STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

October - December 2026

Stetson's Community Newsletter since 1988

SELECTBOARD NEWS

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer! It's hard to believe fall is already here.

Please join us in welcoming **Marisa and Marie** to the Town Office staff. Both bring municipal experience, and we are very happy to have them join our team.

We have added an additional position to help make sure the office has coverage and can remain open when someone is away on vacation or out sick. We believe this will be a great benefit to our residents and help keep things running smoothly.

We also want to take a moment to remind everyone that our staff are members of our Stetson community, too, and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. We understand that everyone has bad days and that dealing with town business can sometimes be frustrating. We simply ask that those frustrations not be taken out on our staff. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping the Town Office a friendly and welcoming place for everyone.

Big Trash Day will be Saturday, October 17th, at the Town Office.

This year, because we have had some problems with people bringing in multiple loads, **residents will need to stop by the Town Office ahead of time to receive a voucher.** The voucher will need to be presented when you bring your items to Big Trash Day. This will help us make sure this service is being used by Stetson residents. Big Trash Day is paid for with your tax dollars, and we want to make sure this service remains available to the residents of our town who support it.

The list of acceptable items has not changed. It can be found on the Town website, or you can get a copy from the Town Office when you get your voucher.

We have also been busy working on several projects around town. Roadside trimming has been completed in several areas, including Lapoint and Wolfboro Roads. Paving work has been completed on Coboro, Brown, and Wolfboro Roads, helping us continue to address the needs of our town roads.

The Community Room floor is being replaced, and we have taken care of several smaller maintenance projects around our town buildings.

The biggest building project still ahead of us is the Meetinghouse. As mentioned in the Town Report, the Meetinghouse remains a significant challenge for the town. There are several large and expensive projects that will be needed, and we will need to carefully consider the best way to move forward.

As a reminder, all personal items must be removed from the cemeteries by November 13th for the fall cleanup.

Tax bills will be going out soon, with the **first half due November 15th**. We understand that paying a tax bill in full can sometimes be difficult. If you are not able to pay the full amount at once, please remember that even a partial payment can help.

Before we know it, the holidays will be here! Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and enjoyable fall and holiday season!

Respectfully submitted by your Board of Selectmen

*********ATTENTION RESIDENTS*********
TRASH MUST FIT IN YOUR TRASH CAN WITH THE LID CLOSED.
ANY TRASH BESIDE THE TRASH CANS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.
TRASH CANS THAT ARE DAMAGED DUE TO OVERLOADING WILL NOT BE REPLACED BY THE TOWN OR BY THE TRASH COMPANY.

Greetings from RSU 64!

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! As we begin another school year, there is a renewed sense of energy and possibility across our schools. Classrooms are once again filled with students asking questions, teachers sharing their expertise, friendships being renewed, and new learning taking place each day.

This year, our district is embracing a simple but powerful focus: **Reclaiming Learning for Every Student.**

To us, reclaiming learning means putting the focus where it belongs—on meaningful relationships, curiosity, deep thinking, creativity, and the joy of learning. It means creating classrooms where students are engaged, challenged, supported, and known. It means giving teachers the time and space to teach well and students the opportunity to discover what they are capable of accomplishing. It means less time using technology and more time learning from and with each other.

We also recognize that learning does not happen in isolation. Our schools are an important part of our communities, and our communities are an important part of our schools. Parents, grandparents, community members, local organizations, and businesses all contribute to the success of our students. Thank you to our families and community members for your continued partnership and support. We are grateful to begin another school year together—and we look forward to **reclaiming learning for every student.**

Here's to a wonderful 2026–2027 school year!
Rhonda Sperrey
Superintendent of Schools, RSU 64

VETERANS CORNER

Submitted by Brenda Clark

"Lest we forget, freedom isn't free"

Dear Veterans,
I want you to know how much it meant to have each and every one of you there. First, I want to apologize to all you Veterans about not getting all the flags up. As most of you know, I haven't been up to par health-wise. I bought the flags and put them together but I couldn't find anyone to put them up… My grandsons usually help me but they were busy doing army stuff and they were away. Anyways, on the school bus I was complaining about not getting the flags up. So one afternoon, my fellow bus driver, Donnie Tate said he would help. He got a great friend of his and I rode to show them where to put some up. So what flags we got up were done by an 80 yr old, a 72 yr old and a 62 yr old! I thank them with all my heart. I still have other

brand-new flags to put up next Spring, and I have money in the bank to buy new flag poles. Hopefully, I will be able to find people who LOVE our flag and are willing to put them up for our Veterans and me. So please forgive me - I am working it out. We made about $600 at the Veterans Dinner. I had some more banners made. I thank Sara with all our hearts for doing such a great job. I don't know what I would do without friends who love all you Veterans and help me out so much. FAMILY AND FRIENDS - Thank all of you who make our dinner such a huge success. Thank you, Laura, for being such a great veteran-caring person to make sure we get these messages in the newsletter. God bless and keep you all. Thank you to our precious Veterans!

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Submitted by: Julie Brownie, Chair, Cemetery Trustees

"Show me your cemeteries, and I'll show you what kind of people you have."
- Benjamin Franklin

The cemeteries are being taken care of this Summer. The fence at Mt. Pleasant was painted and Maine Gravesite Maintenance has repaired and reset stones, staying within the budget set at Town Meeting. The Historical Society cleaned about a dozen stones at Clark Hill Cemetery.

Clark Hill has at least one relatively rare gravestone. There are only 71 stones found in Maine that show a standing soldier. The stone honors Henry Jordan, who died in the Civil War. It is really important to the history of our town, country and families to look at and ponder the lives and stories of the people buried in our cemeteries. It gives us context for our lives and how we want to contribute and be remembered.

Don't forget it is the families' responsibility to maintain and clean up the items placed on the cemetery plots. Don't throw these items and plants along the side of the cemetery or over fences. Bring a trash bag with you and take the discarded items home with you to be discarded.

Check with the Town Office before you bury cremains and if a relative dies who was a Veteran, make sure to include that on the paperwork in the Town Office in order to ensure a marker and flag are added to the gravesite.

This is my last submission to the Town as I have resigned as Chair of the Cemetery Trustees. I, along with a great team, have completed what I set out to accomplish 5 years ago. If you are interested in the position, call the Town Office or one of the Select Board members.

Thank you for your support and please continue to keep your cemetery plots cleaned up to honor the memory of your loved ones.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FOOD CUPBOARD

Submitted by: 'Stevie' Lord, 296-3503

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Yard Sale and the Bake Sale at Stetson Day. Also, big 'thank you' goes to Robinson's Construction LLC for helping us resolve some recent issues with our water.

Thanks to you, our local supporters, donors, gardeners, and folks dropping off bagged returnables by the shed at the Food Cupboard. You are very important to keeping our lights on and food coming so we can continue our commitment to provide food to those in our community who need it. We love sharing local fresh food provided by local gardeners and farmers who drop off their excess fresh garden produce and eggs.

Fundraising and donations pay for all our expenses including operating expenses (electricity, propane, repairs, etc.) and an increasing amount of our food. Local credit unions, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Newport Hannaford, and Maine Distributors are regular supporters and suppliers, along with government food allocations.

The Widows and Orphans Food Cupboard's **regular hours** are **5:30-6:30 pm every Friday,** and **8:30-9:30 am** on the **first and third Saturdays** of the month**.** You can choose what you prefer from our wide selection of foods and "shop" the **outside tables**. Every week Hannaford in Newport donates fresh produce, bread, and other foods. On our "**Fresh Food" Friday** nights (2nd and 4th weeks, and the occasional 5th weekends), we have variety and selections that can provide several good meals. On our "**Full Distribution**" weeks (1st and 3rd Saturday, and the Friday of that weekend), in addition to our weekly fresh food offerings, you choose from several meat options plus canned and dry products for vegetables, fruit, cereal, beans, soup, pasta, sweets and other items.

Remember: If you need food assistance, even once, please come to the Food Cupboard. We are in the metal building behind the Meeting House at 13 Wolfboro Road.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted by: Jennifer Torrey

https://www.facebook.com/Stestonparksandrecreation

207-951-6800

Soccer Has Started!

Our soccer season is underway! This year, **Stetson is joining with Kenduskeag** for the soccer season. We are excited for a fun season and wish all of our players and teams a great year!

Thank You – Stetson Days!

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with Stetson Days and to everyone who came out to enjoy the day! We appreciate all of the volunteers, families, and community members who helped make Stetson Days a success.

Stetson Days Committee – Volunteers Needed!
We are looking for volunteers to join the **Stetson Days Committee** and help us plan for next year! We would love to have new ideas and extra helping hands to make next year's Stetson Days even better.

Trunk or Treat – October 31st
Our **Trunk or Treat** is coming up!
Date: October 31st
Time: 4:00–6:00 PM
We are looking for volunteers to **decorate a trunk and hand out treats**. Come join us and help make this a fun Halloween event for our community!

Want to Volunteer or Need More Information?
Contact us through **Facebook Messenger** or call/text **207-951-6800** for more information.

STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by: Kathi L. Ward
volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us
Visit us on Facebook at
https://www.facebook.com/stetsonpubliclibrarymaine
Catalog available at www.stetson.lib.me.us

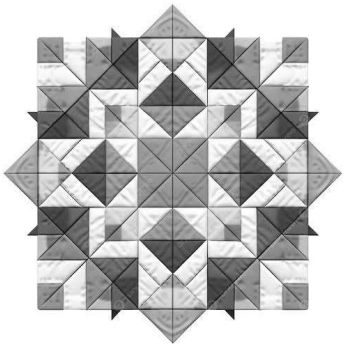
Oh, what a wonderful summer we had at the Library! We offered a terrific variety of programs and activities for the children during July & August. Our Summer Reading Program encouraged them to read while also offering a fun weekly activity. They were challenged to build a boat out of aluminum foil, design a T-shirt, and identify sea shells and actual shark's teeth. Congratulations go to Grant Hibbard and Parker Roberts who each won a $35.00 Amazon gift card for logging the most reading hours during July! But I think that the biggest excitement for many kids was probably the day that the life-sized whale visited the Library. *Within the Whale* was a spectacular educational event that brought a total of 174 people from Stetson and nearby towns to our Library. SO Amazing! We invited the kids back in August to build Fairy Houses, Dreamcatchers, and create something unique from an assortment of scrap materials provided. Their creativity each week was limitless and so much fun to watch!

Beginning in September, we're pleased to announce that Kate will be offering a Preschool Hour of learning and fun for 3 - 6 year olds **every Tuesday** morning from 10-11 at the Library. Bring your little ones in each week to meet new friends and learn alongside them with Kate.

Our Community Room will be available **every Wednesday** morning from 10-12 for our Senior activities. Whether you'd like to play cards, work on a puzzle, or just meet your friends for coffee and refreshments, the room is yours. We hope that you will join us for **SENIOR BINGO** on the last Wednesday of the month. It's just so much fun!

The Library is open on Monday nights from 6-7 for the public and especially any crafters who would like to join the STETSON SIP & STITCH group. We're also looking for local crafters who may like to share their craft by teaching others. Someone will be teaching **embroidery to beginners on September 28th**. We will also be making simple holiday crafts in November & December. Check our Facebook page for the latest news.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **October 10th** as the Library will be having a **PAPERBACK BOOK SALE** from 9-noon. We have a wonderful variety of books for both children and adults for only $0.25 each. It's time to fill your bookshelves before winter comes. We would also appreciate any donations of gently used paperbacks beforehand that we could add to our sale. Please drop them off during Library hours. Thank you!



After you've stopped by our Book Sale, you'll want to go next door to the Stetson Meeting House for the **QUILT SHOW** put on by the Stetson Clueless Quilters on **October 10th** from 9-3. Admission is free, with donations accepted. They will have vendors, a quilter's yard sale table, a raffle table of homemade items, along with many beautiful quilts on display. A selection of soup and sandwiches will be available for lunch. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of our country, the members have each contributed blocks for a quilt that celebrates historical events, dates and symbols of America. This very special quilt will be on display during the quilt show.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 6-7pm	Tuesday 9am-3pm
Wednesday 9-noon	Saturday 9-noon

STETSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Submitted by: Dale and Julie Brownie
stetsonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Henry Jordan "standing soldier" headstone; killed in the Civil War; Clark Hill Cemetery

The Historical Society has had an eventful Summer. The exhibits have become more fleshed out and we continue to receive photos, letters, and donations of household items, cookbooks, hand sewn items and kitchen items. We also received a $500 grant from the Maine Genealogical Society to be used for signage.

We started the Summer off by painting the fence at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Thanks to a great crew, Mark Urquhart, Jody Lyford, Linda Siwarski, Sally and David Eells, Julie Brownie and Doug, a Summer resident from Massachusetts, we power washed, scraped and painted. The fence looks great.

The bean-hole bean fundraiser was a great success, with beans and coleslaw both selling out. Thank you to Rod Underhill and Vickie Lee for your generous donations of time and talent.

Cleaning gravestones is always a rewarding activity. This year we focused on Clark Hill Cemetery. Linda, Mark, Jody, Julie and Donna Archer spent a few hours cleaning about a dozen stones. The stones contain a lot of history and the stories are always intriguing.

The last project was obtaining a replica Boston Post cane. The original canes were distributed to 700 towns (no cities) in New England by the Boston Post newspaper in 1909. The publisher of the newspaper wanted the towns to present the canes to the oldest citizen of their town. Stetson's original cane has disappeared, possibly in a fire. The SHS has obtained a replica which will be presented to Linwood Gardner on September 9th at 5pm in the Stetson Community room. Congratulations to Linwood who turned 96 on September 4th.

We are now working on our 2027 calendar. Don't forget us when you find those historic photos while downsizing. If you are not already on the prebuy list and want to be added along with names for birthdays, anniversaries and in memory, please leave a message at the contact sites listed below. The calendar sales are an important fund raiser and we appreciate your support.

Our volunteers have been great this year. Dave Neff has been a great help in volunteering his carpentry skills to repair wooden items such as a child's rocking horse and the stand for a butter churn. Linda Siwarski has been sorting and filing paper items. Mike Kamorski freshened up and affixed supports for our giant ox. Jody Lyford, Shirley Eells and Jessie Walls have added items to displays. We need help copying news items and obituaries, setting up the tool shed display, cleaning items, etc. If you would like to volunteer to help, we can find a job for you.

Dues for 2027 are $10. Help out your community with donations of time, talent and treasure. We are now located at 394 Village Road #3. Telephone 207 296-2866; email: stetsonhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com. Open Tuesdays 9am to 12pm and selected Saturday mornings.

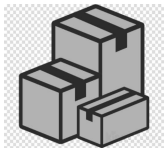
ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

David Cyr	term expires 2029
Jody Lyford	term expires 2029
Mike Kamorski	term expires 2028
Leslie Merrill	term expires 2027
Webster Young	term expires 2028

RSU #64 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Steven Ingalls, Curtis Chadbourne, & Jodi Brasslett

Doug's Disposal/ Trashbusters in Charleston, ME is Stetson's new waste disposal contractor! Follow their page on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/dougstrashbusters/ for timely information and updates.

Stetson Post Office window hours:
Monday – Friday 8am-12pm
Saturday 7:30am – 11am



Caring Connections, a cooperative program of the Bangor YMCA and Eastern Maine Medical Center offers mammograms and Pap tests to women who have no insurance or have insurance with a high deductible. Call 941-2808 x 338 to see if you qualify.

Do you have a name to add to the **Memorial Wall**? If so, please see the Town Office for more information.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS
296-3232

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday 8am - Noon and 12:30 - 3:30
Wednesday 8am - Noon and 12:30 - 3:30
Thursday 11:00 - 7:00pm
Friday 8AM—Noon and 12:30—3:30

Website : www.stetsonmaine.net
Email: townofstetsonme@gmail.com

Selectmen minutes are now available on the website to view.

STETSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
296-2020

Monday: 6pm - 7pm
Tuesday: 9am - 3pm
Wednesday: 9am - 12pm
Saturday: 9am - 12pm
CLOSED Thursday, Friday, Sunday

Email: volunteer@stetson.lib.me.us
Facebook at stetsonpubliclibrarymaine
****When the library is closed, please use the BOOK DROP. Contact us for book requests.***

SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS are held at the Town Office at **6:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month**. The public is encouraged to attend.

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS are held are held at the Town Office 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Stetson Post Office: 605-5855
Code Enforcement Officer: Adam Caldwell
Thursdays 5:00 PM—7:00 PM
Tax Assessor: Maine Assessment & Appraisal Services Inc. *3rd Friday 8:00am-3:30pm*
Town Animal Control Officer: Danielle Withee
Phone: 745-1130
Sexton: Matthew Roberts
Town Website: Jeff Perry
Road Commissioner: William Barriault

This newsletter is a free publication of the Stetson Public Library. The Newsletter will now be published **QUARTERLY. The deadline for the next issue is ***Monday, December 1, 2026.*** Information may be e-mail to Laura Ward at lwardpurple@gmail.com or dropped off at the library, town office, or book drop by the deadline. **Editable** electronic files (not PDFs) are preferred.

CAR-RT

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04488

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