



The Orland Falcon

Official Newsletter of the Town of Orland, Maine
October 15, 2025. Issue No. 1



Be Informed!

Website: townoforland.org

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Office Hours: Tues–Fri 8am–12 noon and 1–5pm; 1st and 3rd Thurs of each month, 5:30–7 pm

Transfer Station Hours: Wed & Sat 8:00am to 4:00 pm; Sun 9am–3pm (closed on legal holidays)

Office Phone: 207–469–3186

Town Clerk: Lisa Tapley, CCM

Asst. Clerk: George Dakin

Assessor: Amber Poulin

Code Enforcement Officer: Luke Chiavelli

Treasurer: Shirley Hincks

Animal Control Officer: Brandon Patterson: 207–323-6033

Select Board Members: Les Stackpole, Gina Bushong, Cliff Guthrie

Select Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30pm. Agendas and Minutes available on town website.

Notes from the Town Office

Property Taxes:

- 1st half due September 30, 2025
- 2nd half due March 31, 2026

Dog Licenses: Due for 2025–26 starting Oct 15 to Jan 31. Late fee after Jan 31 is \$25.00 per dog.

Election Day: Tues. Nov 4, 8am– 8pm at the Community Center:

- Two state referendums on absentee balloting and “red flag” law;
- Town referendum on “watershed districts.”

Do you have ideas for or questions about this newsletter? Contact: selectmen@townoforland.org

Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake Watershed Districts: What are we voting about on November 4?

The Issue: Two dams were built 100 years ago so that Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake could be used to supply water for the paper-making mill in Bucksport. After the paper mill was sold, the dams were transferred to Bucksport Mill LLC (BuckMill). Now that the mill site has been salvaged, BuckMill wants to relinquish ownership of the dams. A State statute allows it to release the water and abandon the dams.

A Solution: The Maine legislature has authorized creation of two districts— the Alamoosook Watershed Management District and the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District—as quasi-municipal entities. Each is protected from liability, can raise funds, and can apply for grants and funding like a town. Each will be governed by a board of town-appointed representatives and elected waterfront owner representatives. The towns have committed to asking their voters to pay for 50 percent of the operating costs of the dams, with the waterfront property owners making up the balance.

Ballot Questions: This initial funding is only to establish each District and transfer the ownership of the dam. The ballot will ask:

"Do you favor the establishment of and the town's participation in the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District and the appropriation of \$ 5,590 to provide the town's share of the estimated budget for the first year of operation of the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District?"

And:

"Do you favor the establishment of and the Town of Orland's participation in the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District and the appropriation of \$12,000 to provide the Town of Orland's share of the estimated budget for the first year of operation of the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District?"

—Gina Bushong

**Find out more about the lake dams issue
on the Orland website:**

townoforland.org/alamoosook-and-toddy-dam

**Public Hearing: Oct 21, 6 pm at the
Community Center.**

Notice: The Select Board is seeking nominations for candidates to serve as Trustees on the Alamoosook or Toddy Watershed District governing board in the event that the referendums to establish the districts pass on November 4th. If you would like to volunteer or would like further information, please email selectboard@townoforland.org by October 14th. Final appointments will be made by the Select Board.

River Day 2025 a Huge Success!



The River Day Committee members and their official 2025 Rubber Ducky T-shirts. L to R: (Front) Adina Salmansohn, Cindi Kimball, Lance Burgess, Lisa Tapley, Lance Meadows; (Back) Jamie Robertson, Karen Cote, Bart McGraw, Alvion Kimball



Zay the barber (Jose Villanueva) shows off his special River Day haircut from Deko.

Note from the Road Commissioner

We finished improvements on a stretch of Bald Mountain Road recently. It should be a big improvement in safety and ride in that area of town.

—Bobby Wardwell

Orland Becomes a "Gig Town!"

On August 14, 2025, Fidium Fiber completed work to wire all of Orland's roads for fiber optic broadband. With affordable, stable, high-speed internet, no resident will be left in the "Digital Dark." This effort began with the **2022 Comprehensive Plan**, which identified everyone having access to broadband as a key goal. The Select Board formed the Broadband Committee, co-chaired by **Marybeth Allen** and **Laurie Kelley**, in November 2022. A local internet survey, funded by a grant from the Island Institute, helped lay the groundwork. By summer 2023, Fidium Fiber was selected as Orland's Internet Service Provider and, on the town's behalf, applied for a **\$1.8 million Connect the Ready Cohort 2 grant** from the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA). Combined with contributions from Fidium, Orland American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds (\$50,000), and Hancock County ARPA funds (\$200,000), the **\$3.7 million project** became reality. The MCA awarded the grant in December 2023, construction began in April 2025, and service was ready four months later. The Broadband Committee contributed over **600 volunteer hours**. Our thanks to: Roger Bennatti, David DePrez, Andrew Janowicz, Sue Jellison, Jean Mauck, Marc Restuccia, Todd West, and Select Board liaison persons Brenda Leavitt and Cliff Guthrie. Special thanks to the Select Board and current and former town clerks and treasurers for their support.

—Marybeth Allen & Laurie Kelley, Broadband Committee Co-Chairs

In Other Town News

- **The Maine DOT** confirms that it still plans to put **a spotlight on the dangerous intersection of Highway 1 and Upper Falls Road**. It has to do some more research on the area, but its intent is to have the project finished by July 2027. Meanwhile, be careful and look both ways when negotiating that intersection.
- Last year the Select Board voted to reconfigure the **Bicentennial Garden at the intersection of Gray Meadow Road and the Castine Road** because of the difficulty of regular upkeep. It agreed to remove the plants and add stone around the flag post area.
- The Orland Fire Department has started a new program called **Sand for Seniors**. Its officers will bring five-gallon buckets of sand for icy winter walkways to people in town who are unable to get the sand themselves. If you are interested in receiving sand, leave a message with the fire department at 207-469-3079 and someone will be in touch with you.
- **Free Burn Permits** are given out at the Orland Transfer Station, 180 Gray Meadow Road, Orland, ME 04472 on Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am to 4pm, and Sundays 9am to 3pm. Burn permits are available online for a fee at www.maineburnpermit.com

Town employees. Give a big welcome to these town employees when you see them:

- George Dakin, our new deputy town clerk.
- Gerry Ryan (everyone calls him “Wig”), our new Community Center Custodian
- Sue Lanpher, part-time administrator of the Community Center

- **Promotion:** Congrats to Gary Newbigin for his promotion as the director of the town transfer station.

Comprehensive Plan Progress

Orland’s 2022 Comprehensive Plan is now under review. The Plan guides every sector of our community’s life and offers goals and objectives for the future—a key reference for the Select Board. To keep it alive in the spirit of the Vision Statement, the Comprehensive Plan Review Team has formed. Twenty-six citizens gathered at the Town Office on September 16 for an orientation, with more signing on to help. Small groups will review each chapter of the Plan, note accomplishments since 2022, assess goals and priorities for the next five years, and suggest helpful additions or revisions. With many voices involved, we not only support the Select Board but also strengthen community interaction and understanding. —Katie Greenman, Volunteer Coordinator, Orland Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.



Jane Tannehill was awarded the Boston Post Cane as the oldest citizen of Orland in a lovely ceremony on October 2, 2025 in the Town Office.

Buck Library Note

The Buck Memorial Library serves Bucksport, Orland, and Verona Island, offering books, movies, e-books, streaming audio, games, puzzles, caregiver kits, and nature backpacks—all free. We host weekly storytimes, a youth book club, and craft programs. Library cards are free, with no late fees. Learn more at bucklibrary.org.

—Lisa Ladd, MSIS, Library Director

Big News for the Orland Village Fishway and Dam!

Orland has received a **\$310,000 grant** to study possible upgrades to the village fishway and dam. The study will examine options for maintaining water levels, reducing upstream mercury, and improving fish passage. The Fish Committee, working with Inter-Fluve and the Downeast Salmon Federation, met on Tuesday, September 24, 5:30–7:00 pm in the Orland Community Center. Agendas, minutes, and updates were posted on the Town website. The study will be completed by June 2026, with 1–2 options presented for the Town to consider. Your input is welcome! —*Fish Committee Representatives Pete Robshaw and Volunteer Claus Hamann*

Stay Informed: Look for these Orland-related pages on Facebook:

- Town of Orland
- Orland Community and Fitness Center
- Orland Fire Department–Maine
- Orland Historical Society
- Buck Memorial Library
- SaveOurPonds

From the Fire Chief

Our department sure has been very busy this year with a higher than normal call volume. The members of the department continue to answer the calls as they occur, whether in Orland, or helping out our neighbors. The new fire station has quickly become a truly functional working facility. If you follow our Facebook page, you can see pictures of some of the training sessions being held there. We've hosted several events with area agencies and each time we receive a lot of positive feedback and compliments. It has been a pretty big hit overall, and many are jealous of our new modern building.

In our travels around the town responding to the various calls for service, we notice a lot of places without visible house or address numbers. Unfortunately this often makes it a little difficult to find you in an emergency. Please ensure you have your house numbers posted along the end of your driveway, with numbers at least three inches tall, and reflective so we and other responders can see them in the dark. As always, we thank you for your support of our department and our members. —*Chief Conary*

Support Our Amazing Local Businesses!

Community Center Businesses

- **Ebee's Sweets**, 802-277-0395
- **The Fearless Fork**, 207-752-2341
- **Kim Burgess, tax services**, 207-466-2862
- **Nurtured Nail & Sole**, 207-356-9341
- **One Blue Sky Yoga**, 207-852-6696
- **The Orland Variety**, www.orlandvariety.com/
- **School House Health, Medical Clinic**, <https://www.schoolhouse-health.com/>

Orland Businesses

- **Alamoosook Lakeside Inn**, alamoosooklakesideinn.com
- **Fox Forestry**, foxforestry.com
- **Freshwater Stone**, freshwaterstone.com

- **Hammond Lumber**, hammondlumber.com/location/bucksport
- **Hancock Pour House**, hancock.pourhousemaine.com
- **H.O.M.E.** <https://homemmausa.org/>
- **Kamp K-9** (Doggie daycare), 207-460-4433
- **KOA**, bucksportfortknoxkoa.com/
- **Naiad Country Brewery**, on Facebook
- **Outback Towing**, & car repairs, 207-469-3700
- **Rob's Hardware**, 207-469-2451
- **Sew Rugged**, www.sewrugged.com
- **Wanderin Moose Campground**, wanderinmoosecampground.com

If you want your business to be listed here, email selectmen@townoforland.org