

Auburn, Maine State of the City 2021



From Mayor Levesque

Transcript of the recent State of the City 2021 address from Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque:

Welcome to Auburn Hall. I'm mayor Jason Levesque.

As you can see, this State of the City address is being recorded in my office here at Auburn Hall. Like you, I'm abiding by state executive orders and I take comfort in knowing that the wonderful people that make up this great city are represented in this office. I fully believe that our faith in the future of Auburn, and the foundation established by our predecessors will guide us toward greatness for generations to come.

I want to take a moment today to thank City Manager Phil Crowell and our dedicated City staff for working so hard to keep our residents safe, and to keep everything running as smoothly as possible during these unprecedented times. Team Auburn truly is exceptional.

I also extend my thanks to the mem-

See Auburn, page 8

Auburn's Winter Festival, 'No Snow, No Problem'

From City of Auburn

AUBURN – No snow? No problem! Auburn's annual Winter Festival took place this past weekend, and with the focus on finding outdoor winter activities all winter long, it didn't matter if there was snow or not.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to get out and enjoy the beauty of Auburn in winter.

"There is plenty to do outdoors in Maine - with or without snow," said Auburn Recreation Director Sabrina Best. "And we encourage outdoor recreation in our city, especially all the various trail systems." Lost Valley, the Lake Auburn Community Center, Mount Apatite and others all offer a variety of trail systems perfect for hiking, snowmobiling, fat tire biking and much more.

Winter Festival 2021 kicked off last Friday with a "Virtual Story Time" presented by the Auburn Public Library at 10:00am on their Facebook Page: facebook.com/auburnpubliclibrary. The Library also sponsored the Auburn Storywalk last weekend. Storywalk is a series of display cases in downtown Auburn, stretching along the Riverwalk from Bonney Park to Festival Plaza.

Lost Valley is a wonderful place to visit during winter months, offering traditional outdoor trail systems for downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and more. Even though there may not be snow on most trails in Auburn right now, Lost Valley has snow and the team there is ready for some WinterFest fun.

"Lost Valley has been making snow for a week straight," said Travis Dow from Dow Media, LLC. "We're open daily, including this Friday from noon to 8:00PM and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00AM to 4:00PM for skiing & snowboarding. Come out and play!"

"This year's WinterFest theme has changed a bit," said Best. "Instead of



Nels David Adler hangs onto the hand of his dad, Brian Shanker Adler of Portland, as he learns to ski on the beginner slope at Lost Valley ski area in Auburn last week. (Tsukroff photo)

events during one specific weekend, we are promoting trails and outdoor recreation all winter long." There are a several opportunities for group exploring; all will follow Maine CDC guidelines and requirements.

Dog Sledding, a Guided Nature Snowshoe Tour, and snowshoeing are planned for Saturday, Feb. 27, and Sunday, Feb. from 1-4 p.m. at East Auburn Baptist Church. Pre-registration is required. Visit eabc.me/events or call 207-782-0348.

Residents who want to try snowshoeing this winter but do not have the equipment are invited to borrow some through Auburn Recreation. The department has more than 30 pairs of snowshoes available for residents to borrow and use this winter. For information, call 333-6611.

"WinterFest is always a favorite here in Auburn," said Liz Allen, Director of Communications for the city. "This year, we are especially pleased to offer an interactive 'storymap,' showcasing many



Cooper Warner of Gorham works his way down the slope at Lost Valley ski area in Auburn at the start of Auburn's Winter Festival last Friday. (Tsukroff photo)



Miles O'Brien of Topsham catches air on his snowboard on the slopes at Lost Valley ski and snowboard area in Auburn as Auburn's Winter Festival 2021 kicked off last Friday. (Tsukroff photo)

local trail systems as well as our Winter Festival activities and venues." This map will be left up all winter long and can be found at auburnmaine.gov or arcg.is/1rjuzT0.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Fontaine Family partners with Safe Voices



Gifts for the Adopt-a-Family holiday event, donated by the Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader of Lewiston/Auburn. (Photo courtesy of Fontaine Family)



Members of Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader of Lewiston/Auburn load food for donation to the Safe Voices Feed-a-Family event last Thanksgiving. (Photo courtesy of Fontaine Family)

From Fontaine Family

LEWISTON/AUBURN - Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader partnered once again with Safe Voices at the end of 2020 by donating food items and gifts to their holiday donation events.

Each year, Safe Voices holds a Feed-A-Family for Thanksgiving event and Adopt-A-Family for the holiday event. Our team was matched with families within Androscoggin, Oxford or Franklin counties experiencing domestic abuse and violence during the holidays.

Although 2020 was a bit different and Fontaine Family was unable to encourage the public and local businesses to get involved as well, the team

pulled together and generously donated the food items and gifts needed for each family.

The goal every year is to collect enough food items and gifts to adopt at least two families in need. Fontaine Family is proud to continue the tradition of supporting families in need during the holidays.

Everything done at Fontaine Family - The Real Estate Leader is a team effort, including giving back to the community. Fontaine Family believes in giving back, because the loyalty of the community has been absolutely amazing, for which Fontaine Family is forever grateful.

The mission of Safe Voices is to support and empower those affected by Domestic Violence and engage the community in creating social change. Safe Voices is a private non-profit organization and sole provider of support services

and shelter operator for victims of domestic violence in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties.

Fontaine Family – The Real Estate Leader is a highly skilled real estate team of licensed professionals dedicated to focusing on the client. Fontaine was awarded 2019 Maine Family Business of the Year, voted Best Real Estate Company in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn Area and Greater Portland Area, recognized by Real Trends as a 2019 America's Top 250 Real Estate Team and published in the Wall Street Journal in the Top 250 Real Estate Professionals ranking in the top ½ of 1% of Realtors outperforming 99.9% of the nation's Realtors.

The Fontaine Family Team serves 8 counties – Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin and Somerset – in two locations, 336 Center Street in Auburn and 432 US Route One in Scarborough.

For more information visit BrendaFontaine.com or call (207)784-3800 or (207)289-3830.

Lunar New Year Celebration 2021

From CAFAM

PORTLAND - The Chinese & American Friendship Association of Maine (CAFAM), in partnership with the University of Southern Maine Confucius Institute, will celebrate the 'Year of the

Ox' with a virtual event beginning on February 11. This annual Chinese New Year celebration is the largest and longest-sustaining Chinese cultural event in Maine, attracting hundreds of visitors each year to enjoy a day of live performances, speakers, crafts, displays and delicious food.

However, due to the pandemic, this year's event has been moved online to adhere to state restrictions.

This event will include festive music and lion dance performances, DIY at-home activities, informative speakers, calligraphy, links to celebrations around the world, a holiday marketplace and a live interactive cooking class.

CAFAM will be announcing a full program schedule, craft instructions and pre-registration for the live cooking class.

All the 2021 events, presentations and activities will be available on the CAFAM website at cafammaine.org. The virtual event is Feb. 11 and 12, with a live cooking demonstration from 4-5 p.m. on Feb. 13. Visitors can follow the events on the website.

CAFAM is a small, all volunteer, organization of about 100 individuals and families.

The group conducts three annual events - the lunar new year, a summer potluck picnic, and a moon festival celebration.

CAFAM also sponsors a Chinese language

group that meets every two weeks, tai chi on Saturdays in July and August in Deering Oaks Park in Portland, and occasional events including speakers, calligraphy demonstrations, Chinese dance and Chinese puppetry.

The organization co-sponsors an archive related to the Chinese community in Maine with the Maine Historical Society. Items in that archive can be found with the search word "chinese" at maine-memory.net.

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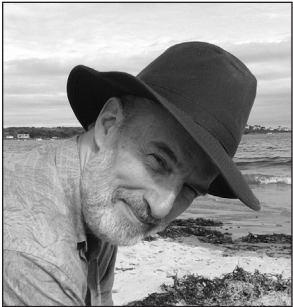
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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Letter to the Editor

George Colby and the Better Angels of Our Nature



Peter Falkenberg Brown,
Chairman of the Gray, ME,
Republican Committee.
(Photo courtesy of Peter
Falkenberg Brown)

I believe that the controversy surrounding George Colby is a symptom of a much larger problem in our country. Colby is a Selectman from New Gloucester, Maine, who is accused of racism. A petition to recall him is underway. After the Pledge of Allegiance at a town meeting on Decem-

ber 3, 2020, Colby said, “Liberty and justice for all, for everyone. Even us white folks!” His critics state that since Colby is an elected town official, his remarks were inappropriate. They also allege that Colby has made questionable comments in the past. There are many ways to react to Colby’s comment. New Gloucester teacher Laura Fralich wrote an op-ed titled “White grievance is racism: Why New Gloucester Selectman George Colby needs to be recalled.” Through that lens, Colby’s remark was racist, and he is thus condemned. A different way to view Colby’s remark is that his comment reflected his frustration with the messaging in our national culture that America—and

all whites—are irredeemably racist, especially when they complain about being called racist. If you do an Internet search on the phrase “white grievance is racism,” you’ll see a large amount of opinion of that ilk. But think . . . Just because a certain number of people in America have adopted the poisonous and destructive view that all whites are racist doesn’t make it true. To brand anyone as a racist, one has to know what is in that person’s heart and mind. To say that all people of any race are racist is itself the definition of racism. We cannot assume that every person of a particular race thinks and feels the same way. It’s not logical or truthful. A dictionary definition of racism includes:

“the idea that one’s own race is superior.” Real racism is Very Bad because, from a religious point of view, it denies the sacredness of all humans as individuals and incarnational peers created by a God who loves everyone. God sees our heart and our soul and wants all human beings to forgive and love each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Skin color is irrelevant. Martin Luther King, Jr. agreed. It may sound like too high of a mountain to climb, but won’t we find tremendous guidance and inspiration for our daily life if we examine the question: “How does God love each person?” A different way to express that is the phrase: “What would Jesus do?” He seems to have answered that question in John 8:7:

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” If the people concerned about George Colby’s comment look at him with the love of God, I think that they might say, “Hey, George, we understand how you feel, but that’s probably not the best thing to say at a meeting.” He might say, “Yeah, you’re right.” Then life would go on. I believe that good-hearted people will adopt that stance. That is, after all, a reflection of the Golden Rule: to treat others as we would wish to be treated. But to work not only for his recall but to permanently brand him as a racist, thus destroying his career and life? To me, the punishment doesn’t fit the

so-called crime. And yes, he might have said something long ago that was untoward and off the cuff, or unwise. But, truly, he or she who is without sin or has never made a mistake, please do step forward. George Colby is a good person, a good Selectman, and does not deserve to be recalled. The toxicity of the “cancel culture” sweeping America smacks of the mob, raging through the streets, yelling, “Burn them! Hang them!” Will America descend into a pit where every word is tested against the current definition of political correctness? Will “speech criminals” be publicly shamed, as they are in Communist China? Don’t we all hope that America does not go *See Nature, page 14*

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DEP delays enforcement of bag, container ban

From Maine DEP

AUGUSTA – the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is delaying its enforcement of the laws that ban the use of plastic carry-out bags and polystyrene foam containers products until July 1.

A statewide ban on single-use plastic carry-out bags had been scheduled to go into effect Jan. 15 and the polystyrene foam disposable food service con-

tainer ban had been scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1.

The Department is taking this approach in response to several practical and logistical effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has disrupted traditional food marketing and packaging supplies. Demand for groceries, “curbside pickup,” and takeout food has increased, while the demand for paper bags and thicker reusable plas-

tic bags has also increased resulting in substantially less supply of both 4 mil reusable plastic bags and paper bags – the substitutes allowed for single-use plastic carry-out bags under the bag law. Additionally, due to concerns over possible virus transmission, many retailers have asked customers not to bring reusable bags from home, moving consumers back to store-supplied single-use bags.

The pandemic is also causing a similar disruption with alternatives to polystyrene foam disposable food service containers that fall under the ban. In addition to a disruption in available packaging supplies, COVID-19 safety protocols have led to greater caution with handling of food and beverages and increased demand for disposable food service ware. Schools, homeless shelters, and other groups are providing more

food in disposable packaging than before the pandemic.

The delay in enforcement of these bans is not intended to downplay the importance of eliminating single-use plastic carry-out bags and polystyrene foam disposable food service containers from the waste stream, but rather to address current concerns related to impacts of the pandemic. The Department strongly encourages those that use

single-use plastic carry-out bags and polystyrene foam disposable food service containers to use this additional time to focus on procuring alternatives to these products and on depleting current stocks of these products before the July 1 enforcement date. The Department previously delayed the statewide prohibition on single-use plastic carry-out bags from its effective date of Apr. 22, 2020.

Health Options ready for insurance enrollment

From Health Options

LEWISTON –Community Health Options, based in Lewiston, announced last week that is ready to respond to President Biden’s executive order to reopen the Affordable Care Act’s marketplaces.

President Biden is calling for open enrollment in the federal insurance program from Feb. 15 through May 15.

“This reopening is a significant move that will triple the access time for people to sign up for health insurance in 2021, which is more vital than ever, given the country’s historically high unemployment rate and the amount of healthcare needs brought on by COVID-19,” said Kevin Lewis, president and CEO of Health Options.

Health Options was incorporated in 2011 as a response to an Affordable Care Act (ACA) loan program that encouraged nonprofit insurance cooperatives to form and provide competition to legacy insurance companies. This move increased choice for consumers, especially in underserved communities in rural areas like Maine, and was integral to increasing access to affordable, high-quality health insurance benefits. Health Options has participated in the Marketplace from its inception and has been the only carrier in the state to participate every year.

According to Kaiser Family Foundation, Maine has 63,500 uninsured people who are Marketplace eligible, and 45 percent (29,000) are eligible to receive partial subsidies,

bringing health insurance within reach for many who do not have it. The report can be found at <http://bit.ly.ws/bygX>

“Health Options wants to reach these Maine people who are uninsured or underinsured, including the many who are eligible for subsidies and tax credits that will make high quality health insurance attainable,” Lewis said. “The national and local health insurance landscape can be daunting, but our Member-centric focus, dedication to improved health outcomes, and longevity in the Marketplace combine to provide Maine consumers much needed surety and guidance. Health Options is, after all, the Maine-based nonprofit insurer driven by the simple belief that all Mainers must have access to afford-

able, high-quality health coverage.”

For more information, visit healtheoptions.org or call (855) 624-6463.

Community Health Options is the only Maine-based, nonprofit, member-led health plan and self-funded plan administrator providing comprehensive health insurance benefits for individuals, families, and businesses. Health Options partners with more than 1,300 businesses and 48,000 healthcare providers in Maine. The organization recently launched PioneerASO, found at <https://pioneeraso.org/>, an administration offering for companies looking to self-fund employee healthcare coverage.

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Maine Catholic Schools Week in unusual year

Service projects and unique events highlighted at schools

From Portland Diocese

PORTLAND - Activities organized to celebrate the fun, faith, and family that define Maine's Catholic schools highlight the Catholic Schools Week were scheduled across the state from Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, according to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland.

Teachers and administrators hope that it's the ways in which the students will give back that will provide the most indelible memories, according to the diocese.

"We will do the best we can in this most unusual year to make this a fun and meaningful week for everyone," said Kevin Cullen, principal of St. Michael School in Augusta.

"This is a time to celebrate who we are and what makes us different from public school, how we can celebrate our faith and serve others," said Nancy Naimey, principal of St. James School in Biddeford.

The Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, the Make-A-Wish Maine, Bangor Ecumenical Food Cupboard, Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, Catholic Charities Maine's Refugee and Immigration Services,

Camp Waban, St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion, Meals on Wheels, and Woodlands Senior Living are just some of the community organizations that will be the recipients of service projects during the week.

The students will also take the time to write letters, make cards, and create other gifts of gratitude for residents at nursing homes, clergy, and veterans, as well as health care workers, first responders, and local businesses for their efforts during the pandemic.

Students on both campuses of St. Dominic Academy in Lewiston/Auburn are completing a variety of service projects benefiting local organizations and groups to impart the importance of giving back to the community.

Among other projects, students will create Valentine's cards for residents at St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion in Lewiston, one of New England's largest nursing homes; participate in a "hop-a-thon" for Meals on Wheels, which fights to eliminate senior hunger and isolation issues in the community; and write letters to residents at Woodlands Senior Living, a Maine-based, family-owned senior care organization.

The fifth-grade class, always known for its generosity and creativity in organizing benevolent service projects, will be collecting items for the Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice like towel sets, lotion, toiletries, stationery sets, and blank cards. The items will be picked up by a doctor from the organization during Catholic Schools Week. Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice is an organization about living, dedicated to enhancing quality of life by providing innovative and compassionate medical care for all.

Hand-painted mugs, made by the students in recent months, will be delivered to local public servants and first responders in a show of gratitude for their tireless efforts during the pandemic response.

Plenty of special activities were planned for the week including a winter carnival, "minute to win it" games, theme dress days, trivia competition, and a school-wide Mass that will be live-streamed

throughout both campuses.

St. James School in Biddeford kicked off its Catholic Schools Week celebration with a Mass and take-home turkey supper on Saturday. The Mass was celebrated at 4 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church in Saco and live-streamed on the Good Shepherd Parish website. Students served as readers and in other capacities during the celebration. Following Mass, the dinner was served curbside outside of the hall at St. Joseph Church in Biddeford from.

On Monday, students wrote about what St. James School means to them with submissions appearing in the parish bulletins. Students also participated in a "crazy/mismatched dress down day." Thursday is also "Dress Like a Mainer" Day at the school. This Friday, students will participate in a rock/paper/scissors contest that will also be live-streamed to students participating from home. Students will also bring in soup and monetary donations for local organizations.

See Events, page 12

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Arts & Entertainment

Public Theatre’s Valentine Ball goes virtual Annual Father-Daughter event gets creative during COVID

From The Public Theatre

LEWISTON – The annual Father-Daughter Valentine Ball, which has sold out to more than 450 Lewiston/Auburn dads and daughters every year for the past 24 years, is reinventing itself in 2021. In order to continue the beloved tradition and provide a festive night

of dancing, surprises, and fun for families, this year’s ball will take place virtually through a live event streaming platform on Saturday, Feb. 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. An annual fundraiser for Lewiston’s Public Theatre, the Valentine Ball raises much-needed funds to bring live professional theater to Maine, delighting and inspiring

audiences with life-affirming contemporary plays. This event also supports The Public Theatre’s education and outreach programs. Throughout the pandemic, the Theatre has partnered with schools and libraries across Maine to bring the arts—in the form of creative readings, video performances, and live virtual theater class-

es—to kids at no cost. This year, the event will take place in homes across the state, live streaming from attendees’ Smart TV, tablet or computer. There will be music and dancing, raffle baskets, goodie bags for the girls, and a social wall for attendees to share photographs and connect. The Valentine Ball is a wonderful and spe-

cial community event that brings joy and people together. Tickets are \$20 per father and daughter and \$10 for each additional daughter. The first 125 ticket purchases will get early ticket access to the 2022 Father Daughter Valentine Ball, which everyone hopes will take place in person once again. Tickets for the raffle baskets can be purchased

online for \$2 each or \$15 for 10 tickets. There will be 10 raffle baskets: Artist Basket, Baking for Fun, Dad Treat Basket, Hair-tastic, Indoor Winter Fun, Outdoor Winter Fun, two SPA Baskets, and two Lots of Love Baskets. For more information about the event, logistics, and to purchase tickets, visit the website at thepublictheatre.org.

Valentine’s Day Dinner

From City of Auburn

Auburn Recreation and the Age-Friendly Community Committee present A Valentine’s Day Dinner from noon-4 p.m. on Feb. 14. This is a free “order & pick up” event. Meals should be picked up at Auburn Senior

Community Center, 48 Pettengill Park Road. The meal includes spaghetti, sauce and a meatball, salad, bread & butter, water, and dessert. A pre-order is required no later than Feb. 8. To order, contact Jamie Longley at Auburn Recreation: 333.6601 X2108 or JLongley@au-

burnmaine.gov. Donations are appreciated and will support age-friendly programming. Send all items for What’s Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

Lasell students on Dean’s List

From Lasell Univ.

NEWTON, MA - Lasell University students were recently

named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List for strong academic performance, with a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Local students named to the list include Said Ali of Lewiston, and Alexis Gatto and Kiara Fournier of Auburn.

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Early closing times end for businesses

From Bangor C of C

AUGUSTA - Governor Janet Mills announced last week that she will end the 9 p.m. early closing time for businesses, effective this past Monday.

The decision was the result of Maine's improving public health metrics, including a decrease in Maine's positivity rate and new COVID-19 cases per million.

Those businesses that had been subject to the requirement may now resume evening operating hours while continuing to follow other public health and safety requirements outlined in the COVID-19 Prevention Checklists.

"We are beginning to round the corner on the post-holiday surge of COVID-19. With these improved public health metrics, and with the holidays behind us, it is appropriate to remove the early closing time requirement," said Governor Janet Mills. "At the same time, this pandemic is far from over. As we continue to get shots into as many peoples' arms as quickly and efficiently as possible, it is crucial that Maine people continue to wear masks, watch their distance, and avoid gatherings whenever possible. Doing these basic things will help us put a lid on this virus and get back to normal faster. That will be great for Maine people and great for Maine businesses."

The early business closure addressed a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission during later hours when people are more likely to lower their guard and not adhere to critical public health and safety measures. The early closure measure - similar to that in other states - allowed businesses to stay open with daytime operations and continue curbside pick-up and delivery service after 9 p.m. The requirement began on November 20, 2020 and was extended on December 30, 2020.

Last Thursday, Maine reported a seven-day PCR positivity rate of 3.64 percent, a decrease from 5.89 percent on December 31, 2020. Further, Maine's 7-day new case rate has declined by 35 percent in the last two weeks.

Checklists for Indoor Amusement; Outdoor Amusement; Movie Theaters; Performing Art Venues; Casinos and Seated Food and Drink Service have been updated to reflect this change. All COVID-19 Prevention checklists can be viewed on the Department of Economic and Community Development's website.

To help businesses impacted by the pandemic, the Mills Administration created the Maine Economic Recovery Grant Program and the Tourism, Hospitality, and Retail Recovery Program, awarding \$235 million to 5,294 businesses and nonprofits across the state. In total, the Mills Administration has provided more than \$250 million to support Maine businesses throughout the pandemic.

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Continued from page 1

To all the fans, coach-

My last “State of the City” message was in January of 2019. Since then, there have been many

Our schools have done an exemplary job, balancing education, the mental and physical health of more than 3,300 students, the construction of our new high school, and countless other things. We are fortunate to have so many caring and talented

I'm delighted to re-

And when I say more, I mean about 2,000 more homes, over the next five to seven years. These will not be faceless houses, these will be homes with real, hard-working people,

- Our existing busi-
See **City**, next page

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City

Continued from previous page
nesses will have more employees and customers and they will THRIVE, not just survive.

In short, our city will become more sustainable and robust. This is not wishful thinking, it is reality, backed by data and examples across the US. And it can be our reality here in Auburn!

By revisiting our archaic, protectionist and - in my opinion - biased zoning ordinances, we will promote equity for all residents, allowing them the opportunity that others have had, regardless of race, religion, or creed. We need to be fair to those who work hard but are currently unable to achieve their fullest potential. Expanded housing supply will keep home prices affordable, allowing our residents to achieve the American dream of home ownership. Data shows that this is the best path out of generational poverty. Who are we to pick those that can or can't raise their families here because we continue to promote unfair zoning ordinances, when we have the ability to change them?

Last year, we were at a crossroads, and I feel that we choose the "path less traveled." The path that Auburn chose to follow leads toward the belief that individuals, not government, will ensure that our city continues to grow and become vibrant and sustainable for future generations. I want us to strip away needless regulations and red tape. When we do, the people in our community will do the right thing. And we will all grow and prosper. *I believe that the*

time to put our promise into action is now.

We must stay focused on growth as the only true and honest way toward prosperity. Prosperity for all our residents, not just a select few. Investment from the private sector should continue to be sought out, encouraged, and embraced. Some critics of growth and equity will denounce 'developers' as Scrooge-like villains. They will use fear tactics and emotions to perpetuate a negative and toxic stereotype. It is not true. Ask yourself, what developer would invest money into a city with the purpose of hurting the very thing that drew their investment? NONE.

My promise to those looking to invest in Auburn: Come here with an open mind. Know that you will find willing and welcoming partners at city hall. Know that you will find regulatory consistency within our government. Know that once you commit to our city the residents will welcome you and take pride in your success. Take Chipotle's national record-setting opening day as a great example!

And so, to the City Council: In the year ahead, I ask you to propose and approve changes to our Comprehensive Plan and our zoning ordinances, making them more equitable for all residents, promoting growth and investment.

I ask you join me in supporting and encouraging developers who want to invest in our city, not only because of profit, but for the opportunity to help make the city better and more appealing.

I ask you to focus on

proposing solutions and compromise, versus partisan talking points and the will of special interest groups, who are narrowly focused on their mission statement versus the growth of our city.

I ask you to make it a goal to revise our regulations, stripping all but those that are imperative for the health and safety of those that live, work, and play in our City.

And lastly, I ask you work toward a budget that requires no increase to our already high property tax rate. Weigh each investment against its potential return.

To our regional partners: I ask you to continue to work with us on a variety of endeavors. But do so in a fair and equitable fashion. The time of relying on the generosity of Auburn taxpayers to subsidize your undertakings is at an end. Fairness, and honesty must prevail above all else.

To our City administration and staff: Thank you for taking policy and making it reality. I know it can be a thankless job, but I appreciate your ongoing efforts to grow our city. The future will hold challenges as you continue to make government more efficient. But keep moving forward and the results will make all of us stronger.

To our schools & our educators: You are challenged this year like no other and I cannot begin to thank you all for the hard work you have all done over the past 10 months. But the reality is that what we are - and have been doing - is NOT working. I applaud our new Superintendent, Dr. Brown, and our School Committee Chair

for leading the conversation forward and proposing new ways for Auburn to have one of the top school systems in the State. Embrace change. Embrace a unified path forward and do not believe the tired excuses that have been used to justify historically poor performance for a decade. Your city and its youth are depending on results - not excuses - to succeed and build a better life for themselves and their families.

To our great volunteer groups and residents: Do more great things. Never hesitate to ask me for support, to help find solutions to problems, in order to make your dreams a reality.

And lastly, to the people of Auburn: You have a decision to make. Do you want to move forward together, toward prosperity? Is Auburn to lead or are we to follow? I have confidence that your decision will be - as it has been for 150 years - for our city to move forward...with "no backward steps."

I look forward to when we can all gather again as a community. I look forward to co-hosting Maine's Bicentennial parade in Auburn this year. I look forward to a return to normalcy.

I look forward to spending time with you, my friends, and neighbors at our local businesses debating potholes and taxes without a mask after 9pm!

And I look forward to together, celebrating New Year's 2022 in our beautiful downtown.

Because I know that when we will look back at 2021, it will be with a sense of pride and accomplishment. And I trust that history will judge us favorably on our ability to overcome and grow; and to thrive in the face of adversity.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we move forward to a happy and healthy new year! It is a profound honor to be your mayor.

CCFC distributes \$50,000 in grants



Jeff's Jamaican Cuisine owners Jeff and Sophia Bailey recently received grant funding for their Lewiston-based food truck from CCFC, Norway Savings Bank and The Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Boston. (Photo courtesy of CCFC)

From CCFC

LEWISTON - Community Concepts Finance Corporation recently distributed \$50,000 to small business owners in the restaurant/food service, hospitality/lodging, barber shop, and commercial screen-printing industries who met the eligibility requirements.

The businesses are located across four Maine counties, including the Towns of Bethel, Dixfield, Lewiston, Norway, Oxford, Portland, South Paris, and Winthrop.

The Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Boston and Norway Savings Bank for extended grant opportunities to CCFC and Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) for business owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. CCFC and CEI were both awarded \$50,000 as part of the Jobs for New England

Recovery Grant program to support the small business community.

"The pandemic has hit our small business community hard and making up for lost revenue is challenging during these uncertain times," said Christopher DeCato, Vice President of Client Service Operations at CCFC. "The business owners were grateful to receive these grant funds as they head into the winter months."

Community Concepts Finance Corporation believes all individuals, families and communities can be financially secure and offers homebuyer education and counseling, business and economic development resources and services. The non-profit corporation is a part of Community Concepts, Inc. and is based in South Paris. Learn more by visiting www.ccfcmaine.org or contacting 207.333.6419.

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Online Education classes for February

From Seniors Plus

LEWISTON - SeniorsPlus has announced its Online Education Center classes for February 2021.

Due to the pandemic and current CDC guidelines, all classes are held virtually at this time.

Classes and workshops are free, unless noted. Participants may register by emailing edcenter@seniorsplus.org or calling 795-4010 or 1-800-427-1241. For more information, visit seniorsplus.org/education-center.

CLASSES

Banking in 2021
Date: Tuesday, February 2
Time: 10:00-11:00AM
Instructor: Kendra Wheeler, Branch Manager at Bangor Savings Bank
Location: Zoom

Banking used to be simple. You would walk into a bank, withdraw or deposit money, and be on your way. But with changing times, comes new ways to do your banking. For better or worse, banking has evolved and we want to make sure you know all of your options. Join Kendra as she reviews the following and more!

1. What to look for in a bank in 2021
2. How can you protect yourself and loved ones while banking online.
3. Did you accidentally share your banking accounts numbers? What now?

Introduce Your Pet(s) - A Social Hour!
Date: Wednesday, February 10
Time: 3:30-4:30PM
Instructor: SeniorsPlus Staff
Location: Zoom

Does physical distancing have you feeling down? Let's try to connect

for some fun - we want to meet your pet and hear from you! Join us with your pet(s), photos of your pet(s) past, or just yourself. We can't wait to meet your furry-friends!

What is Relay Conference Captioning?
Date: Thursday, February 11
Start time: 1:00-2:00PM
Presenter: Debra Bare-Rogers, Disability Rights Maine
Location: Zoom

Video conference calls are becoming commonplace for many employees and employers. For some individuals, understanding what is being said on these calls can be difficult. Relay Conference Captioning (also known as RCC) is for individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have speech difficulty hearing loss who want to actively participate in multi-party teleconference calls, and videoconferences, such as Zoom.

Want to see what RCC looks like? Go to <http://bitly.ws/bykq>

Debra Bare-Rogers, TRS Advocate at Disability Rights Maine will be presenting. Debra will share how she uses Relay Conference Captioning and her experience as a woman with adult on-set hearing loss. Additional hearing loss resources, such as the Maine Relay and the Telecommunications Equipment Program (TEP) will be shared at this informative online presentation.

Join us to learn about these no-cost relay services available to Maine residents.

Writing Your Life Story
Date: Thursdays, February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, & 18 (6-weeks)
Time: 10:00-

12:00PM
Instructor: Connie Jones, Surprised by Aging
Location: Zoom

We've all got stories! Wouldn't it be great if we wrote them down – for ourselves and our families and friends? This informal class will get you on the road to writing about your life, from the mundane to the marvelous. You don't have to be a "writer" to take this class, and this will not be a critique of your writing style or grammar. Each week there will be a writing assignment, with topics chosen by the group. At the end, you will have written the first six chapters of your life story. Take a chance on finding out that you've lived a pretty interesting life after all! Class limited to 8 people.

Zoom 101: Using Video Technology to Stay Connected
Date: Friday, February 12 OR 26
Time: 1:00-2:00PM
Instructor: SeniorsPlus Staff
Location: Zoom

Join us for this 1-hour class to become more familiar on how to use Zoom to participate in SeniorsPlus' online classes, or to simply stay connected with friends and family near and far. You do not need a Zoom account or to download any apps to participate in this class, unless logging in from an Apple device. You do not need a video camera for your computer, although it is helpful. You can participate with computers or handheld devices. Educational material and resources will be provided for continued learning.

Zooming Together While Physically Apart
Date: Wednesday, February 17
Time: 10:00-11:00AM
Location: Zoom

SeniorsPlus has partnered with River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition and Healthy Oxford Hills to host *Zooming Together While Physically Apart!* We invite you to join us for our monthly Zoom call where we will spotlight a specific topic before opening up the conversation to the group – this is a time to learn, socialize, laugh, and have fun together.

In February we will be spotlighting the importance of being able to recognize fraud, scams, and what to do about it.

To help with food insecurity during this time, River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition will also be giving away one Hannaford gift card to an attendee.

Crafting with Corinne
Date: At your convenience
Time: At your convenience
Material Pick-Up: Week of February 24 (subject to change based on current CDC guidelines)
Instructor: Corinne Saindon
Location: Pre-recorded video/instructions
Cost: \$5.00 for 2 project kit

Kids and grandchildren are so darn fun and cute. We will create a couple of interactive cards for them. All supplies provided except adhesive. Class limited to 10 people.

Medicare Made Simple
Date & time: At your convenience
Instructor: SeniorsPlus Staff
Location: Online video

Reach out to receive this pre-recorded Zoom class to learn how to navigate Medicare with this introductory course. Learn

about your insurance options with Medicare, when to enroll or change plans, and how state law may affect your choices. This presentation is perfect for people who are new to Medicare or anyone who currently has Medicare and would like to learn more.

Cyber-Senior Mentors - A Tech Resource
Date & time: At your convenience - varies
Instructor: Cyber-Senior
Location: Phone and/or online

Due to COVID-19, Cyber-Senior Mentors are providing technology training in the form of online webinars and telephone support for older adults. If you are interested in group or 1-1 technology support, please reach out to us for their information. They have trained volunteers standing by to answer your tech questions and also to help you sign up for online training sessions.

Caregiver Support Groups
Dates & Times: Monday, February 8 from 5:30-7:30PM
Thursday, February 25 from 8:00-10:00AM
Location: Zoom or Telephonic

Our caregiver support groups offer a safe place for caregivers, family, and friends to meet and develop a mutual support system. Participation can be an empowering experience. Due to current public health concerns, the group will meet over the phone vs in-person.

Caregiver Support Newsletter
Did you know that SeniorsPlus started a quarterly Caregiver Support Newsletter in September? The goal of the newsletter is to share caregiver specific resources and opportunities to those in need.

If you or someone you know is in need of caregiver support and would like to receive the newsletter, please reach out. We're happy to add you to our mailing list

OTHER GROUPS
Coffee & Comfort
Date: Monday, February 1
Time: 3:00-4:30PM
Instructor: Beacon Hospice Staff
Location: Zoom or Telephone

Loss is hard. The great news is, no one needs to feel alone through their bereavement. Coffee & Comfort offers a safe place where one can receive the grief support they are seeking. Due to current public health con-

cerns, the group will meet over Zoom versus in-person. Zoom phone and video-conferencing information will be provided to registrants.

Grieving Between the Lines
Dates: Thursdays, February 11 through March 4
Time: 10:00-11:30AM
Facilitator: Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice Staff
Location: Zoom or Telephone

We are excited to partner with experts at Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice to host a new and exciting group! This book club will focus around bereavement and grief support. The book to read for February is *tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. The group will meet weekly for 4 weeks to gain support through discussion of the book. The group will be able to host a maximum of 15 people.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this, please reach out. Pre-registration is required and those who register will receive the link to join after registering. To register, please contact Amy Dulac, Bereavement Coordinator at amy.dulac@androscoggin.org or 795-9468.

Virtual Knitting Group
Dates: Every other Wednesday - February 10 and 24
Time: 5:00-6:00PM
Group Lead: SeniorsPlus Staff
Location: Zoom

Join our knitting group to work on your own project, learn from others, and socialize!

HEALTHY LIVING FOR ME
We have scheduled our 2021 HL4ME virtual workshops! Workshops currently include Tai Chi for Health & Balance, Better Health NOW, Better Health Now with Diabetes toolkit, Better Health Now with Pain toolkit, and our Living Well workshops through Zoom! Below is a short list of upcoming workshops and their schedules. If you are interested in registering for one and don't see a day and time that work for you - reach out! We have other workshops scheduled throughout 2021 and would be happy to get you into a workshop that works best for you and your schedule.

Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

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Lewiston Public Library Events

LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library hosts events each month. All events are free, no library card is required.

Every Tuesday 10:30-11:15 a.m. Virtual Preschool Babytime & Storytime.

Children 0-5 are welcome to join the fun on Zoom as Ms. Jackie uses interactive songs and stories to introduce children to the world of books, learning, and the library. Call 207-513-3133 for details and registration.

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Friday until 4:30 p.m. through June

ArtVan ArtBags.

Simple and fun art projects in a paper bag! New every two weeks. Call 207-513-3133 for details about how to pick up a kit. No li-

brary card required—these kits are free to all!

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Virtual Book Chat.

Join LPL staff via Facebook Live for a weekly conversation about what we’re reading. Make suggestions, share your thoughts, find resources, and get personalized recommendations from our librarians!

Thursday, Feb. 18, Noon-1 p.m. Great Falls Forum.

This is a free, monthly series featuring statewide and regional leaders in public policy, business, aca-

demia and the arts streaming virtually via Zoom and streamed to the Lewiston Public Library Facebook page. This month’s forum features Youth Studies scholar Dr. Andrea Breau, on the topic, “It’s a lot of pressure for us to understand this stuff: Lessons About Race and Place from Lewiston’s Teenagers.”

Wednesday, Feb. 24, Noon

Read Your Mind: Exploring Mental Health in Teen Books.

This is a monthly, virtual series focusing on teen mental health & wellness with YA authors and community health experts.

In February, the library is hosting authors Adib Khorram, Mark Oshiro & Julian Winters to discuss how the intersection of masculinity, queer-ness, and racial and cultural identity impact teen mental health. Contact hchance@lewistonmaine.gov or call 207-513-3135 to register.

Mondays in February

Green Dot Bystander Intervention techniques!

For every member of a community to use, both proactively to change our culture for the better and reactively to minimize harm. None of us can do everything, but each of us can

do our part to make Lewiston-Auburn a safer and more welcoming community.

Hosted by Lewiston Public Library, Green Dot Lewiston-Auburn is offering 2-hour bystander intervention training using Zoom. These are interactive, last about two hours, and are limited to 15 adult participants per session. Registration is required at <https://www.greendotla.org/schedule>.

Choose from one of the following sessions:

Monday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m.

Local students on Dean’s lists

Bryant University students named to Dean’s List

SMITHFIELD, RI - Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. The University is pleased to recognize the students who have been named to the Deans’ List for the fall 2020 semester.

Local students named to the Bryant U. dean’s list include Matthew Hird, class of 2022, from Lewiston.

“The challenges of the last year have revealed the character and grit of our community of scholars,” said Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., “I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit.”

For 158 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron’s. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

Maine College of Health Professions Dean’s List

LEWISTON - Maine College of Health Professions’ Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Alex Clifford recognized local students for achieving Dean’s List status for the fall

2020 semester.

Included in the recognition were Mackenzie Arsenault, Grace Burchard, Kristy Cole, Brianna Mulherin, Kristina Rousseau, and Kelley St. Hilaire, all from Lewiston. Also recognized were Carmel Howe, Amber Lewis, Fiona Mason, and Riki Pratt, all from Auburn.

Students must be matriculated in a degree program and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or greater in order to earn this designation.

President of MCHP, Dr. Monika Bissell, said,

“Our students continue to impress and amaze us at every turn. In addition to the hard work that this honor recognizes, we also know that, behind many of these names, is a cadre of supportive family and friends who are cheering them on. They deserve our admiration, as well!”

SNHU Fall 2020 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, NH - Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) recently announced that Hai-

ley Martlock of Lewiston was named to the fall 2020 Dean’s List.

Eligibility for the Dean’s List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.5-3.699 and earn 12 credits for the semester.

SNHU is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, avail-

able online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

BOSTON - Jacob Christopher Willette and Mikaela Estes of Auburn, and Brodi Leonard Farinas of Lewiston were named to the Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2020 semester.

Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally ranked

university offering career-focused education through bachelor’s degree programs in areas such as engineering, architecture, computer science, applied mathematics, business management, computer networking, construction management, and design. Its setting is urban, on 31 acres in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, MA. The Institute also offers master’s degrees in applied computer science, architecture, civil engineering, construction management, facility management, and technology management.



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More Than \$14.6 Million to Combat Homelessness

From U.S. Sen. Collins

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), the Ranking Member of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, announced that ten organizations and state agencies in Maine have been awarded a total of \$14,625,379 to support housing assistance to homeless individuals and families

The assistance is also for those fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault,

and stalking. This funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Continuum of Care Program.

“These funds will provide a critical supply of affordable housing and an array of vital services to homeless individuals and families, as well as victims of domestic violence,” said Senator Collins. “As the Ranking Member of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I have cham-

pioned funding for this important grant program, and I will continue to work to prevent and end homelessness. This funding will help ten organizations and state agencies provide shelter and warmth to those who need it most.”

New Beginnings Inc. in Lewiston received \$164,339;

The City of Bangor received \$1,035,914;

Community Housing of Maine, Inc. in Portland received \$28,413;

Kennebec Behavioral Health in Waterville received \$47,251;

Maine State Housing Authority in Augusta received 1,241,225;

OHI in Bangor received \$40,566;

Preble Street in Portland received \$1,094,015;

Tedford Housing in Brunswick received \$16,283;

Through These Doors in Portland received \$297,486; and

The State of Maine re-

ceived \$10,659,887.

As the Ranking Member of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Collins worked to secure \$3 billion in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill to help communities design and implement local solutions to end homelessness. This legislation was signed into law last month.

The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to

the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Follow us on Facebook!

Don't miss our weekly giveaways!

Events
Continued from page 5

zations on Friday as part of its own “Souper Bowl.”

At St. Thomas School in Sanford, each day of Catholic Schools Week features an element of spirit, a fun activity, a prize or treat, a service project, and more.

On Friday, Catholic Schools Week will wrap up at St. Thomas with the students wearing the attire of their favorite sports teams; participating in athletic competitions; and making Valentine’s Day cards for local nursing homes.

Catholic Schools Week at Holy Cross School carried on its tradition of forming teams featuring representation from different grades that worked and spent time together during the week. The teams were named last Friday before the week officially kicked off with a special Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Scarborough on Saturday. A selected group of families represented the entire school at the socially distanced, crowd-limited Mass, which was live-streamed.


On Friday, the school will honor faculty, staff, and volunteers and compete in school-wide trivia competitions.

The fun began at St. Brigid School in Portland last Friday with a door decorating competition.

Each grade is also collecting goods and assembling kits for maineneeds.org. The organization strives to help individuals and families in Maine meet their basic, material needs by providing donated clothing, hygiene products, household items, and other necessities. The organization focuses its work on those starting life over from scratch: domestic abuse survivors, asylum seekers and those facing financial hardships. Maine-needs.org partners with schools, caseworkers, nurses and nonprofits to provide these material resources.



The students will also make cards and write letters for veterans, priests and women religious, and local, state, and national politicians.

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EVERY TUESDAY 10:30-11:15 a.m.
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Preschool Babytime & Storytime. Children 0-5 are welcome to join the fun on Zoom as Ms. Jackie uses interactive songs and stories to introduce children to the world of books, learning, and the library. Call 207-513-3133 for details and registration.

1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS 11:30 a.m.
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Virtual Book Chat. Join LPL staff via Facebook Live for a weekly conversation about what we're reading. Make suggestions, share your thoughts, find resources, and get personalized recommendations from our librarians!

MONDAYS IN FEBRUARY
LEWISTON - Green Dot Bystander Intervention techniques! For every member of a community to use, both proactively to change our culture for the better and reactively to minimize harm. None of us can do everything, but each of us can do our part to make Lewiston-Auburn a safer and more welcoming community.
Hosted by Lewiston Public Library, Green Dot Lewiston-Auburn is offering 2-hour bystander intervention training using Zoom. These are interactive, last about two hours, and are limited to 15 adult participants per session. Registration is required at <https://www.greendotla.org/schedule>.
Choose from one of the following sessions:
Monday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m.

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Monday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m. ing via Zoom.

THURSDAY Feb. 4
4 p.m.
AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.
4-5 p.m.
AUBURN - The Auburn Public Library will host a book discussion - "The Hidden Life of Ice: Dispatches from a Disappearing World" by Marco Tedesco with Alberto Flores d'Arcais; translated by Denise Muir; foreword by Elizabeth Kolbert. For more information on this or other upcoming, virtual programs at the Auburn Public Library, visit auburnpubliclibrary.org, call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, or email dwalace@auburnpubliclibrary.org.

MONDAY Feb. 8
5:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting via Zoom.
5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

TUESDAY Feb. 9
6 p.m.
AUBURN – Planning Board Meeting.
6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council workshop via Zoom at <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc>
7 p.m.
GORHAM – Conservation Commission meet-

WEDNESDAY Feb. 10
4:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) meeting.
6:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
7 p.m.
GORHAM – School Committee meeting via Zoom.

MONDAY Feb. 15
Presidents' Day
TUESDAY Feb. 16
7:30 a.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.
8 a.m.
GORHAM – Ordinance Committee meeting via Zoom.
4 p.m.
AUBURN - Auburn Sewer District Trustees meeting.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – Conservation Commission meeting.
6 p.m.
LEWISTON – City Council meeting.
6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Tentative recurring Town Council workshop via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY Feb. 17
8 a.m.
GORHAM – Gorham Economic Development Corporation meeting via Zoom.
4 p.m.
AUBURN – Auburn

Water District Trustees meeting.

THURSDAY Feb. 18
8 a.m.
AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.
Noon-1 p.m.
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Great Falls Forum. This is a free, monthly series featuring statewide and regional leaders in public policy, business, academia and the arts streaming virtually via Zoom and streamed to the Lewiston Public Library Facebook page. This month's forum features Youth Studies scholar Dr. Andrea Breau, on the topic, "It's a lot of pressure for us to understand this stuff: Lessons About Race and Place from Lewiston's Teenagers."

6:30 p.m.
GORHAM – Board of Appeals meeting via Zoom.
MONDAY Feb. 22
5:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Planning Board meeting via Zoom.
5:30-6:30 p.m.
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting at City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

TUESDAY Feb. 23
5:30 p.m.
AUBURN – Agriculture Committee meeting.
WEDNESDAY Feb. 24
7:30 a.m.
AUBURN – Auburn Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting.
Noon
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Read

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Your Mind: Exploring Mental Health in Teen Books.
This is a monthly, virtual series focusing on teen mental health & wellness with YA authors and community health experts. In February, the library is hosting authors Adib Khorram, Mark Oshiro & Julian Winters to discuss how the intersection of masculinity, queerness, and racial and cultural identity impact teen mental health. Contact hchance@lewistonmaine.gov or call 207-513-3135 to register.
6 p.m.
AUBURN – Complete Streets Committee meeting.

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Nature
Continued from page 3
any farther in that direction?
Abraham Lincoln ended his first inaugural address on March 4, 1861, with these words:
We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.
The better angels of our nature are indeed our best hope.
Peter Falkenberg Brown, Chairman, Gray Republican Committee, Gray, Maine

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LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRAVEL WASHINGTON, D.C. - TRIPS POSTPONED TIL FURTHER NOTICE: MACKINAC ISLAND - Trip includes 8 nights lodging and 14 meals, visit to Mackinac Island with a guided Carriage Tour during their Tulip Celebration. Also includes boat ride through Soo Locks, Sault Saint Marie and Makinaw Crossings with a visit to "Michigan's

Little Bavaria". A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$859.00 pp double occupancy. VIRGINIA BEACH, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG & HISTORIC NORFOLK - SEPTEMBER 14 - 19, 2020. Trip includes 5 nights lodging, 8 meals, Colonial Williamsburg, free time on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, dinner cruise with entertainment on the Spirit of Norfolk, admission to Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin, Virginia Beach Aquarium and Marine Science Center. A \$75.00 deposit is due when signing up. Price is \$775.00 pp double occupancy. For questions and detailed information on these trips, please call: Claire - 207-784-0302 or Cindy- 207-345-9569.

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