



The Orland Falcon

Official Newsletter of the Town of Orland, Maine
January 15, 2026. Issue No. 2



Your Town

Website: townoforland.org

Community Center: <https://orlandcc.org/>

Sign up for Official Email Notices:

townoforland.org/subscribe-to-updates

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 Smith, CCM

Deputy Clerk: George Dakin

Assessor: Amber Poulin

Code Enforcement Officer: Luke Chiavelli

Treasurer: Shirley Hincks

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

Road Commissioner: Bobby Wardwell: (O) 207-469-7000

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

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

Reminders from the Town Office

Property Taxes: 2nd half due March 31st, 2026

Dog Licenses: Due by Jan 31st. Late fee after Jan 31 is \$25.00 per dog. Remember to have your rabies shots up to date when registering your dog.

Burn Permits: Given out at the Orland Transfer Station, 180 Gray Meadow Road on Wed & Sat 8 to 4pm, and Sun 9 to 3pm. Burn permits are available online for a fee at www.maineburnpermit.com

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

The History of Orland's Schools

–By Roger Wood, Orland Historical Society

Orland was first incorporated in 1800. In its early years, the town was divided into 18 districts, with one-room schoolhouses constructed in 16 of them between 1835 and 1845. These schools were intentionally spaced throughout the community to minimize the distance students had to walk, as the town provided no student transportation.

A single teacher staffed each one-room schoolhouse, teaching all subjects to students in grade 1–8. Buildings had no electricity, so were heated by woodstoves, and no running water, so relied on attached outhouses. Due to a declining student population and improved transportation, all but five of these schools closed by 1950, when Orland's remaining schoolhouses were consolidated under one roof. The consolidated schools were: Under the Hill School (near the post office on Castine Road), On the Hill School (located on School House Road), East Orland School, Cranes Corner School, and North Orland School. Some of these old schoolhouses still stand today!
(continued)



The Under the Hill School, now part of CJ Insulation

The consolidated school had four classrooms, with one teacher for every two grades, and finally provided school lunch, transportation, water, heat, and restrooms for the students. By 1958, the school had added more rooms and teachers, so that each grade had its own classroom. In 1985, a new gymnasium was built.

By 2000, the cost of operating the school was much higher than other schools across the state due to a shrinking student population. In 2010, middle school students (grades 5–8) began attending school in Bucksport, leaving grades K–4 at Orland School. Orland School officially closed in 2011, and all elementary students began attending Bucksport schools instead.

Orland's schoolhouse lives on as the Orland Community Center, which now hosts a variety of local businesses, town meetings, a fitness center, and more!

EMS Contract Skyrockets

The Orland Select Board is reviewing a newly proposed Ambulance Services Agreement from the Town of Bucksport that would sharply increase Orland's EMS costs starting in FY2026. Orland paid \$62,013 in 2025, but Bucksport has asked for more than \$137,700 in 2026, with additional increases of 5% the two following years. Given the scale and timing of this demand, the Board has requested additional information before taking action and is considering alternatives. The Board's priority is maintaining reliable EMS service while protecting Orland taxpayers from Bucksport's fiscal difficulties.

Sewer bills to increase

If you have a sewer account, expect higher bills starting this spring. The town hasn't raised rates in over five years, but Bucksport's fees to us have been climbing steadily, along with other utility costs. The result? Our sewer account, which runs separately from the general budget, is now seriously in the red.

Rather than hit residents with one massive increase, the Selectboard chose a gentler approach: gradual rate adjustments over time until the account is back on solid ground. It's not ideal, but it's the most balanced way forward.

Maine DOT Online Hearing about Traffic Signal on Route 1 in Orland

An on-demand presentation and comment opportunity **will be available for two weeks from Jan 19 to Feb 4, 2026** at bit.ly/mainedot-meetings

These on-demand meetings allow for convenient viewing at any time. The meeting also provides the ability for online comments and questions that will be answered by MaineDOT staff. Or contact Aurele.Gorneau@Maine.gov.

Selectboard Activities

Your Board has been busy trying to improve our response to town needs. Here are some recent actions:

- Won a Risk Reduction Grant to purchase ice dams for the new Community Center metal roof to help avoid the dangers of the ice and snow that will slide off in the winter
- Adopted a new code of behavior for the Community Center, and a new Employee Handbook
- Worked to add acoustic panels to the CC gym to improve sound during our town meetings, and new signage to support the CC businesses
- Started the budget review process for FY2026–27. *Nonprofit organizations and other budget proposals should be submitted to the Board by February 15.*

Lights in the Winter Darkness



David DePrez and Lance Burgess place some of the 400 luminaries distributed on December 20th, with Alvion Kimball planning the event.

Watershed Districts Update

More than 50 people attended a public hearing at the Community Center on January 5th to hear the budget presentations of the Toddy Pond Water Management District and the Alamoosook Lake Water Management District. There was a lively discussion, with numerous questions and comments, but no criticisms.

Proposed Budgets for fiscal year 2026–2027 (\$48,540 for Alamoosook, and \$56,220, for Toddy, (Orland's share: \$24,290) were reviewed. Half those amounts will be sought from the Town, half from the shoreland property owners. Also reviewed were spending plans for the funds that were approved for the fiscal year 2025–2026 in the November 4th Town Meeting. The Districts will present their final budget requests for the June Town Meeting to the Select Board before January 15th.

Why is this Newsletter Called “The Falcon?”

The school that served our town for many years had a falcon for its mascot. Our kids mostly go to Bucksport schools now, but the former school building has a new life as our wonderful Community Center. Come take a look at all the cool things that are happening there these days that keep that special place in our town thriving.

Note from the Road Commissioner

Orland received DOT reports about the condition of the Hatchery Road bridge and the Meadow Brook Bridge on the Gilpin Road. The Hatchery bridge's condition is rated 40/100 and may soon need to be closed, weight restricted, or repaired. Bobby Wardwell, road commissioner, stated at the Select Board meeting on Nov 6, 2025, that it could be repaired, but at great expense. The Meadowbrook Road bridge has some issues as well but reflectors on the entrance and exit would help people with visibility on the road and bridge at night. Those could be put on relatively easily.

—Bobby Wardwell

Nominations Sought

160+ Maine towns give out the “Spirit of America” award for outstanding civic contributions and volunteerism. The Select Board would like to give an Orland award for 2026 and is seeking nominations. **Send your nomination along with your reasons to selectmen@townoforland.org by March 1st.**

Your Library

Buck Memorial Library had an impactful year in 2025, with 10,464 visits and more than 3,300 people attending 161 programs. **Orland residents account for 502 of the library's 2,366 registered patrons** and make extensive use of Storytimes, public computers, Wi-Fi, and borrowing services. The library added over 4,200 new items and loaned nearly 19,500 print and digital materials. Families benefited from free museum and park passes, the Seed Library, and weekly programs. The library is joining the Sustainable Libraries initiative and is working to strengthen long-term funding to keep pace with growing use, including from Orland residents. *Learn more at bucklibrary.org.* —Lisa Ladd, MSIS, Library Director

Fire Department Sets Record

Orland's Volunteer Fire Department closed out 2025 with a record-breaking 163 calls for service, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to our community and neighboring towns. We responded to everything from building fires and vehicle accidents to water rescues and storm damage, with many calls providing mutual aid to Bucksport, Ellsworth, and surrounding communities.

Beyond emergency response, the department continues to serve residents in meaningful ways. Volunteers have delivered 13 buckets of sand to local seniors as part of a fall prevention initiative that's gaining regional attention. Three volunteers are currently training at the Hancock County Fire Academy, while another has been selected as an advocate for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

With 23 active members and experienced command officers re-elected for new terms, Orland's Fire Department remains strong, ready, and deeply invested in keeping our community safe.

Business Spotlight: Ebee's Sweets

Ebee's Sweets owner Erin Schmal first came to Maine in 2016 as a baker aboard the schooner Angelique out of Camden. After earning her baking and pastry certification in Arizona, she returned to Maine and eventually opened the first Ebee's Sweets location inside Compass Rose Books in Castine in the summer of 2024. In September 2025, Erin expanded to Orland, a natural choice since she lives in Bucksport, frequents the Orland Community Center, and was already renting kitchen space there.

Ebee's has quickly become a community favorite, known for breakfast sandwiches on homemade biscuits, coffee, brown butter chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal cream pies, and custom cakes. Erin is a flexible, creative baker who often accommodates special requests, catering, and event orders.

The business also offers a popular monthly cookie delivery for Maine Maritime Academy students, giving families an easy way to send fresh-baked treats. With

no fixed menu, Erin enjoys experimenting and introducing new items and seasonal specials throughout the year.

Support Bucks' Wrath Robotics

Bucks Wrath (FRC Team 6329) continues to represent our region with distinction in the international FIRST Robotics Competition. This year the team has welcomed 15 new members, including freshmen and eighth graders getting an early start in STEM. While RSU 25 supports robot construction and regional events, advancing to New England and World Championship competitions requires significant community fundraising for travel, lodging, and meals. Individuals and local businesses interested in sponsoring or donating are encouraged to contact team captain Lily Frost at lilyfrost_11@icloud.com or mentor John Boynton at john.boynton@rsu25.org. Learn more about the team at bucksports.wixsite.com/frc6329

Special thanks to Erin Grabe from UMaine for her help with writing this issue of The Falcon!

Support Our Amazing Local Businesses!

Community Center Businesses

- **Kim Burgess, tax services**, 207-466-2862
- **Ebee's Sweets**, 802-277-0395
- **The Fearless Fork**, 207-752-2341
- **Stephanie C. Francis LCPC, Registered Play Therapist**
- **Hancock County Habitat for Humanity**
- **Nurtured Nail & Sole**, 207-356-9341
- **One Blue Sky Yoga**, 207-852-6696
- **The Orland Variety**, www.orlandvariety.com/
- **Over the Bridge and Beyond Realty**
- **School House Health, Medical Clinic**, <https://www.schoolhouse-health.com/>

Orland Businesses

- **Alamoosook Lakeside Inn**, alamoosooklakesideinn.com
- **Cast Iron Rescue**, 207-460-6240
- **Charlotte's Bakery and Cafe**, on Facebook
- **CJ Insulation**, 207-702-9202
- **Fox Forestry**, foxforestry.com
- **Freshwater Stone**, freshwaterstone.com

- **Hammond Lumber**, hammondlumber.com/location/bucksport
- **Hancock Pour House**, hancock.pourhousemaine.com
- **The Herbalist**, www.207herbalist.com
- **H.O.M.E.** <https://homemmausa.org/>
- **Kamp K-9** (Doggie daycare), 207-460-4433
- **KOA**, bucksportfortknoxkoa.com/
- **The Lantern Camp** (new glamping facility) lanterncamp.com
- **Naiad Country Brewery**, on Facebook
- **Outback Towing**, & car repairs, 207-469-3700
- **Rob's Hardware**, 207-469-2451
- **Sew Rugged**, www.sewrugged.com
- **Tradewinds Variety Plus**, 19 Duck Cove Rd.
- **Wanderin Moose Campground**, wanderinmoosecampground.com

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