

THE BRIDGE

Winter 2019-20
Norridgewock, Maine

ph (207) 634-2252
townofnorridgewock.com

Town Meeting 2020: What's on the Ballot?

Monday, March 2 8am-7pm secret ballot voting, 7:30pm open meeting

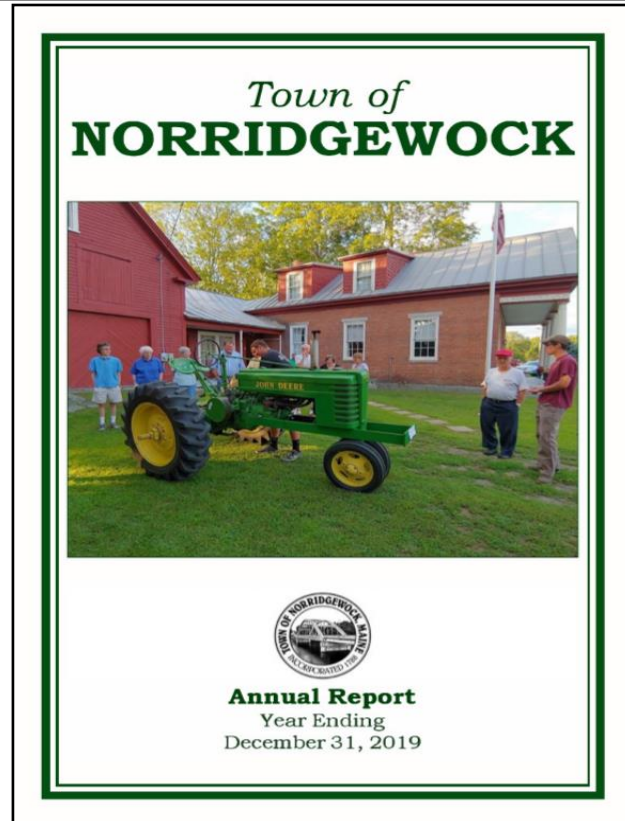
Throughout the day on March 2, voters will consider electing candidates to municipal offices. The Board of Selectmen slate includes four incumbents Matthew Everett, Ronald Frederick, James Lyman, and Sara Wilder, as well as new-comer Lindsey Lynch. The three-member Board of Assessors has four candidates in the running, incumbents Ronald Frederick, James Lyman, and Sara Wilder, challenged by Charlotte Curtis, who is seeking to take back her seat which she has held in previous years—most recently in 2018. The offices of Budget Committee Member, Sewer Commissioner, Planning Board Member, School Board Director, and Library Trustee are all uncontested

Also to be considered by secret ballot throughout the day on March 2, are two referendum questions. Question 1 asks voters, To see if the Town will vote to authorize the hiring of two full-time Norridgewock Fire Department firefighters, to be installed no earlier than July 1, 2020, and to raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 to cover the cost of these new positions. In divided recommendations, the Board of Selectmen recommends approval of the question by a margin of 3-2, while the Budget Committee recommends the question 4-2. This proposal only funds the position for up to six months; a 2021 proposal would increase the amount required to support a staff of two full-time firefighters.

The second question was initiated by petition. To see if the Town will require the removal of the speed table on Upper Main Street and to prohibit the installation of future speed tables unless otherwise approved by the Legislative Body. Regarding this question, the Board of Selectmen recommends against approval by a vote of 4-1, while the Budget Committee shares the same opinion by a margin of 5-1. The speed table (often referred to as a speed hump) was installed nearly six years ago and has been a contentious issue for many in the community. Approval of the question would not only order the removal of the existing speed table, but it would also prevent the future installation of the same unless otherwise approved by a vote of town meeting.

At the open town meeting portion of the day, voters will be asked to consider the municipal budget proposals. Two items are being requested be appropriated from surplus: up to \$150,000 for the purchase of a new backhoe loader (to replace a 2001 equivalent) and \$24,000 to fund the construction portion of drainage improvements to the fields at Barr Hatfield Athletic Park.

Several proposed multi-year agreements will also be considered. A 15-year proposal from Central Maine Power Company would convert the Town's streetlights to LED at no direct cost to the Town and CMP would have the maintenance responsibility of the lights. A vote to affirm the agreement between the Town and Waste Management regarding Host Community benefits will also be warranted. The Board of Selectmen negotiated the revised agreement, which phases in increases from \$1.70 per ton to \$3.80 per ton on most waste streams and institutes a \$0.50 per ton fee on all revenue-generating cover. The final contract for which voters will be asked to consider is an Option to Lease agreement between the Town and Consolidated Edison Development, Inc. for land located at Central Maine Regional Airport to construct and operate a solar (PV) energy generation facility on the premises. This development would advance if, over 12 to 18 months, the developer determined the project's feasibility to be favorable. ★



Welcome to **ebay**® Day

Norridgewock Public Library

40 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock

March 24 at 2:00 pm

ebay is now easier than ever

Learn the ins and outs of using eBay while being educated on how quick, easy, and convenient the Postal Service™ has made shipping by utilizing Click-N-Ship® and Package Pickup.

Registration is **FREE**

Sign up at the Library or Norridgewock Post Office



Join us for the **2020 Memorial Day Parade!**

Monday, May 25, 2020

9:00 AM

We will celebrate those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, while also observing Maine's Bicentennial.

If you would like to participate or volunteer, please contact the Town Office or email Becky Ketchum at rketchum1@aol.com

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Held at Mill Stream Elementary Gym

Monday, March 2

Annual Town Meeting

Polls open 8am – 7pm

Open meeting at 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 3

**Presidential Primary
and Referendum Election**

Polls open 8am – 8pm

The Town Office will be closed in order to properly staff the elections.

Exemption Applications Due April 1

An easy way for qualifying residents to save on property taxes

Did you receive your check for \$104 from the State recently? If not, you may not be receiving the full benefits of property tax exemptions that are offered under State law. Once you apply for the homestead exemption, you do not have to reapply unless you move or the name on your deed changes. In 2020, the homestead exemption will increase from \$20,000 to \$25,000, which means you could be savings an estimated \$300 per year with the qualified exemption. You have to meet certain criteria, but most people qualify for the program on their primary residence. In addition to the homestead exemption, other exemption programs are available for the blind, veterans, and paraplegic veterans.

Land use programs are available that may help to reduce the assessed value of your property, typically on excess acreage. Programs that may help reduce your property tax burden include tree growth, farmland, and open space.

The State of Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit, administered by Maine Revenue Services is also an opportunity for Maine residents with qualifying income levels to receive a partial rebate on property taxes or rent paid. More information about this program can be found online or by calling Maine Revenue Services at 624-9784.

Applications for all exemptions and land use programs are available at the Town Office or online at www.maine.gov/revenue. Qualifying applications must be received by April 1 in order to qualify for the tax year. Questions about these tax programs can be directed to Assessing Agent Donna Moore Hays at 634-5734. She is also in the office on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. ★

Bicentennial, Memorial Day Parade Save the Date: May 25

Norridgewock is planning a huge historical parade, celebrating our veterans and Maine's Bicentennial. The parade, which will take place on Monday, May 25 (starting at 9:00 am), will have music (Skowhegan Area High School Band and the Over the River Bell Ringers) among the floats and more. YOU, your business, organization, or group can be in it, too. Join the fun! Give us a call!

The day will also feature the unveiling of the Norridgewock Historic Panel, down by Sophie May Library. The panel, which was funded by the Maine Department of Transportation, was developed by the Town's Historical Panel Committee and Maine DOT. The panel depicts the history of Norridgewock from our Native American Heritage to the early years of the 20th century.

For more information on these events, contact the Town Office at 634-2252. ★ RK

Historical Society to Hold Kick-Off Party for Bicentennial

Special Exhibits! Time Capsule! Birthday Cake!

March 15 is Maine's 200th year of statehood. To celebrate the day, Norridgewock Historical Society (NHS) will have an open house on Sunday, March 15, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The open house (which is free) will feature photography exhibits of Norridgewock's early years (daily life, homes, buildings, farming, commerce, industry, etc.), tours of the museum, and a bicentennial birthday cake/cupcakes.

NHS invites residents of all ages to bring items to the open house for the Town's bicentennial time capsule. The idea is to fill the time capsule (which is actually an antique chest) with items such as letters, pictures, and small memorabilia, that will provide a glimpse of what life was like in Norridgewock in 2020. The time capsule will be opened on (or near) the occasion of the Town of Norridgewock's 250th birthday, June 18, 2038.

NHS hopes that the capsule will include letters and photos from all age groups— grade school to seniors. We extend a special invitation to parents/grandparents of children of the Class of 2038— we want to be sure to have some of their baby photos in the capsule as the opening of the capsule is likely to occur around the time of their graduation that year.

For more information about the open house, please visit the NHS website at NorridgewockHistoricalSociety.org ★ RK



Airport Rd.
634-2714

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

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

Join the
NORRIDGEWOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY
for its **BIG**



March 1 - 3, 2020

**Mill Stream Elementary School Gym
26 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock**

Sun, March 1 Noon- 4pm Mon, March 2 8am - 7pm Tue, March 3 8am – 8pm

**100% of money raised goes to benefit the
branches of Norridgewock Public Library!**

**BOOKS FOR ALL AGES!
FICTION & NON-FICTION!
COFFEE TABLE BOOKS!
LIGHTLY USED, SOME OUT OF PRINT,
SOME RARE!**



EAT RIGHT



BITE BY BITE

National Nutrition Month®
March 2020

eat right. Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics



**The Town Office will be closed:
February 21 at noon, for safety training
March 2-3, for elections
April 20, in observance of Patriots Day**

*When the weather is bad, be safe and give us a call to
make sure we're open. 634-2252*

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

**Daylight Savings Time
Begins March 8**

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead before you go
to bed on Saturday night, March 7!

