

## High-volume vaccine site opens in Auburn Mall



Central Maine Healthcare President and CEO Jeffrey L. Brickman, FACHE, (center) cuts the ribbon for the high-volume vaccination site opened by the health system, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston and the State of Maine on Wednesday. From left to right: John Alexander, MD, MHC, FACEP, CMH chief medical officer; Brickman; Steven G. Littleton, DBA, FACHE, senior vice president of operations, CMH, and president, Central Maine Medical Center; Amy E. Lee, MBA, MBHA, MJ, FACMPE, vice president and chief operating officer, Central Maine Medical Group, CMH. (Photo courtesy of CMH)

From CMH

AUBURN – The new regional high-volume COVID-19 vaccination site launched by Central Maine Healthcare, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston and the State of Maine vaccinated its first patients last week as operations began at the Auburn Mall.

“It’s been absolutely phenomenal how the community came together with determination and enthusiasm for this cause,” said Jeffrey L. Brickman, FACHE, president and CEO of Central Maine Healthcare. “Together, we are amping up our vaccination efforts to protect even more Maine people from the coronavirus. It’s a wonderful day that turns the page in our fight against this pandemic.”

After its ramp up, the site aims to vaccinate 1,000 people each day of operation – or 4,000 per week – as vaccine supplies allow. The site is expected to operate for six months.

Amy Lee, Chief Operating Officer for the medical group for Central Maine

See Vaccine, page 8

## Maine Maple Sunday is this weekend

From Maine Office of Tourism

AUGUSTA – Maine Maple Sunday is an annual celebration of the coming of spring.

Syrup producers from across the state open their sugarhouses to the public to enjoy samples of freshly made maple syrup and other goodies for the 38<sup>th</sup> annual event this Saturday and Sunday. The event is always on the fourth weekend in March.

Each March, regardless of how much snow is still on the ground, the maples are at it again – sending sweet sap surging up to feed the buds – but not before maple syrup producers can tap the trees to make delicious syrup and candies.

Maine Maple Producers Association (MMPA) President, Scott Dunn, said the event is critical to the success of many family businesses and producers in Maine. Organizers are adapting and preparing for a safe event this year.

According to MMPA, more than \$27 million for the Maine economy is generated by the maple syrup industry in Maine, supporting more than 560 jobs that generate more than \$17.3 million in wages.

Annually, the state produces more than 575,000 gallons of syrup.

Each of the nearly 100 participating sugarhouses offers different events and activities including tours of the sap lines and demonstrations of sap boiling; tastes of culinary delights of all things maple, from pancakes to maple syrup-topped ice cream; and hayrides and face painting. Many sugarhouses are open both Saturday and Sunday of the fourth weekend in March.

Somerset County in Maine is the largest maple syrup producing county in the U.S.

In Gorham, maple syrup producers include Parsons Maple Products, 322 Buck St.; Jo’s Sugarhouse at Hartwell Farm, 443 Sebago Lake Rd (Route 237); Merrifield Farm, 195 North Gorham Rd;

See Maple Sunday, page 11

## Final beam placed at LHS expansion

From Lewiston HS

LEWISTON – The final piece of steel beam was placed at the top of a new elevator shaft last week as construction on the expansion of Lewiston High School continues.

Members of the LHS Expansion Committee, LHS staff, and Lewiston Public Schools board members signed the beam, which is lettered with the words, “Expand our Minds, Expand our School”.

The beam will serve as the header for the elevator shaft.

A new main entrance to the school will feature an arch with the word Welcome in multiple languages.

The LHS Expansion committee said the construction is on schedule, and on budget.

According to the committee, Lewis-

See LHS, page 11



Jay Dufour, Lewiston High School Assistant Principal and administrative liaison to the LHS Expansion Committee, shows the beam that was placed at the top of the new elevator shaft last week in the expansion of the high school. (Tsukroff photo)

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Guest column

## A discourse on cursing

By Grammar Guy

I’ve been contemplating a new parenting tactic: pre-emptively teaching my son bad words.

Miles is seven, and he will someday know all the same expletives as I do. Because of this, I surmise that he ought to learn the words in context from his dad. That’s why I’ve started a spreadsheet in which I rank bad words from the tamest to the most profane. I’ll teach him two words per year with proper context and word origins, and keep instructing him until I exhaust the list.

While this may be a bad parenting tactic, it’s also purely theoretical — my wife has not agreed to this idea. However, it did get me thinking about the words “swear,” “curse” and “cuss.” What is the difference between these words? Are they simply interchangeable? It’s time for the 4-1-1 on four-letter words.

Let’s start by examining the word “swear.” The verb “swear” comes from the Old English word “swerian,” which means “to take an

oath.” As Christianity swept the Western world, “swearing” became known as when you used a deity’s name to give your words more emphasis or power. Nowadays, a “swear” word is synonymous with a “bad” word. In fact, American treasure Nicolas Cage hosts a show on Netflix called “History of Swear Words.” I swear I’m not making this up.

As you may have already guessed, the terms “swear” and “curse” have become virtually synonymous. George Washington noted, “The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and low that every person of sense and character detests and despises it.” Legend has it that he uttered this after an early draft of the Declaration of Independence included a typo that replaced the word “course” with “curse” in the introductory phrase “When in the Course of human events ...”

The word “curse” comes from the Old English word “curs,” which means “a prayer that evil or harm

befall one.” To “put a curse” on someone was to invoke the supernatural to cause harm to them. As with the origin of “swear,” the Christian church played a major role in deciding and defining the taboo terms.

“Cuss,” as far as I can tell, is a variant of the word “curse.” The two words mean the same thing. As a native Oklahoman, I grew up being told that it was wrong to “cuss,” while my wife, who was raised in the western suburbs of Chicago was warned against “cursing.”

Recent research actually suggests that using “curse” or “swear” words can be good for you in a variety of circumstances. So, while I may or may not discuss cussing with my son, cursing eventually finds its way into most people’s discourse — for better or worse.

*Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of “Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life”. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).*

## Congolese family is welcomed to L-A area

From Portland Diocese

AUBURN - When the plea for assistance came in, Deacon Denis Mailhot, parish social ministry and outreach coordinator at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Auburn, knew exactly where to turn.

“The parish staff alerted me of a Congolese family of five that was arriving in Maine and needed warm winter clothing and boots as well as other household goods,” said Deacon Denis. “I immediately reached out to Bill Wood at Catholic Charities Maine.”

And the reason? Catholic Charities Maine’s Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS), which is committed to helping those seeking a new life in America to feel welcome and become self-reliant members

in the community.

“The program welcomes refugees upon their arrival; meets basic needs like housing, food, and clothing; arranges for language lessons; offers community, cultural, and employment orientation; assists with employment development and placement; helps with family reunification; and offers medical and mental health referrals,” said Wood, an outreach worker at Catholic Charities Maine. “In the last decade, RIS has resettled thousands of refugees in Maine.”

The staff at RIS understands the plight of those they serve as many of the staff members at RIS are refugees and immigrants themselves.

In a matter of days, thanks to that commitment, clothes, boots, and

other winter wear, as well as household appliances, were quickly assembled for the Congolese family that arrived in Maine last week. Fr. Paul Dumais and the St. Rose Thrift Store in Jay were glad to assist in the project with additional donations.

As a result, these parents and children wore warm clothes...and smiles...as they took their first steps into America.

“It’s such a blessing to welcome and help families arriving in Maine,” said Deacon Denis. “An opportunity to put into action a deacon’s charism of service and charity, and for all of God’s children to answer their call to serve our brothers and sisters.”

For more information about RIS, including other ways to help, visit <http://bitly.ws/cgU3>.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Fifield receives first ‘Hands & Hearts’ award



Auburn Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Fifield is surrounded by Mayor & Council, as well as Auburn’s City Manager, Fire Chief, School Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent after receiving the inaugural “Hands & Hearts Leadership & Service Award” at Auburn’s City Council meeting last week. The award was created in honor of John Jenkins, who served as the mayor of both Lewiston and Auburn. (Photo courtesy of City of Auburn)

### From City of Auburn

At Monday’s City Council meeting, Mayor Jason Levesque announced the creation of the “Hands & Hearts Leadership & Service Award” at Auburn’s City Council meeting last week.

Mayor Levesque presented the inaugural Hands & Hearts Leadership & Service Award to Deputy Chief Matthew Fifield of the Auburn Fire Department for his outstanding leadership, service to the community, and commitment to protecting the people of

Auburn, which has been exemplified through his efforts to lead the city’s response to the pandemic.

This distinguished community service award is named in honor of Auburn Mayor John Jenkins, who died in 2020.

“Not only is he our Deputy Fire Chief; Matt is also the Safety Coordinator for the City of Auburn,” said Levesque. “As you can imagine that role expanded greatly last March, as the world was faced with unprecedented challenges.”

During the award presentation, which was

a surprise to DC Fifield, the Mayor went on to relate how Fifield emerged as the primary person responsible for “all things COVID,” including how to best mitigate the emerging threat of COVID-19 to the community.

“Matt assisted every city department as well as the Auburn School Department with department-specific plans, protocols and practices,” said Levesque. “And he quickly became the ‘go to expert’ on how to address workplace safety during a pandemic.”

Fifield helped count-

less supervisors and employees navigate sensitive situations about exposure and quarantine. Many Auburn businesses also leaned on Matt’s knowledge and advice on how to keep their employees and customers safe.

“Deputy Chief Matthew Fifield has been the cornerstone in our fight to remain a healthy, safe and productive community, through the most challenging global emergency of our times,” added Levesque. “He has truly given all that he possibly could to help our community through this challenging year.”

The annual award will recognize an Auburn resident, group, or organization for their significant impact on the quality of life in our great city. Like former Mayor Jenkins, recipients of this notable award will demonstrate one or more of the following qualities:

- Significant and meaningful service to the community
- Exceptional commitment to volunteerism
- Unselfish leadership and collaboration
- Creativity, cooperation, and hard work in service to others
- Inspiration to others as a role model, especially youth and
- Exemplary leader-



The “Hands & Hearts Leadership & Service Award” was created in memory of John Jenkins, who served as mayor of both Lewiston and Auburn. He died in September at age 68. This portrait of Jenkins hangs in Auburn City Hall as his official mayoral portrait. (Photo courtesy of City of Auburn)

### ship in civic activities

Jenkins served as the mayor of both Lewiston and Auburn, and was the first and only African-American to serve in the Maine Senate. He was a graduate of Bates College.

Jenkins died in September of an undisclosed illness, at age 68.

### Facilities Merit Award

Also at last week’s Council meeting, the Maine Recreation & Park Association (MRPA) presented the Auburn Recreation Department with the “2021 Facilities of Merit Award” in recognition of the Auburn Senior Community Center.

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# New Collaborative records pandemic year

**From MCAC**

AUBURN - Over the past year, archivists and librarians all over Maine have been collecting primary source materials related to their communities' experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Together, these cultural heritage professionals formed the Maine Contemporary Archives Collaborative, a network that connects digital archives projects from across the state.

To mark a year of COVID-19, members of the collaborative are sharing an online exhibit called

"It's Been a Year: Selections from Community Covid-Era Collections". This exhibit is part of the new Maine Contemporary Archives website: <https://ourmainearchives.omeka.net/>.

The exhibit features artwork, photographs, writing, and recordings representing communities from Aroostook to York Counties. The Maine Contemporary Archives Collaborative hopes this selection of items will inspire people to create and submit their own reflections and materials to the project in their area. Participating organizations

will preserve and provide access to contributed materials so these can serve as primary source records for researchers, students, and community members into the future.

Including diverse voices, experiences, and perspectives will help to create a more thorough representation of life in Maine during this historic time.

In addition to the exhibit, visitors to the Maine Contemporary Archives website can find information about participating institutions, browse sample items from the collections, and learn more about contributing as a community member or getting involved as an organization.

Libraries of all types and sizes--as well as historical societies, museums, schools, and community organizations--are invited to join the collaborative effort. The website also offers educational resources, including lesson plans and a Life During COVID Scavenger Hunt, to engage students in learning about primary sources and documenting their own experiences.

Now that it has been a year since the pandemic shutdowns began, the Maine Contemporary Ar-

chives Collaborative wants to know: How are you looking ahead? What reflections, photos, videos, poetry, art, or other materials do you have that you'd like to contribute to our collections?

Learn more about submitting to a local project at <https://ourmainearchives.omeka.net/share>.

The mission of Maine Contemporary Archives is to foster collaboration to collect, preserve, and provide access to materials related to Maine community members' experiences of current events. This project is a DigitalMaine initiative supported by the

Maine State Library and made possible with Federal Cares Act-LSTA funds received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information, contact MCAC at: <https://ourmainearchives.omeka.net/contact>.

Omeka provides open-source web publishing platforms for sharing digital collections and creating media-rich online exhibits. Omeka is a Digital Scholar project, originally launched at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media with funding from multiple organizations.

## Hike For Hospice for Patients and Families



A virtual Hike for Hospice Androscoggin fundraiser will take place May 10-21, to raise funds for hospice care provided by Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice in Auburn. (Photo courtesy of Androscoggin)

**From Androscoggin**

LEWISTON-Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice is launching their first virtual Hike for Hospice Androscoggin.

Online registration is now open for this virtual fundraising event that takes place May 10-21.

Participants can engage at their own pace and choose their own outdoor activity from walking or running to hiking or biking.

In addition, registered participants can take part in a special family bereavement walk with their children at the Auburn/Lewiston YMCA Outdoor Learning and Education Center at 167 Stetson Road in Auburn during the event.

A special StoryWalk featuring the book "Tear Soup" by Chuck DeKlyen and Pat Schwiebert will be on display to help foster communication between parents and children about loss and grief.

Each year, Androscoggin cares for thousands of Mainers at the end of their lives – in patients' homes and at the Androscoggin Hospice House in Auburn. Proceeds from the event will ensure hospice care for all.

Register at <http://bitly.ws/cbj>. The cost is \$25 per person and free for ages 12 years and under.

The first 200 registrants will receive an event t-shirt, swag bag filled with surprises and a special children's activity. Participants can create their own personal fundraising page and will have a chance to win Yeti products, Sea Bags, or a two-night stay at Wolfe's Neck Farm "Wicked Easy" Camping Experience by LL Bean.

Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice is

the largest, non-profit independent home health and hospice organization in the state. They focus on health – not illness – by making each individual's quality of life the best it can be. They have been recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in Maine since 2006.

To learn more about Androscoggin, please visit [www.androscoggin.org](http://www.androscoggin.org)

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— George Smith, Bangor Daily News

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Virtual Art Walk L-A on Friday

**From LA Arts**

LEWISTON - The next “virtual” Art Walk L-A takes place on Friday at [www.laarts.org/artwalk/](http://www.laarts.org/artwalk/), and on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, and includes visual arts, music, literature, and more.

The Art Walk will feature “nostalgia in art,” a new digital art rendering by Lewiston artist Angie Lafrance; “A day of sculpture with Hugh Lassen,” a short film about Lassen’s new work for Auburn by Bates student Mari Sato; a tour of artist and LHS art teacher Deanna Ehrhardt’s current exhibition at Forge Market; and the Local Writers Read 2020 Maine Literary Award Finalists Series.

LA Arts and the Art Walk LA Committee are also hosting the 2021 Art Walk Artists online gallery. Artists and artisans included on this page each have works for sale.

Visual artists and artisans can register free and

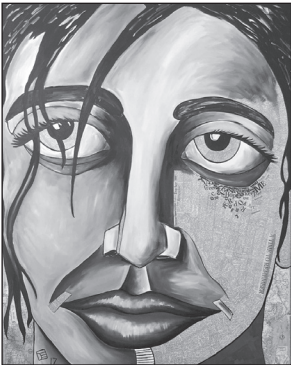
we’ll share your work on this web page throughout the season. 100% of art sale proceeds go to artists and makers.

Virtual Art Walk LA and all LA Arts programs would not be possible without the generous support of community partners including Community Arts Champion sponsors Acadia Insurance, Austin Associates, P.A., Bates College, Baxter Brewing Co., Berman & Simmons, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston, Liberty Mutual, the Sun Journal as well as the Davis Family Foundation, Maine Arts Commission, Maine Community Foundation, the Onion Foundation, and the Ladd Foundation.

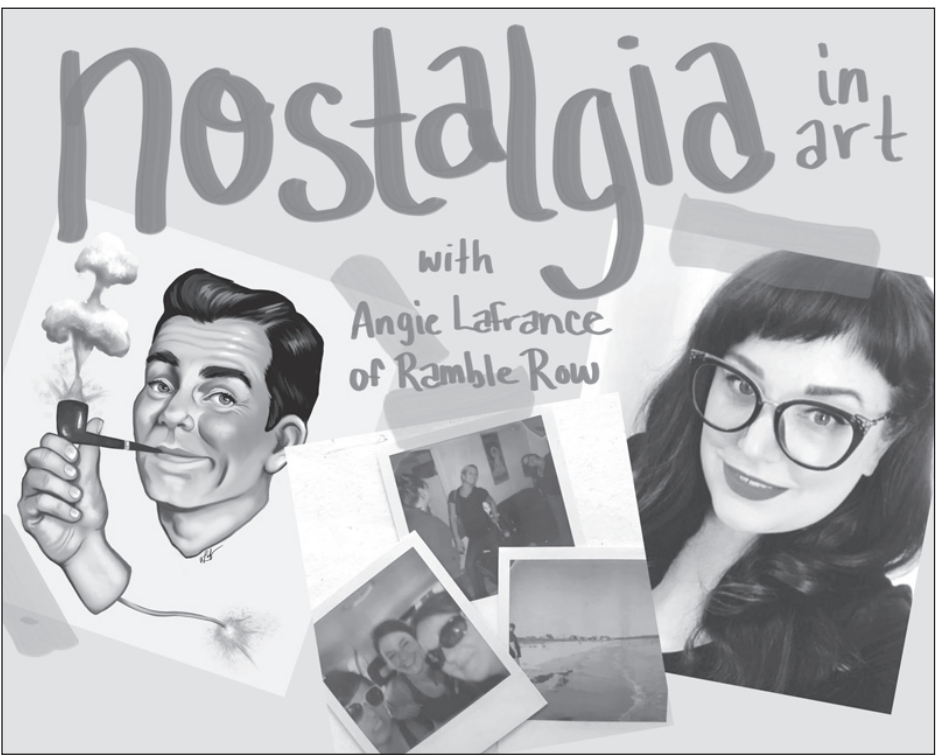
Since 1973, LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture. The agency works with governments, businesses, schools and local arts

and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local artists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community.

Learn more at [www.laarts.org](http://www.laarts.org).



“The Warrior” by Deanna Ehrhardt. (Image courtesy of LA Arts)



“Nostalgia in Art” by Angie Lafrance. (Image courtesy of LA Arts)



“Bud Form”, a model by Hugh Lassen. (Image courtesy of LA Arts)

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# U.S. CDC updates strategies for K-12 schools

**From Maine DOE**

AUGUSTA – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) last week issued updated operational strategies for K-12 schools based on a review of scientific evidence regarding physical distancing in classrooms to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

These updates further align Federal guidelines with longstanding guidance implemented by the State of Maine for Maine schools in July 2020, according to the Maine Department of Education.

“Maine school staff and leaders have done an outstanding job of implementing the health and safety requirements that

have kept our schools and students safe, requirements that have now been mirrored by the U.S. CDC,” said Pender Makin, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education. “Our schools have been open and educating students safely all year long, unlike many of the schools across the country. Our education workforce deserves our deep appreciation and support for all they have done, during this last year and I am in awe of their efforts.”

“The U.S. CDC’s announcement today affirms safety protocols that have been part of Maine’s framework since last year,” said Dr. Nirav D. Shah, Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and

Prevention. “These protocols continue to reflect best practices in limiting potential spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. As new research emerges, we will continue to work with our federal partners and Maine’s education community to provide tools that local school districts can use to make informed decisions about how to keep students and staff safe.”

In July 2020, with limited Federal guidance, Maine developed and implemented a Framework for Return to In-Person Instruction. This framework – developed in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine CDC – includes recommendations for schools

and six requirements, such as physical distancing, mask wearing and other measures, to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission within schools. Under these requirements, adults must maintain six feet of distance from others to the extent possible while maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other safety requirements, including the wearing of masks. These strategies have proven effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19; to date, the new case rates for Maine schools continues to be significantly lower than that of the general population.

In February 2021, the

U.S. CDC released Federal recommendations to assist schools across the country in returning safely to in-person instruction. At that time, the U.S. CDC recommended that students maintain six feet of distance among all students, a more stringent requirement than Maine.

Last week, the U.S. CDC adjusted this previous recommendation to, in effect, adopt Maine's longstanding approach. Specifically, US CDC adjusted their previous recommendation of 6 feet between students to 3 feet between students in classrooms with universal mask wearing. The U.S. CDC continues to recommend at least 6 feet of distance:

Between adults in the

school building and between adults and students.

In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums.

When masks can't be worn, such as when eating or drinking.

During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise. These activities should be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated spaces whenever possible.

In community settings outside of the classroom.

Maine will continue to use its existing approach and will re-examine its requirements if the U.S. CDC makes any further adjustments.

# VA facilities vaccinate Maine, NH veterans



**VA health care worker administering Pfizer vaccine to Veteran at the tri-state COVID vaccination clinic this past weekend in Portsmouth, NH. (Photo courtesy of VA New England)**

**From VA NE HCS**

Senior Activity Center swelled with Veterans of all eras and branches of service a week ago as a tri-

state team from VA New England Healthcare System (HCS) conducted a COVID vaccination clinic for Veteran patients living in Maine and New Hampshire.

The event, coordinated with support from Portsmouth community partners, was designed to balance the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine across VA New England HCS. VA Maine and VA Manchester Healthcare Systems were each allotted appointments for 250 Veterans, while VA Bedford HCS, Mass., supplied the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine and the clinic staff.

“We knew there were shortages of the Moderna

vaccine at other locations, so we came up with the idea to help our Veterans at our sister New England facilities by sharing our supply of Pfizer,” Mary Anderson, VA Bedford’s Associate Director for Patient Care said.

Anderson's original idea was to conduct the vaccination clinic in an area that would be easily accessible to both Maine and New Hampshire Veterans and still comply with state guidelines for COVID precautions.

“Portsmouth seemed like the perfect area,” Anderson said. “VA Manchester reached out to Portsmouth city officials

and within a few hours, they offered us the Senior Activity Center and onsite ambulance support.”

VA Manchester's Director, Kevin Forrest, said, "Community partnerships such as the one with City of Portsmouth are invaluable in the fight against COVID. Everybody has the same goal in mind, and that is to get the vaccine into arms."

According to Forrest, community partnerships allow VA to deliver services in the community where it is most convenient to Veterans.

“Having an integrated healthcare system approach has further

empowered VA to make COVID-19 vaccines more available to Veterans,” he said. “It’s very rewarding to be part of this effort that has everyone giving their all-in support to help those who served.”

VA Bedford has had a continuous supply of the Pfizer vaccine, being one of two VA facilities in New England with the proper cold storage specifications the vaccine requires. VA Bedford Director Joan Clifford stated that by sharing VA Bedford's vaccine stores and clinical operation and staff, they could maximize resources within VA, the nation's largest in-

*See Veterans, page 12*

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**Vaccine**  
*Continued from page 1*

Healthcare said she has “an amazing team of people who are supporting this, and having been working on this very hard for quite a few months!”

At any given time, there will be about 60 people working at the clinic, with from 20 to 40 volunteers, and the rest being CMH staff members, Lee said.

“The vaccinations, for the most part, are done by our staff,” she said, with the State of Maine providing some nurses to help. “We also have community volunteers, like doctors and nursing staff” who are helping with the vaccinations.

Central Maine Healthcare has so far administered 21,028 doses

of vaccine at its hospital-based vaccine clinics. The partnerships around the high-volume vaccination site extends resources to increase volume and expands the reach. CMH exceeded its own expectations a couple of weeks ago when it was able to vaccinate around 1,100 people in one day at the hospital facility in Lewiston.

The high-volume site in Lewiston, which serves the central Maine area, has moved from the Central Maine Medical Center facility to the mall, while the sites at the Bridgton and Rumford hospitals remain in place.

Vaccinations will take place at the Center Court of the Auburn Mall. The entrance will be through the south entrance, near Thatcher’s.



Lynn Cummings, 61, of Lewiston, receives her first injection for the CoVID-19 vaccination at the new high-volume vaccination site opened in Center Court of the Auburn Mall last week. (Photo courtesy of CMH)

Stores in the mall will be open to customers, with entrance on the north side of the mall. The clinic has been segregated from mall traffic.

“Since the pandemic began, I have watched our community pull together to fight this thing head-on. And as a community, we have shown unity, strength and resilience,” said Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque. “A strong community partnership brought this vaccination site to fruition, and that partnership will make a truly meaningful difference in people’s

lives. My sincere thanks to the team at Central Maine Healthcare, to the City of Lewiston and to St. Mary’s for working to make this site possible.”

On Wednesday last week, the partners, community leaders and volunteers gathered at the mall to mark the site’s first day with a ribbon cutting and a tour before operations began. On the first day of operations, all 312 available appointments were filled. The number of appointments is based on vaccine availability.

“I am pleased that the residents of the LA region will now have access to this life-saving vaccine through a local high-volume vaccination site,” said Lewiston Mayor Mark A. Cayer. “It is yet another example of community partners working together for the health and well-being of our residents. I encourage folks to take advantage of this public health opportunity.”

The clinic will be open 8 a.m.-6 p.m., with bookings for appointments dependent on the availability of vaccines. Currently, CMH only has the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, but expects to use the Janssen vaccine from Johnson &

*Continued, next page*



Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque speaks at the opening of the high-volume vaccination site opened at the Auburn Mall on Wednesday by Central Maine Healthcare, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston and the State of Maine. (Photo courtesy of CMH)



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Continued from previous page  
Johnson when it becomes available, Lee said.

Patients receiving the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine must get their booster shots at the same location they received the initial injection.

In addition to operating the site at the mall, community partners are coordinating to ensure that vaccination efforts reach all members of the community. Central Maine Health-

care and leaders from Auburn, Lewiston and the State of Maine are working with Androscoggin County Emergency Management Agency, St. Mary's Health System, Tri-County EMS, the National Guard and the Auburn Mall.

"This high-volume community vaccination clinic helps get shots into the arms of Maine people as quickly and fairly as possible," said Maine Center for Disease Control and

Prevention Director Nirav D. Shah, MD, JD. "As we await more doses coming to Maine from the federal government, we stand ready to vaccinate more residents in Lewiston-Auburn, western Maine and throughout the state. We thank our partners involved in this important effort to protect the health of Maine people."

Volunteers, both clinical and non-clinical, and donations, both financial



Lewiston Mayor Mark A. Cayer addresses partners, community leaders and volunteers Wednesday, the first day of operations of the high-volume vaccination site at the Auburn Mall opened by Central Maine Healthcare, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston and the State of Maine. (Photo courtesy of CMH)



Lynn Cummings, 61, of Lewiston, and Steve Damien, 67, of Auburn, were the first two people vaccinated Wednesday of last week, opening day of the high-vaccination site launched by Central Maine Healthcare, the City of Auburn, the City of Lewiston and the State of Maine at the Auburn Mall. Cummings, a Lewiston resident who has a business making handicrafts, said she looks forward to the time when people will be able to socialize again. "It will be nice to be with friends and family without worrying," she said. Getting the vaccine himself provides some peace of mind, said Damien, a public works worker, adding, "If everybody has it, that is really peace of mind." (Photo courtesy of CMH)

and in-kind, can support COVID-19 efforts such as the high-volume site. Please visit [cmhc.org/how-to-help](https://cmhc.org/how-to-help) for more information.

Information about the vaccination clinic, along with links for making an appointment, can be found on the CMH website at [cmhc.org/get-covid-vaccine/](https://cmhc.org/get-covid-vaccine/).

Appointments may also be made by phone at (207) 520-2917.

Maine DHHS is offering free transportation to anyone needing a ride to a vaccination appointment. Managed by ModivCare (formerly LogistiCare), with contracts to CAPs & other agencies,

individuals with vaccine appointments can schedule rides Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling 1-855-608-5172

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# Senior College Has Openings for Spring Classes

## From L-A Senior College

LEWISTON – Spring classes at Lewiston-Auburn Senior College begin in April and will be presented virtually on Zoom. Courses of different lengths are available, and one-day classes will remain FREE to LASC members. The longer courses are \$10 each. Registration continues until Mar. 31. LASC is part of the University of Southern Maine. To register for classes, go to [usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege](http://usm.maine.edu/seniorcollege) and click on “register”.

## Classes Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

In this one day workshop, we will discuss the results of your self report. The objectives of this class are to help individuals learn about themselves and their preferences. It will increase self-awareness and help build better relationships. Instructor: Nancy Duplisea

**How to Be an Anti-**

**racist**

Ibram Kendi’s book of this title, which proposes a sweeping solution for racism in the U.S., has seized the national imagination. We will evaluate Kendi’s thesis and the solutions he proposes. Instructor: Steve Piker

**Systemic Racism in the Criminal Justice System**

The last year has opened all our eyes to the systemic racism in our country. This course will discuss how racism intentionally permeates every step of the criminal justice system. Who is stopped? Why do people of color receive harsher sentences? What can we do to change? Instructor: Lenny Sharon

**There is Something Fishy About this Course**

This on-line studio art course explores everything fishy. We will try out a variety of techniques, and look at “fishy” art from artists through time and around the world. We will also spend time sharing our work, tips, and struggles with the class.

Instructor: Judy Hierstein

**Genealogy for Absolute Beginners**

A simple introduction to the basic ideas, tools, and methods used in family history and genealogy. Instructor: Lin Wright

**Mr. President, What Will You Do for Woman Suffrage - and Equality?**

This is a 3-class course that examines suffrage history in Maine and nationally, as well as the Equal Rights Amendment. Lectures are accompanied by slideshows with historic photos. Suggested Text: *Voting Down the Rose*: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Maine’s Fight for Woman Suffrage. Instructor: Anne Gass

**Western Philosophy of Religion**

This course covers the history of Philosophy of Religion from the ancient Egyptians and Greeks to Medieval philosophers through 18th and 19th Centuries philosophers and finally the Modern philosophers. The participants will

have ample opportunities to share their opinions and applications to their own lives. Instructor: Anita Denis

**Genealogy Laboratory**

Genealogy Lab provides students the opportunity to work on their own research collaboratively. Students should be willing to share their family history project, discuss their research question, and their planned approach, tools and resources they have or intend to use. This is an opportunity to get help and learn from each other. All levels welcome. Instructor: Lin Wright

**North Korea’s Nuclear Weapons Program: Past, Present and Future**

In this class, Mark will discuss the development of the North Korean nuclear weapons program, diplomatic efforts over 30 years to eliminate it and the challenge it still poses to the entering Biden Administration. Instructor: Mark Minton

**Genealogical Problems**

This class explores of some of the commonly encountered problems and a discusses approaches to take toward finding solutions. This is an intermediate level course, but open to all levels of experience. Instructor: Lin Wright

**Understanding the Basics of Heart Disease: Still our Number One Killer!**

We will review the history and basics of cardiovascular medicine and physiology. The course will include a review of atherosclerotic heart disease, heart failure, cardiac rhythm disorders, and valvular heart disease. Instructor: Bill Phillips MD, FACC.

**The Plague of 1348**

Hundreds of years before the current pandemic, there was one that changed history and wiped out a good share of Europeans. Is it still in existence today? Instructor: Alan Elze

**The Play’s the Thing**

Over four sessions, we will explore the process by which a director explores a script that leads him/her to a creative vision, and then

further develops that vision in collaboration with set/costume/light/sound designers to create the “physical world” of the play. We will dive into the crucially important and difficult process of finding, auditioning and casting actors, and get “behind the scenes” to see the nuts and bolts. Instructor: Christopher Schari

**Women in Science**

Each week we will explore the lives of accomplished women of science. Scientists include Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson, Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, Edith Marion Patch, and Rosalind Franklin. Instructor: Peggy Vollock

**Back, WAY Back, to School**

Schoolmarm Penny Jessop will inspire her students (you) during a typical 1850 school day. No homework required! This class will be ZOOMed on location at West Auburn School House. Instructor: Penny Jessop

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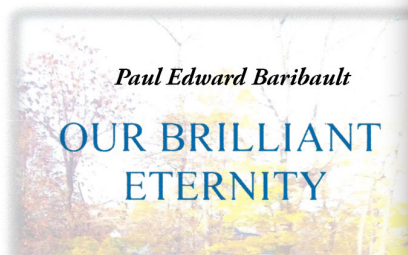
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*Paul Edward Baribault*

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LHS  
Continued from page 1

ton High School is nearing its 50th anniversary and has been incredibly well maintained.

The original design of the building included a swimming pool next to the gym, an auditorium, and appropriate classrooms for the visual and performing arts.

This comprehensive expansion project solves several problems that Lewiston High School is currently facing.

The project enlarges the LHS main office, which can be cluttered, is a busy space, and is currently too small for all the people that work there.

It creates a safe and secure entrance to the building. The new design will allow visitors to be screened thoroughly before they gain access to the school. It also provides a warm, welcoming lobby with a gallery to showcase student art.

The project includes an appropriately-sized elevator, near the lobby, with the express purpose of transporting people. The existing elevator is very small and was designed as a freight elevator for the kitchen and custodial staff.

Several new classrooms are being added to alleviate the tight conditions experienced by teachers across curriculums who are required to teach from a cart, moving from one classroom space to another with no place to truly set up an optimal environment conducive to teaching and learning. Numerous LHS teachers are currently working this way due to a lack of classroom spaces.

The project will allow Special Education programs to move out of the basement where students have been isolated from the school community. The move ensures spaces that are designed to meet the unique needs of students, with plenty of daylight. Basement spaces, never

intended to be classrooms, have poor ventilation and little to no natural light or windows. Main floor classrooms are also much safer for students with special health needs i.e. closer to the nurse and main entrance.

The Visual and Performing Arts programs will also move up from the basement and onto the main floor into classrooms designed for the needs of the various arts content being taught, including: band, chorus, ceramics, painting, photography, and digital media. Since the original design was altered, LHS never built classrooms to house the visual and performing arts. Basement storage rooms were retrofitted to accommodate these classes. The current classrooms do not offer appropriate acoustics, space, soundproofing, air quality, ventilation, or natural light.

The new expansion will also provide an



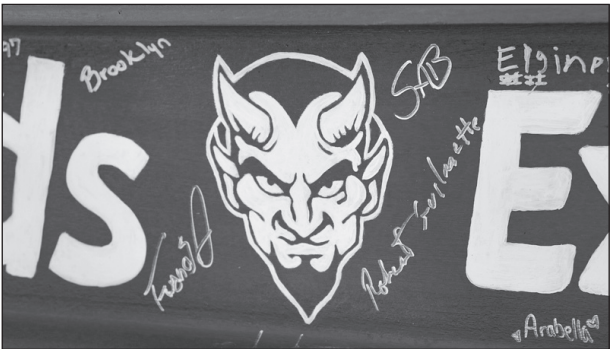
Lewiston Mayor Mark Cayer joined members of the LHS Expansion committee, Superintendent Jake Langlais, LHS staff, LPS school board members, and representatives from Lavallee Brensinger Architects and Ledgewood Construction at a ceremony marking the placement of the final beam in construction of the expansion of Lewiston High School last week. (Tsukroff photo)



Lewiston High School Assistant Principals Jay Dufour and Kirsten Crafts stand with Lewiston Public Schools Superintendent Jake Langlais behind the final beam that was placed at the top of the new elevator shaft behind them last week, as construction of the expansion of LHS continues. (Tsukroff photo)



Lewiston High School Assistant Principal Kirsten Crafts signs a steel beam that was placed as the header of a new elevator shaft at the expansion of the high school last week. This was the last beam to be set in place for the project. (Tsukroff photo)



An icon of the Lewiston High School "Blue Devils" mascot is surrounded with signatures from LHS Expansion Committee members and LHS staff, on the final beam to be placed in the construction of the expansion of the school building. (Tsukroff photo)

improved learning environment for a variety of Lewiston adult education programs.

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

Maple Sunday  
Continued from page 1

and The Lockman Place, 274 North Gorham Rd. Dunn Family Maple is nearby in Buxton at 419 Chicopee St.

Close to the Lewiston-Auburn area are Royal River Orchards, 201 Peacock Hill Rd, New Gloucester; and three sugar houses in Sabattus, Maple Rush Sugar House, 123

Webster Corner Rd; Pep's Pure Maple Syrup, 179 Lisbon Rd; and Jillson Farm Sugarhouse, 143 Jordan Bridge Road.

Find a local sugarhouse at the MMPA website at <http://bitly.ws/cgzN>, then entering either your zip code or the name of your town.

Find the website for the Maine Office of Tourism at <http://visitmaine.com>.

Lewiston proposed budget

From City of Lewiston

LEWISTON – The proposed municipal budget for the City of Lewiston for fiscal year 2021-2022 is available online.

The fiscal year starts in July.

The proposed budget calls for an increase of just over 2% in city expenditures and an increase of nearly 7% in school expenditures.

The increases are partially offset by growth in both city and school non-property tax revenues,

with schools seeing an increase in state aid and proposing to use \$5,974,272 in fund balance.

The proposed spending increases translate into a tax rate increase of \$2.26, or 7.87% overall, with \$0.79 for the city, \$0.01 for the county, and \$1.46 for schools.

The city estimates that its water utility will require at 23% rate increase, while no adjustment is needed for sewer or storm water rates.

The proposed budget can be found at <http://bitly.ws/cgR9>.

Vietnam War Vets  
Day on March 29

AUBURN - Honor Flight Maine and Central Maine Detachment 810 will host a National Vietnam War Veterans Day on Mar. 29.

It will take place at

the Masonic Hall Lew-Aub at 1021 Turner St in Auburn from 10-11:30 a.m.

This event is open to all, with a special focus on our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans.

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# Art For Good series from CCAC in April

## A4G ART FOR GOOD

**From CCAC**

BATH - The Chocolate Church Arts Center (CCAC) will present a four-part online series in April that will focus on how the arts can be used to make the world a better place.

The series, called Art For Good (A4G), will be made up of video content highlighting artists and organizations in Maine that seek to use arts of all sorts

to improve the lives of others.

All episodes in the series will air on the CCAC Facebook and YouTube pages at 7pm on Thursdays in April.

The series will be free to watch, and viewers will be encouraged to donate to support CCAC and the featured artists and organizations.

**ArtVan**

This episode will run 7-8 p.m. on Apr. 8. It is

free to watch, and donations are accepted. In this first episode, the Chocolate Church Arts Center will spend time with ArtVan, a mobile art therapy nonprofit organization serving under-resourced youth in the communities where they live.

**Dolls For Change**

On Apr. 15, from 7-8 p.m., the series will continue with Kimberly Becker, founder of Dolls for Change, which creates and sells dolls made from recycled clothing. Sales of the dolls go toward supporting young women in Uganda so that they may stay in school.

**Ross Alan Bachelder**

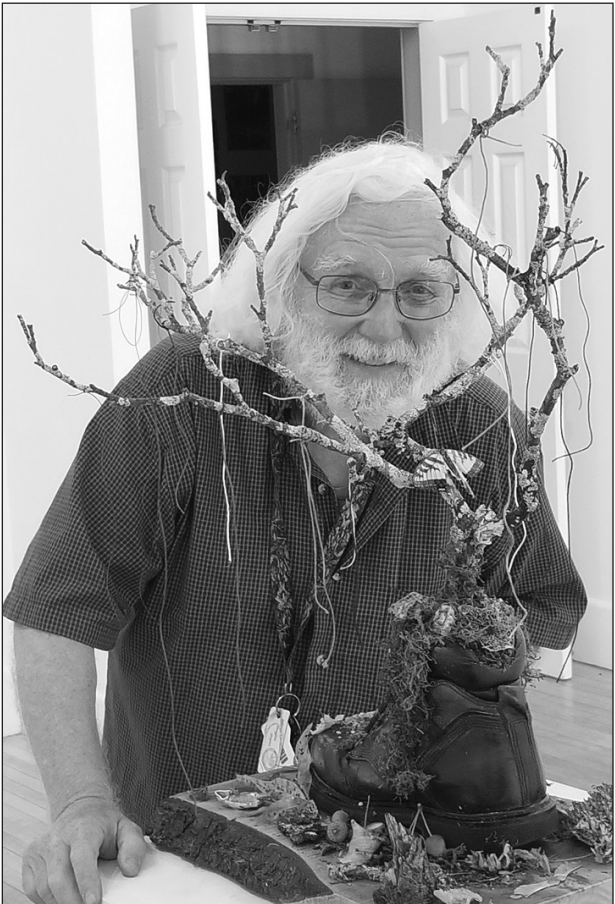
In this episode, from 7-8 p.m. on Apr. 22, the Chocolate Church Arts Center will spend time with Ross Alan Bachelder, an artist and musician who advocates for individualism within the arts community, and for the value of self-trained artists.

The episode is free to watch, and donations are accepted/

**Music and Magic**

From 7-8 p.m. on Apr. 29, the Chocolate Church Arts Center will spend time with Rob and Amanda Duquette of Music and Magic, an organization that serves young people by the donation of musical instruments to children, as well as musical performances and education.

For more information, visit [chocolatechurcharts.org](http://chocolatechurcharts.org), or call the box office Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at (207) 442-8455.



Ross Alan Bachelder will be featured in an episode of Arts For Good from the Chocolate Church Arts Center on Apr. 22. He is an artist and musician who advocates for individualism within the arts community. (Photo courtesy of CCAC)



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**Veterans**  
*Continued from page 7*

egrated healthcare system.

“We’ve realized greater efficiencies by empowering VA New England Healthcare System staff to operationalize regionally without concern for state borders,” Clifford said. “It’s a testament to the strength of VA.”

Clifford said her staff regularly shares how rewarding it is to work in the vaccination clinics.

“I can attest to the same having had the opportunity to roll my sleeves up and work at these clinics,” she said. “It has been such an incredible honor to be able to protect all who have protected us in this unprecedented way.”

Leadership of all three facilities stated that collaboration and sharing of best practices made implementation of a large-scale and quickly orchestrated event like this one seamless, even across state lines.

“Our [VA New England HCS] integrated healthcare system is stronger than any one facility and what happened here today is proof of that,” VA Maine Associate Director for Business Operations Russell Armstead said. “This is huge; this is what partnership looks like.”

Veterans who came to the event admitted they were unsure of what to expect, especially those who came from Maine, like Army Veteran Janet Paquin, a crane operator. However, they stated their fears were unfounded. Paquin reported on the way out, “I am thrilled to have been able to be here today to receive my vaccine, and I, like millions of people, are ready get life back to normal.”

Other Veterans who were vaccinated felt compelled to reach out following the event.

Andrew Corrow, retired Army Medical Service Corps officer and New Hampshire Veterans of Foreign Wars Department (state) surgeon sent an email.

“I have to pass this along to you all,” Corrow wrote. “I got my first vaccine shot today at the VA vaccine clinic in Portsmouth. Holy cow. It was like a military operation. Crazy efficient. I was in and out in 30 minutes even with the 15-minute wait.”

Anderson, a nurse herself, said the vaccination clinic is a wonderful place to work because the Veterans are hopeful and happy to receive the vaccine.

“A lot of people go into nursing to make a difference,” she said. “For me, this makes a difference. These Veterans are interested in being able to see their children and grandchildren again. We might not get back to normal, but we can give them hope about opening up a new world.”

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



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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 conversation about what we're reading. Make suggestions, share your thoughts, find resources, and get personalized recommendations from our librarians!

**THURSDAY  
Mar. 18**  
**8 a.m.**  
AUBURN – 9-1-1 Committee meeting.  
**Noon-1 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Great Falls Forum, a free, monthly series featuring statewide and regional leaders in public policy, business, academia and the arts streaming virtually via Zoom and streamed

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

to the Lewiston Public Library Facebook page. This month's forum features Rose Barboza and Jerry Edwards.

**6:30 p.m.**  
GORHAM – Board of Appeals meeting via Zoom.

**7 p.m.**  
Community Forest Subcommittee meeting.

**MONDAY  
Mar. 29**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn Housing Authority Board of Commissioners meeting.

**5:30 p.m.**  
GORHAM – Finance Committee meeting via Zoom.

**6 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Complete Streets Committee meeting.

**WEDNESDAY  
Mar. 31**  
**Noon**  
LEWISTON – Lewiston Public Library - Read Your Mind: Exploring Mental Health in Teen Books - a monthly, virtual series focusing on teen mental health & wellness

**THURSDAY  
Apr. 1**  
**4 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Cable TV Advisory Board meeting.

**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Auburn-Lewiston Airport Board meeting.

**MONDAY  
Apr. 5**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – City Council Workshop and Meeting.

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – Finance Committee meeting in City Hall Administrator's Conference Room.

**7 p.m.**  
GORHAM – Planning Board meeting via Zoom.

**TUESDAY  
Apr. 6**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Age-Friendly Community Committee.

**6 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – City Council Budget Workshop and Meeting. CAN BE VIEWED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM: Due to necessary COVID19 precautions, the April 6 City Council meeting will be broadcast via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc> Also, public comment will be possible at [publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov). The meeting will be archived on the City's YouTube channel <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/YouTube> by the next day.

**6:30 p.m.**  
GORHAM – Regular Town Council meeting via Zoom.

**THURSDAY  
Apr. 8**  
**4-5 p.m.**  
GORHAM – Eco-maine Outreach & Recycling Committee meeting via an online video conference.

**6 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – City Council Budget Workshop. CAN BE VIEWED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM: Due to necessary

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COVID19 precautions, the April 8 City Council meeting will be broadcast via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc>. Also, public comment will be possible at [publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov). The meeting will be archived on the City's YouTube channel <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/YouTube> by the next day.

**TUESDAY  
Apr. 13**  
**6 p.m.**  
AUBURN – Planning Board meeting.

**6 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – City Council Budget Workshop. CAN BE VIEWED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM: Due to necessary COVID19 precautions, the April 8 City Council meeting will be broadcast via ZOOM - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021cc>. Also, public comment will be possible at [publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov). The meeting will be archived on the City's YouTube channel <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/YouTube> by the next day.

**MONDAY  
Apr. 12**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
LEWISTON – Planning Board Meeting via Zoom video conference. The Planning Board Agenda and information for this meeting will be available on the website on the Friday before the meeting date.

# Maine Home Show April 10 and 11 in Auburn

**From City of Auburn**

AUBURN, ME – The 2021 Maine Home Show will be hosted at the Norway Savings Bank Arena on Saturday, Apr. 10, and Sunday, Apr. 11, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visitors will be able to explore a variety of home solutions, and gain ideas and insights from local experts. The show is expected to feature the latest trends

in home design and improvement while offering inspiration for almost any kind of home renovation.

The two-day show will follow all state and local COVID-19 mandates, and the show plan has been altered to promote proper social distancing. Additionally, online ticketing will be the preferred method of purchase to reduce person-to-person contact. Attendance is limited to the

state capacity of 50%, and use of face coverings will be required for all attendees, exhibitors, and staff.

"I am excited to hold the Maine Home Show in my hometown of Auburn, Maine!" said Travis Dow, show organizer. "The City of Auburn staff has been easy to work with and an invaluable partner in strategizing ways to maximize health and safety measure at the event. It is my hope

the Maine Home Show can serve as a successful model for others planning future tradeshow-style events."

"We are excited to host the Maine Home Show at the Norway Savings Bank Arena," Marc Gosselin, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Sports Tourism for the City of Auburn, said. "Travis has been organizing trade shows since 2011 and has a reputation

in the industry for running well-organized, high quality events. Health and safety will be a major priority and facility staff will be on hand, performing enhanced sanitation measures and supporting the Maine Home Show in administering proper health and safety protocols."

The Maine Home Show will connect guests with companies and vendors from throughout

Maine. There will be several products and services represented. Guests are sure to find something to suit their needs and the show will be a great opportunity to experience savings and quality in home products and services.

For more information on the Maine Home Show please visit <https://maine-homeshow.com>.

Find tickets online at <http://bitly.ws/cgPz>.

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## BOOKS

"To College or Not to College" is the question and this book has the answers. Check it out: [www.authorcaseybill.com](http://www.authorcaseybill.com).

Book lovers and bookstores: looking for unique and eclectic books? Check out author Casey Bell: [www.authorcaseybell.com](http://www.authorcaseybell.com).

## BUSINESSES FOR SALE

**Working small engine/ outdoor Power equipment business.**  
Parts inventory B&S, Kohler, Tecumseh, MTD, Ariens, Toro and more. Special tools and equipment. Good opportunity to expand or add to your business. Call Glen 207-655-4635 daytime for more information.

## ESTATE SALE

**Estate - Garage**  
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**Cutting Boards**  
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Antique cedar wardrobe armoire with key \$400. Toyotomi portable kerosene heater with manual \$50. 12x10 dome tent sleeps 6 in two rooms with carry case \$40. Portable car port \$50. Cardio fit low impact exerciser \$50. Call 207-782-4228.

Big Blowout sale at House of Lady Debra's Our: Old Goat + His Lady. Gourmet 21 soups, 20 dips, 4 cheesecakes sale. Buy 3 dips, get 2 free. Buy 2 soups, get 1 free. Going fast, call now. Lady Debra -207-891-1968.

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