensuring that there is adequate ventilation for customer safety.

Our farm share from Farmer Kev has started so there is an abundance of great fresh produce available each week.

Weather permitting, we will have clothing and personal care items displayed outside should it be necessary for customers to wait before entering the Food Bank.

We will continue to offer pre-packed boxes of shelf stable items and bags of fresh produce, baked items and toiletries for anyone who prefers.

Brown-Tailed Moth infestations

August, 2021

Dan Onion, MD, MPH

Mt. Vernon/Vienna/Fayette Health Officer

293-2076; dkonion@gmail.com

I recently attended a medical conference held at MaineGeneral about the current browned-tailed moth infestations. I'm writing about this topic because this conference was well done, my wife and I both suffered from these moths this spring for the first time, and many people in our local towns have been telling me about their experiences. Mild to severe rashes are from contact with the hairs of brown-tailed moths. If you would like more details, including many graphs, charts and photos, I recommend the available summary of that talk by local dermatologist, Jill Colvin MD, and Thos. Klepach, Colby College biology professor (<https://www.maine-general.org/app/files/public/fd5f78ce-a536-4334-a546-ec288b26f064/07-22-2021%20Grand%20Rounds%20-%20Brown%20Tail%20Moth%20Presentation%20PDF.pdf>).

These moths are known to have invaded Maine over a century ago from their original and still current home in Europe. Since then, their numbers have waxed and waned over the years, but staying mostly in Maine coastal areas. However, the intensity of the infestation in the past 2-3 years here in Central Maine is the worst in a century, probably because of more forested lands over the decades, and two warmer/ drier recent spring climates, which lead to fewer parasitic fungi infecting the brown-tailed moth caterpillars.

The moths interact with humans mostly between April and July, during which time they first hatch out of egg nests built by the adult females in the previous mid-summer. Prevention centers around identifying those nests and destroying them. That must be done carefully, in order to avoid exposing the people doing that work from the problematic hairs that come from the adult females' egg sacks, the caterpillars, especially as they shed their last skin, and from over-wintering cocoons, and/or the egg cases deposited on tree branches. The moths prefer apple and oak trees but can and do feed on other trees including maple, birch and other hardwoods and shrubs.

Symptoms most commonly are very itchy rashes that look like multiple insect bites, most often on the inner arms and around the collar, but they can be widespread, mostly over air exposed skin. The rash is caused by millions of setae or "hairs," which are microscopic harpoon-like darts with protease enzymes that digest micro patches of skin. They are a natural defense against bird predators. Since thousands of caterpillars or egg sacks can release these hairs when shed when the caterpillars die or the egg sacks are opened, these can waft through the air on dry days, especially in June and July. They can settle on the ground, on clothing and even rarely be inhaled or invade the eyeball. Some people suffer such extensive exposure that they must take time off from work. There has been one known death from extensive disease, that back in 1914!

Treatment is, first, avoidance by wearing protective long sleeves, high collars, and avoiding walking under/ around likely affected trees during June and July, or cutting out egg sack nests in trees. The rash symptoms are hard to fix beyond tincture of time (10 days).

Community-wide prevention actions, primarily the removing of the egg sacks/nest in trees may be practical in larger communities, like Waterville and coastal cities and towns, to make life easier for the tourists and locals. Prof. Klepach also serves on the Waterville city council, where he has succeeded in getting \$100,000 to support such a project there.

Check your orchards this fall and try to kill the buggers while they sleep by immersing them in buckets or soapy water for 2 days or burning them.

Good luck!

Treatment Strategies

Remove offending hairs from skin

- Duct tape or other adhesive
- Immediate washing with soap and water
 - Shower not tub bath
- Change and launder clothing
- Remove jewelry and watches in anticipation of swelling

Relieve symptoms of itch

- Camphor, menthol, pramoxine, cool packs, witch hazel, topical diphenhydramine

Reduce inflammatory reaction

- Topical steroids
- Systemic steroids
 - prednisone 1 mg/kg/day tapered over 2 – 3 weeks
 - IM Triamcinolone 40 mg
- Systemic antihistamines: variably helpful
- Topical aspirin reduced histamine induced itch in one study

Prevention/avoiding exposure

- Protective clothing, mask, do yard work on wet days
- Dry clothes inside not outside on a line

Late instar caterpillar dorsum,
showing two red dots near tail



Vienna Woods Players
present

Play On!

A Comedy by
Rick Abbot

The Vienna Union Hall
August 19, 20, 21
Evenings 7:00 Sat Matinee 2:30

Tickets by donation
Limited seating ~ Reserve tickets at:
ViennaWoodsPlayers2021@gmail.com

Please be vaccinated or masked.



In **PLAY ON**, a comedy (1980) by Rick Abbot, a small town community theater group attempts to perform a play by a local amateur writer, whose ongoing script changes challenge the cast's patience, perseverance, and sense of humor; not to mention the story line. As this three-act play Act I, Practice, Act II Dress Rehearsal, and Act III the Performance, proceeds, will it turn out to be a comedy, drama, or murder mystery? What could possibly go wrong? Everything! Every theater performer's worst nightmares provide a hilarious comedy from the audience's perspective.

Performances will be at the Vienna Union Hall, August 19, 20 and 21 evenings at 7:00pm with a Saturday matinee at 2:00. Current community COVID precautions will be respected. As seating is limited, reservations are recommended by emailing viennaplayers@gmail.com. The price of tickets is a donation amount determined by the patron. This is a play in which you don't want to encourage the cast to "break a leg", as it might happen, and they'll just have to Play On!

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.” Henry Ward Beecher

We have a new email address as of this past month. Now if you want to send us an email, please use: librarian@drshawlibrary.org Thanks, Jim Anderberg, for helping us get this set up. We have so many people who are willing to step in and support us in so many ways!

Remember, we have another **StoryWalk@** set up this year, on the trails at the Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area. The book Alice chose this year is Amy MacDonald's [Little Beaver and the Echo](#). We hope you can bring some young family members down to the trails to follow along with this good quiet story. And, Alice left a small notebook again in the wooden information box at the start of the trails, so you can leave notes about the Storywalk – we love to read people's comments. If you snap some pictures of your Storywalk adventure and would like to share them, you can email Mary Anne at malibby19@gmail.com and include a jpg. We'll post the pictures on our Facebook page!

After a few postponements due to rain, we were finally able to have our Fern program with Maine Master Naturalist, Deb Stahler. She brought lots of fronds of various ferns she had preserved over the years, as well as some examples that she had just picked. Folks also brought a few ferns that they wanted identified, and we all got a good chance to study each one. One of Maine's most common ferns is called the Interrupted Fern – did you know there are fossils of that particular variety that indicate it has been around for 180 million years?! Pretty cool that a plant can survive all the climate and other changes through time, and still thrive! Thanks so much, Deb, for introducing us to such wonderful, astonishing plant life.

The summer reading program has had to be rather self-directed this year. Alice and Linda had to cancel a couple of our outdoor story times due to weather, and we've had to send home various craft projects to our young patrons as Take&Makes, rather than doing them together out on the picnic table. We hope everyone has been reading regularly! If you haven't been in to pick up your child's Take & Make kit, please come in and grab one, we've got some extras ready to go. Alice is glad to make more Take&Makes if families are interested in continuing doing crafts at home for a bit longer. If your child has met the Summer Reading Program reading goal for the summer, you can pick up one of the Gifford's ice cream certificates from us, as a closing reward. We hope they have had fun reading this summer – it always helps to have a good book at hand on rainy or hot days!

Bat Walk: BATS! A program for all ages!

Save the date! **Friday August 20 meet at the library at 7pm** to enjoy a bat snack, learn some interesting facts about bats, see a bat skeleton and bat guano amongst other things, and for the younger crowd, listen to a bat story and do a bat craft if there is time. If not, Take & Makes will be available. At around 7:45pm we will head over to Teaberry Lane, where parking will be available on the first house on the right. From there we will walk down the road and listen for bat echolocations under the guidance of Shevenell Webb, local Wildlife Biologist and bat enthusiast. Please wear a headlamp and vest reflector if you have one, or bring a flashlight. Feel free to join us just at the library, or meet us on Teaberry Lane. Rain date is August 21. Registration is very helpful for planning. Please email the library at librarian@drshawlibrary.org or call the library (293-2565) to let us know you plan to come.

Ongoing Book Sale: We have lots of books upstairs in the original part of the building, in our ongoing Book Sale – fiction, nonfiction, children's books. Come browse, and grab an armful to restock your camp or household bookshelves. All hard-cover and trade paperbacks are \$1 each, and mass market paperbacks are 50 cents. You never know what treasures you will find!

This week I've been reading William Kent Krueger's [Ordinary Grace](#). It is set in a small town in Minnesota, and includes his usual excellent portrayal of imperfect characters trying to pull together. A good read. We have others of Krueger's novels, he is definitely an author to try. What are you reading while you wait for the tomatoes to ripen, and finish canning some raspberry jam?



8TH ANNUAL
**5K
RACE
EVENT**
SUNDAY,
AUGUST 8

CHECK-IN 9-10AM
@ MT. VERNON
COMMUNITY CENTER

REGISTER ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR
\$10 REGISTRATION
\$15 T-SHIRT
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

REGISTER NOW!!

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LOONLAP5K@GMAIL.COM



B.S. from the T.S.

Better Suggestions from the Transfer Station



By the Dump Lady

Looks like we made it through the winter, and our summer people are starting to come in. Don't forget that we are open every Wednesday, from 3:00 to 6:00, for your dumping pleasure. Our weekend hours are from 8:30 until 12:00. If you have a big demo load, we recommend that you come in early Saturday, as the dumpster fills up quickly! Please do not show up at 11:45 on Sunday with a big load—you will probably have to take it back home.

Thank you for patronizing our "Swap Yard" and we are working to return everything to the Swap Shop. We are aiming to have it open around the 4th of July weekend – please wear masks inside the Swap Shop.

Hooray for the dragonflies!!!!



ATTENTION

Neighbors Driving Neighbors



- ◆ Are you looking for a ride to get your vaccine?
- ◆ Are you fully vaccinated and need a ride to the doctor or grocery store?
- ◆ Do you need food delivered to you from the food pantry?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, Neighbors Driving Neighbors is here for you! If you live in Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Belgrade, Vienna or Rome, please give us a call for **FREE**, confidential and safe transportation.

(207) 860-0677

We are looking for Local Artists who would like to show off their talent by displaying their art work in the Mount Vernon Town Office Lobby. We will rotate the artwork on a schedule to be determined. Please see Heather, Rachel or Alice at the Mount Vernon Town Office.

We are also looking for an Emergency Manager for Mount Vernon. This is a volunteer position and the applicant would be responsible for coordinating all aspects dealing with any natural disaster. Please contact Alice@MtVernonME.org or 207-293-1105 if you are interested.

We work for the Residents of Mount Vernon, and as such, we are interested in how we can better Serve you. Please contact Alice at the Mount Vernon Town office with any suggestions, improvements and/or complaints. You may remain anonymous if you so choose.

RSU #38

Manchester-Mount Vernon-Readfield-Wayne

FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

RSU #38 is seeking all Pre-K and Kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Please call your local elementary school to add your name to the list for further information. Town of Wayne Pre-K parents please call Readfield Elementary School.

- Manchester Elementary—622-2949
- Mt. Vernon Elementary—293-2261
- Readfield Elementary—685-4406
- Wayne Elementary—685-3634 (Pre-K parents call Readfield Elementary)

Age requirements by October 15, 2021:

Pre-K—4 years old

Kindergarten—5 years old