



The Orland Falcon

Official Newsletter of the Town of Orland, Maine
April 15, 2026. Issue No. 3



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 to 12 pm and 1 to 5pm

Transfer Station Hours: Wed & Sat 8am to 4 pm;

Sun 9am to 3pm (closed on legal holidays)

Town Office Phone: 207–469–3186

Town Clerk: Lisa Smith, CCM

Deputy Clerk: George Dakin

Treasurer: Shirley Hincks

Assessor: Amber Poulin

Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector:

Luke Chiavelli, 207–735–6428

Animal Control Officer:

Brandon Patterson. 207–323–6033

Road Commissioner: Bobby Wardwell

Transfer Station Manager: Gary Newbigin

Property Manager: Mike Malenfant

OCC Director: Sue Lanpher

Fire Chief: Bobby Conary

Fire Warden: John Gray

Fish Warden: Peter Robshaw

Select Board Members:

Les Stackpole, Gina Bushong, Cliff Guthrie

Select Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30pm in the Town Office. Agendas and Minutes are available on the town website.

Reminders from the Town Office

Burn Permits: Burn permits are available online for free at www.maineburnpermit.com and are also given out at the Orland Transfer Station, on Wed & Sat 8 to 4pm, and Sun 9 to 3pm.

The 2024/25 Annual Town Report is available in print in the town office, and will soon be posted online at <https://townoforland.org/town-reports/>

Recent Select Board Actions

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

Budget Work Sessions. The major departments and officials have all done an excellent job developing individual projected budgets for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. The Board has held multiple work meetings to hear from each budget area and work together toward our first budget draft. The finished draft will be presented at a public budget hearing on April 30.

Municipal Website. The town has again contracted with TownWeb to manage and move it to a better, more secure platform. An internal working group that will look at improvements in design and user experience is underway. We expect to have the updated site live later this year.

Meeting Transparency. The Board is working to establish a YouTube channel and a livestreaming policy so that residents who cannot attend in person can view meetings.

Fee Adjustments: Some permit fees have been adjusted so that Orland stays within regional averages. New fees will be posted on the town website.

Grant submissions. The town has applied for a congressionally directed funding to obtain a replacement tanker truck for the Fire Department. The town will also submit a grant application to replace more windows at the Orland Community Center.

Key Upcoming Dates

- April 23: Comprehensive Plan Work Session
- April 30: Public Budget Hearing at 6pm
- May 23: Migratory Fish Day
- June 9: Town Election
- June 10: Annual Town Meeting

Public Hearing Scheduled

On **April 30th at 6 PM**, the Orland Select Board will host a public hearing at the Orland Community Center. This hearing will allow residents to comment on four proposals:

- The 2026–2027 Proposed Budget
- A referendum to authorize the Select Board to set permit fees for subdivision plan review
- A referendum to move from an elected assessor to an appointed single assessor model, to support consistency, stability, and ensure professional qualifications in a very technical job
- Possible consideration of a junkyard Ordinance that would mirror the State law but provide enhanced local enforcement

The Select Board will consider comments from the public hearing as the proposals are finalized. Citizens will have the opportunity to vote on each item at the Annual Town Meeting on June 10th.

Public Discussion

After the Town Meeting on June 10th, we invite interested town citizens to stay for a discussion with the Select Board on ways to enhance communications within the town.

Orland Community Center (OCC)

Sue Lanpher, our new OCC Director, has hit the ground running, working hard on digitizing our paper records, increasing programming, and improving communications.

Building improvements: In addition to the replacement windows and acoustic treatment mentioned elsewhere, the Select Board authorized needed drainage and crawlspace repairs, water proofing, and some carpet replacement in the OCC.

Orland Recreation Department

Pee Wee T-Ball: Orland Community Field, for children aged 3–6 | Saturdays May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 | 9:00–9:45 am | \$12 for the 5-week program. Registration and first

session are both May 2nd. No equipment needed — loaner gloves available. Volunteers welcome.

Homeschool Physical Education: Orland Community Center Gym, for children of all ages | Fridays April 17, 24, May 1, 8 & 15 | 10 am to noon | \$10 for the 5-week program. A new program for homeschool students, led by volunteers Joe and Haley Brown. Clean sneakers required. Parents/guardians must be present at the first session to complete registration paperwork. To help with planning, please notify us of your child's age in advance. Contact: Jean Sargent, 930–9846 or jeansargent60@gmail.com

Orland Fishway and Dam Study

The steering committee led by Pete Robshaw of the Fish Committee held its kickoff meeting with the engineering firm, Verdantas, on March 9, 2026. The engineering firm will begin studies of dam and water conditions during the next weeks and continue its work into the summer. It will propose options for fishway and dam rehabilitation or restoration in early fall. -Claus Hamann

Acoustic Treatments Installed

When you come to this year's Town Meeting on June 10th, or if you play pickleball in the gym, see if you notice the improvement in the sound. The town has now installed more acoustic tiles in the gym ceiling and walls with the aims of improving how well we can hear each other when speaking, and of reducing the echo and noise levels.

Your Library

Summer Reading Program: Read Across Maine June 6 to Aug 1. For all ages: Read books about Maine or by Maine authors, visit local businesses to spot the shark, and enjoy activities like the Storywalk, Miles Lane trails, and Pickleball in Orland. We wrap up with our annual Shark Party on August 1st.

Fiber & Friends: Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, or any fiber project. Nolan Welch teaches crochet every other week, check the library calendar at bucklibrary.org.

—Lisa Ladd, MSIS, Library Director

Watershed Districts Update

The Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District has been setting up shop to handle its duties under the statute as approved in November. This includes interviewing and engaging a bookkeeping firm to handle the invoices, interviewing a CPA firm to audit the books, straightening out some ambiguities in the law to determine how the shorefront properties will be billed, filing an application to join the Maine Municipal Association, and laying the groundwork for fundraising activities. We have also worked with our attorneys on transferring ownership of the dam to the District. —George Schelling

The Toddy Pond Watershed Management District board has been preparing for the eventual transfer of the Toddy Pond dam to the district. First assessments have gone out to lakefront property owners per the authorizing legislation and the Towns' approved methodology. We are issuing a request for proposals to engage an accounting firm to ensure financial transparency. The district is now a Maine Municipal Association member, and its FY budget has been approved by Blue Hill and Penobscot, with votes upcoming in Surry and Orland. We continue to collaborate with the Alamoosook District on shared resources and initiatives. A preliminary district website (toddydistrict.org) and email (info@toddydistrict.org) are now live. —Marc Restuccia

Community Action Grant

Orland has received close to \$70,000 from the Maine Community Resilience Partnership to replace 33 windows in the community center with energy-efficient ones. This will eliminate leaking and air infiltration leading to a more comfortable and efficient building. Work should begin soon.

Spirit of America Award 2026

The Select Board is pleased to announce that we are joining 100+ other Maine municipalities in naming a Spirit of America Award winner. This award recognizes individuals and groups whose volunteer work enriches our town. The award will be presented at the **Town Meeting on June 10th**.

Road Commissioner Report

Road Commissioner Bobby Wardwell anticipates the following highway paving projects this spring as conditions allow: Gray Meadow Road (0.7 miles); Gilpin Road (1.7 Miles), At our town line with Ellsworth, repair job by the Happytown bridge.

Comprehensive Plan

The Orland Comprehensive Plan Review Team will meet with the Select Board for a work session on **Thursday, April 23 at 5 pm**. We will identify the key priorities and proposed actions to pursue from the Plan over the next five years.

Migratory Fish Day, May 23



The alewives and blueback herring are coming, and Orland is rolling out the red carpet. David DePrez and a committee of dedicated residents are hosting the second annual Migratory Fish Day on May 23rd — timed to coincide with

World Fish Migration Day — to celebrate and share the remarkable annual migration of river herring through the Narramissic-Orland River. The day features fish weir viewing led by Fish Commissioner Peter Robshaw, speakers, children's activities, information booths, and snacks.

"Migratory river herring successfully cycling through the waters of the Narramissic-Orland River contribute to the long-term health and welfare of our watershed," says DePrez. "We are offering the public the opportunity to see them in their migration pattern, which has been so important to both the ecology and the economy of our town." To attend or volunteer: dldeprez@gmail.com or townoforland.org

Oak Grove Cemetery

The Oak Grove Cemetery Association will hold its Spring meeting on **Monday April 20th at 2pm in Room 19 of the Orland Community Center**. All cemetery lot owners are invited to attend. Questions, call Association President Bart McGraw at 207.659.2524. For cemetery information visit: sites.google.com/view/orlandoakgrovecemetery

Business Highlight: Run Away Farm

Tucked away near Patten Pond at the far eastern edge of Orland, Run Away Farm gets its name from hard experience: every animal



John "Squirrel" Keezer and Daryl Ann Keezer have ever owned has, at some point, made a break for it.

What started during the pandemic as a retirement supplement has grown into a weekly ritual for about 30 regular customers. The Keezers raise chickens and grow vegetables, eggs, perennials, and cut flowers, and Daryl bakes pies and other goods. Each week's menu is posted on Facebook and features a savory dish, a

sweet, and a soup. Order by Thursday, for Sunday delivery from Ellsworth to Winterport, with a friendly visit included. "I think even more important than the food are the connections we make," Daryl says.

Fire Department Update

Orland VFD responded to 12 calls in March, including two motor vehicle accidents, a propane leak, an EMS assist, and a downed wire. The department will provide automatic fire and rescue response in west Penobscot during the Route 175 bridge replacement project, covering for delayed response times caused by the detour. Fire Chief Bobby Conary reminds folks that spring wildfire season is here and we should be careful with outdoor burning. The town fire warden will be limiting burning to after 5pm shortly.

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
- **Bishop's Autobody Shop**, 207-469-2585
- **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
- **Run Away Farm**, facebook.com/darylannkeezer
- **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