



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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(207) 795-5017 • Info@TwinCityTimes.com

FREE • Vol. XXIV, No. 10

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1999

Thursday, July 7, 2022 • FREE

## Maine Wood Carver's Assoc. to Hold Show and Competition

**AUBURN, ME (July 2, 2022)** -- The Maine Wood Carver's Association is holding its first Show and Competition since 2019 on August 13th, 2022, in Auburn, Maine.

The Show and Competition is open to the public and is designed to showcase the skills of Maine wood carvers from all levels of experience. Anyone can enter woodcarvings into the show, which will then be rated by a team of judges. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in the skill levels of Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Open, and Master Carver. Prizes will also be awarded for the Best in Show Winner and the People's Choice Award, which is determined by popular vote. In addition to the prizes, ribbons are also awarded within a broad range of categories for first, second, third place and honorable mention.

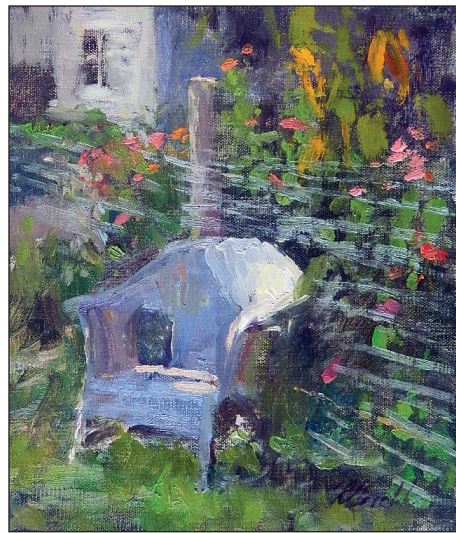
For more information about the show rules, categories of carving, skill levels, and entry fees, please visit <https://mainewoodcarvers.com/upcoming-shows-and-events/>.

This year, the Maine Wood Carvers Association is partnering with the Woman's Literary Union to hold the show in the beautiful and historic Foss Mansion at 19 Elm Street in Auburn. The many hand-carved features of the woodwork within the mansion will create an amazing backdrop for the woodcarvings on display. For more information about the mansion, please visit <https://www.womansliteraryunion.org/about-the-foss-mansion>. Parking is available on-street and at nearby parking lots.

Doors will open to the public at 9 am on August 13th, and the show will close at 2:30. There is no set admission fee to attend the show, but donations will be gratefully accepted at the door.

We expect there to be a lot of amazing woodcarvings on display at this event. Please join us to see what this talented group has done with their last two years of downtime! You won't be disappointed!

## 'Wiscasset Homes on Tour' Brings Back Beloved Tradition



**WISCASSET, ME (June 20, 2022)** -- Wiscasset Creative Alliance announces its first annual 'Wiscasset Homes on Tour' on Saturday, July 9, from 11am to 4pm. The 2022 tour will feature a selection of beautiful and historic locations including an early 19th century Village home once owned by a wealthy ship captain and another stately home built by a Civil War veteran.

An earlier version of a Wiscasset home tour, known as Open House Day, spanned the decades from the 1920s through the 1960s. While the 1963 tour included 24 sites, the current tour offers six unique sites with pride-of-place in evidence as tourgoers are invited to spend the day absorbing history, splendor, and inspiration.

In addition to homes, the tour includes a working artist's studio and a fascinating 18th century building, treasured by the community, that offers a window into early taste and comfort; also on view are lovely gardens and awesome collections. Live music and afternoon refreshments will make the afternoon even more enjoyable. The tour is self-guided, and parking is available near each site.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$25 each for groups of 7 or larger. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the tour, July 9, at Wiscasset's Recreational Pier, 1 Water St. (parking and bathrooms nearby), from 10am to 3pm. Cash, checks, and plastic accepted.

Advance tickets can be purchased



online and picked up on the day of the tour at the Recreational Pier (see above). Tickets for the inaugural 'Homes on Tour' are limited so visitors are encouraged to purchase in advance.

More details and ticket information can be found on [www.wiscassetcreativealliance.org](http://www.wiscassetcreativealliance.org). For questions, please contact Chris Erickson, 917-318-8630.

'Homes on Tour' is a fundraiser for Wiscasset Creative Alliance; funds will be used to support the Alliance's community programs.

## Ag Fairs are Back in Maine

**Guest Column by Sen. Ned Claxton (July 1, 2022)** -- It's the time of year we've all been waiting for: summer in Maine! No matter what your favorite hobbies are this season — fishing, hiking, gardening or just sitting by a fire — there's something for everyone during a Maine summer. And let's not forget about one of the greatest summertime traditions we're lucky to have, which are the Maine Agricultural Fairs!

For generations, folks have been attending these fairs around the state, whether they work in agriculture or not. I know it's something that Mainers look forward to each year, and it's a sure sign that summer has arrived. The fair schedule kicked off at the end of June in Monmouth, and will run

through the beginning of October, closing with the Fryeburg Fair. No matter what part of the state you're in, there's likely a fair nearby. To view the full fair lineup, visit [mainefairs.net](http://mainefairs.net). I would like to highlight a couple of fairs happening near our area this summer. From Aug. 10-15, the Topsham Fair will be open, and later on in the summer, we'll have the Oxford Fair from Sept. 14-17. I hope you can get out and enjoy!

We can't talk about agriculture fairs, however, without talking about Maine farmers. The past few years haven't been easy for these folks, first with COVID-19 and supply chain disruptions, and now rising costs all around, from fertilizer to fuel. In the Legislature, we've taken action to support Maine farmers and help them face newly emerging threats head on. This year, my colleagues and I took significant steps to reduce the harmful impacts of PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals." Unfortunately, Maine farms have taken the brunt of the impact, largely due to an old practice of spreading bio-solids — the remnant of the wastewater treatment process — over fields. While it served as an inexpensive fertilizer, it also contaminated lots of farmland with PFAS. It's important to know that not all bio-solids were contaminated by PFAS. To help sort out what farmland was affected, a statewide testing program has started. To learn more, visit [www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/](http://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/).

This year, we heard heart-wrenching stories from farmers who were finding out that their soil and drinking water are heavily contaminated, and they could no longer sell their crops or even feed their own families from the land they have farmed for generations. PFAS has put their businesses on the line, and they need our support. To start, we passed a law prohibiting the spreading of bio-solids on farmland. This

was an obvious step to take to limit further contamination. We also knew that there was a lot we had to learn and do going forward to deal with the PFAS crisis. That's why we set aside \$60 million in a new PFAS Trust Fund, which will be used for PFAS remediation, expanding testing capacity, relocating farms who have been affected, and more. This is a critical investment to ensure Maine farmers can weather this crisis, and I'm thankful lawmakers came together in a bipartisan fashion to support the measure.

In addition to PFAS, farmers have struggled with severe drought conditions in recent years. The unfortunate truth is that with climate change comes more frequent spells of extreme weather, and droughts in Maine are likely here to stay during our summers. To help combat this, we created a new Drought Relief Grant Program. This new grant program will allow farmers who have been affected by drought to apply for funding to establish a new source of irrigation for their fields, and overcome drought conditions. The source for irrigation water must be sustainable, environmentally sound and affordable. This will be a critical tool for farmers to use in worst-case scenarios.

Last year, we also supported Maine farmers by encouraging and reimbursing the purchase of local foods by our school systems, and allocating federal relief dollars to the agriculture industry. While I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish, there will be more that needs to be done going forward in order to support our farmers and food producers. We need to ensure these folks can thrive and continue to feed our state and serve their communities.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you. You can send me an email at [Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov) or call my office at 287-1515.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## AARP Awards Grants to 11 Maine Organizations

**PORTLAND, ME (June 28, 2022)** -- Today, AARP Maine announced that eleven organizations throughout the state will receive 2022 Community Challenge grants – part of the largest group of grantees to date with \$3.4 million awarded among 260 organizations nationwide. Grantees will implement quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; digital access; and civic engagement, with an emphasis on the needs of adults age 50 and over.

“AARP Maine is committed to working with communities to improve residents’ quality of life through tangible changes,” said Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director. “We are proud to collaborate with this year’s grantees and to support their

efforts as they make immediate improvements in their communities to jumpstart long-term change, especially for Mainers 50 and over.”

Here in Maine, projects funded include:

**Bangor Livable Communities** - The safety and functionality of the Kenduskeag Stream Trail will be improved by widening the trail, installing ADA-compliant benches and improving signage. A structural assessment of one bridge will be conducted.

**Kennebec Estuary Land Trust** - The Whiskeag Trail will be widened and stabilized; bridges will be widened, with ramps added; ADA-compliant benches will be installed; and an emergency system will be updated.

**Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec** - A multimedia package informing recipients about accessory dwelling



units will be produced.

**Danforth Livable Communities** - The city’s Livable Communities Center will be brought up to ADA standards with a new front walkway and entryway and a renovation of its stairwell.

**United Way of the Tri-Valley Area** - A program providing free rides to people age 50 and older in this rural community will be maintained and expanded, partly with the addition of seven volunteer drivers.

**Marti Stevens Interactive Improvisational Theater (“MSIIT”)** - Theatrical performances about challenges experienced by older adults will be staged at venues across central Maine. (Look up the organization’s name to read

an AARP.org/Livable article about this grantee and interactive theater).

**Age-Friendly Portland** - Local businesses will be encouraged to accommodate older adults by applying for age-friendly-business designations. The rewards will include window decals, a certificate, and free ramps and entry buzzers.

**Project GRACE** - Three community gardens, two of which are used exclusively to feed undernourished residents, will gain funding, as will a program that provides supplemental heating assistance and home repairs to older adults.

**Georges River Land Trust** - A portion of an existing riverfront trail will

receive new seating, trail-head kiosks with information about the area and new accessible parking spots.

**Age-Friendly South Portland** - A walk audit will be conducted to identify ways to improve safety on the Green Belt Trail. Signage will also be installed, and a program on the correct use of the trail will be produced for Access TV.

**Town of Surry** - Signage will be added along Route 172 to slow speeding traffic by drivers who are often unaware of the small town’s presence as they shuttle between Ellsworth and Blue Hill.

AARP Community Challenge grant projects will be funded in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. True to the program’s quick-action nature, projects must be completed by November 30, 2022.

This year, AARP is bolstering its investment

of affordable and adaptable housing solutions in response to the national housing crisis. With additional funding support from Toyota Motor North America, the program is also increasing its support of projects that improve mobility innovation and transportation options.

The grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. Since 2017, AARP Maine has awarded 32 grants and \$179,912 through the program to nonprofit organizations and government entities across the state.

View the full list of grantees and their project descriptions at [aarp.org/communitychallenge](http://aarp.org/communitychallenge) and learn more about AARP’s livable communities work at [aarp.org/livable](http://aarp.org/livable).

## Collins, King Law Extends School Meal Programs, Free Lunches

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 30, 2022)** – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the Keep Kids Fed Act was signed into law. The legislation, which is based on a bill they co-sponsored earlier this year, will extend critical flexibilities for schools and meal programs to provide children healthy meals this summer and to help schools and daycares respond to supply chain challenges and high food costs for the coming school year.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of school meals for tens of thousands of Maine families. In our state and across the country, schools have done a tremendous job working to support the nutritional needs of students

through the challenges of the pandemic, helping to alleviate hunger and allowing students to focus on their studies,” said Senators Collins and King in a joint statement. “As we emerge from this public health crisis, it is crucial that children are able to continue enjoying nutritious meals during the summer months, and have certainty those meals will be there when the school year begins. In addition to supporting students and families, many schools in Maine and across the country are short-staffed and struggling to manage the added burden of inflation and supply chain disruptions. This legislation would give our nation’s schools and other meal programs the flexibility they need to continue to

serve all students.”

“We are so grateful to Senator Collins and Senator King for supporting the Keep Kids Fed Act,” said Justin Strasburger, Executive Director, Full Plates Full Potential, which is based in Brunswick. “Without an extension of the critical child nutrition waivers that have expanded food access for kids throughout the pandemic, Maine kids could lose access to as many as 400,000 meals this summer. While the peaks of the pandemic are hopefully behind us, child nutrition programs continue to struggle with rising food costs, staffing shortages, and supply chain disruptions. Extending these waivers will provide these programs with a much needed bridge year of sup-

port and ensure our kids continue to have consistent access to meals.”

The Keep Kids Fed Act will extend USDA school meal flexibilities for Summer 2022 to allow meal delivery and grab-and-go and non-congregate options to continue. The bill will also continue to waive area eligibility requirements for the summer so providers can serve all children for free. These flexibilities have given our schools and summer meal programs much-needed support to deal with ongoing food service issues and keep kids fed during the pandemic. The bill will also help schools transition

back to normal meal operations under the National School Lunch Program for the 2022-2023 school year by extending certain administrative and paperwork flexibilities. This will assist meal program operators who are weathering a number of challenges, including staff shortages, supply chain breakdowns, and increased food costs.

Additionally, the legislation provides a temporary increase in reimbursement rates for the 2022-23 school year. This support is critical for schools, which are facing a 35-40% increase in food costs due to supply chain and inflation issues.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Volunteers Needed for Classes Sept. 2022 through May 2023

**LEWISTON / AUBURN, ME (June 28, 2022)** – Comfortable with computers? Interested in helping Zoom outreach to homebound seniors? LASC needs you to act as a host for Zoom classes this coming year.

There are two types of Zoom classes needing hosts:

1. HYBRID Classes:

Instructor, some students, and HOST will meet in a classroom at USM LAC. Other students will be present on Zoom. Host will set up a computer and auxiliary equipment owned by Senior College in the classroom to enable homebound students to interact with the class.

2. ZOOM ONLY Classes: Using your com-

puter in the comfort of your home, you will act as host for a class where the instructor and all students are on Zoom.

There will be TRAINING sessions for each type of Host after August 5th. You will have backup help for the first few classes.

REWARD: In addition to the satisfaction of

helping homebound seniors remain part of our vibrant Senior College and the satisfaction of learning new skills, every host will be entitled to one tuition free class of their choice. (Hosts are not charged a fee for any class that they host.)

Many seniors have benefited from our Zoom classes during the Covid

epidemic. Some wish to return to in person classes, some feel taking a class from home better suits their needs. We at LASC want to make it possible for all to enjoy our classes. With the help of Host Volunteers, it has been done with success so far, but we need more help.

Please let us know immediately if you are in-

terested. Plans are underway for the Fall semester now. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT laseniorcollege@gmail.com or call 207-753-6610 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible, remember, we are a volunteer run organization and it may take a few days to get back to you.

## City Clerk Elected to International Board of Nonprofit Organization

**RANCHO CAMONGA, CA (June 27, 2022)** – Kathleen M. Montejo, MMC, City Clerk of Lewiston, Maine, was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), a nonprofit Organization with more than 15,000 members worldwide.

Montejo was sworn in during the Institute's 76th Annual Conference in Little Rock, AR, on May 25, 2022 during the Organization's annual business meeting. Montejo's Region is comprised of approximately 1,000 members representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. She will serve a three-year term culminating in May 2025.

Montejo has been the City Clerk of Lewiston, Maine since January 1999. Previously, she was

the City Clerk for Bath, ME and the Town Clerk for Woolwich, ME. She has earned her Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk designations and is an Athenian Leadership Society Fellow.

Montejo has served on several IIMC committees including Membership, Education, Research & Resource, and Records Management. She is Maine's Local Election Administrator representative to the federal U.S. Elections Assistance Commission Standards Board.

Kathy holds her Lifetime Certification as a Certified Clerk of Maine and is past state president of the Maine Town & City Clerks Association, for which she has served for over 25 years as an instructor for workshops on election administration, municipal law, business licensing, parliamentary procedure and more. She is the Maine



Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2000.

In 1991, she graduated with a B.A. in Public Management, with a minor in Public Relations, from the University of Maine and is a 1997 graduate of the New England Municipal Clerks Institute. She has her Paralegal Certificate from Boston University and is a Notary Public, a Dedimus Justice and a nationally Registered Parliamentarian.

Founded in 1947, IIMC is a professional nonprofit association with more than 15,000 members throughout North America and 12 other countries, representing municipalities

with populations of 1,000 to more than 10 million. IIMC prepares its membership to meet the challenges of the diverse role of the Municipal Clerk by providing services and continuing professional development opportunities in 46 permanent college-and university-based learning centers. IIMC offers Municipal Clerks a Certified Municipal Clerk Program (CMC), a Master Municipal Clerk Academy (MMCA) Program and other opportunities to benefit members and the government entities they serve. A 26-member Board of Directors governs IIMC.

**What do you think?**  
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# Comprehensive MaineCare Dental Coverage Launches

**AUGUSTA, ME (June 30, 2022)** — The Mills Administration announced today that it is expanding MaineCare dental coverage for adults and increasing reimbursement rates for dental providers on July 1, representing an estimated \$45 million investment in oral health.

Governor Mills proposed the expansion of adult dental benefits in the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget following the Health and Human Services Committee's unanimous support of Speaker of the House Ryan Fecteau's bill, LD 996, An Act To Improve Dental Health Access for Maine Children and Adults with Low Incomes. Friday's launch of the new benefit follows almost a year of work by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) alongside dental providers and other state oral health leaders to develop rules to implement the law.

MaineCare members aged 21 or older will be automatically enrolled in the new dental benefit on July 1. This coverage is expected to ultimately benefit more than 217,000 Maine people, as members begin to seek care over time and as DHHS continues to encourage and assist dental providers to increase the number of MaineCare members they serve, as part of a broad effort to increase access, particularly in rural areas. The benefit covers a comprehensive array of dental services, from cleanings and fillings to root canals, dentures, and other critical oral health services. Previously, coverage for adults was limited to emergency situations, such

as tooth extractions. MaineCare has and continues to provide comprehensive dental coverage for children.

The updated dental rates represent a significant investment in providers who serve both adults and children covered by MaineCare. The bulk of the increase supports rates for diagnostic and preventive services, which will see an average increase of 70 percent, as early investment in these types of services can reduce future costs of oral health care.

Together, the coverage expansion and rate initiatives represent an estimated \$45 million investment in oral health, more than doubling MaineCare's current investment.

"Dental health is an important part of overall health," said Governor Janet Mills. "Providing preventive and routine dental care will not only improve the health and wellness of hundreds of thousands of Maine people, but it will also save money in the long-run by preventing the need for expensive emergency care. I am glad to have worked with the Legislature to expand dental care for Maine people."

"With MaineCare covering 1 in 4 people in Maine, this new dental coverage combined with higher reimbursement rates will benefit hundreds of thousands of Maine people," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "Oral health is critical to general health and to participating in the community and the workforce. We're grateful to the Governor, Speaker Fecteau and the Legislature, and

our partners throughout the state for making this important benefit a reality."

"This is just one way that lawmakers have worked to expand access to health care in Maine. Our previous system had forced people to use the emergency room when their teeth reached the point of no return, which was costing folks their dignity and health. The stories I heard were simply heartbreaking. As of today, the Mainers who were willing to share their stories have helped change the face of health care in our state," said Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford. "This was an effort led by Maine people and I am so proud that it received bipartisan support in the Legislature."

"Oral health is an essential element of overall health, and dental care is a critical health service for all Maine people. Research shows that children will be more likely to get the preventive care they need to stay healthy when their whole family has access to care," said Becca Matusovich, Executive Director of the Children's Oral Health Network of Maine. "We are grateful to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Mills Administration, as well as the bipartisan efforts of the 130th Legislature, for their historic efforts to enable both the expansion of the comprehensive dental benefit for adults and the rate reforms needed to ensure that providers who serve MaineCare members can be fairly compensated. Maine's dental providers are still recovering from the pandemic and ongoing workforce shortages, and

while it may take time for everyone who wants an appointment to get one, our network is very excited to collaborate with the Department to encourage and support dental providers across the state who are working hard to serve more MaineCare members."

"Maine people brought painful and personal stories to Augusta about the unmet need for dental care, and we are overjoyed that because of their leadership and the work of legislators and Governor Mills, MaineCare will now cover dental care for adults," said Kathy Kilrain del Rio of Maine Equal Justice. "The process of creating the new adult dental benefit, improving existing policy for children, and the significant investment in reimbursement rates is a true model for future policymaking. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of MaineCare Services has worked closely with stakeholders for nearly a year and the result is a benefit that will truly change lives."

"The inclusion of the Adult Dental Benefit in MaineCare reflects the recognition of and commitment to the importance of oral health on overall health by the Administration and the 130th Legislature," said Dr. Norma Desjardins, President of the Maine Dental Association and Executive Director of St. Apollonia Dental Clinic. "The Maine Dental Association has been at the table working in partnership with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Office of MaineCare Services and other stakeholders to work towards the

long-term success of this essential benefit and the best oral health for the people of the State of Maine. We look forward to our continued collaboration to help address some of the logistical challenges patients and providers may experience in the coming weeks and months, as dental offices, like many health care offices and facilities across the state, continue to experience staffing shortages as a result of the pandemic."

The design of the new dental benefit is the product of collaboration involving the Department, dental providers, dental advocates and other oral health leaders. Between August 2021 and May 2022, the Department engaged stakeholders and the MaineCare Advisory Committee, convening 11 working sessions to work through the details of the new coverage. The Department also hosted two broad stakeholder forums to gather input from the larger dental community and the public.

As a result of this process, the Department is adopting an emergency rule that includes the expanded benefit and new dental reimbursement rates that goes into effect July 1. The Department will propose a permanent rule in July.

The Department will continue working with stakeholders over the summer and beyond on outreach to dental providers statewide to advise them of these improvements and opportunities to serve lower-income Maine people.

The Mills Administration has taken action to strengthen Maine's health care workforce, includ-

ing dental care providers, through a \$20 million effort in the Governor's Jobs Plan, which she first announced in October 2021. This includes an initiative offered through the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to provide student loan repayment assistance to health care professionals in medicine, dentistry, behavioral health, and nursing education. Under the initiative's programs, health care professionals can apply for up to \$75,000 in relief for qualifying student loan debt while nursing educators can receive up to \$40,000. To be eligible, nursing educators or health care professionals must be working in Maine or must commit to working in Maine for at least three years.

Healthcare Training for ME, another initiative of her Jobs Plan, expands availability of free and low-cost career training to help health care workers advance their careers, support workforce training needs of healthcare employers, and attract new workers to fast-growing fields. Through the Healthcare Training for ME website, individuals and employers can connect with training from employers and education partners, such as adult education programs, community colleges, and the university system. Individuals and employers may then apply to receive tuition assistance to enroll in training programs, or offer training to their employees, at little or no cost.

MaineCare members interested in learning more about the new comprehensive dental benefit may call Member Services at 1-800-977-6740 or 711.

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# Summer Is Short, Make Time To Do What You Love...Go Fishing!

**MAINE, STATE-WIDE (July 1, 2022)** -- It's officially summer and that means camping, hiking into your favorite fishing spots, and paddling Maine's beautiful ponds, rivers, and lakes. While spring fishing is coming to an end, there are still fish to be caught, you may just need to change your approach including your depth, fishing spot, or even target different species.

### How to safely catch and release

If you are planning



to release your catch, have a plan so you can release your fish unharmed and as quickly as possible.

Always wet your hands before handling the fish and keep the fish in

the water as much as possible (as little as 30 seconds of air exposure can cause delayed mortality of released trout).

If you want a photo, keep the fish in the water



until ready for the shot, and remember, the memory is better than the "per-



fect" photo.

### Protect our waters and fish

Don't dump your bait! Properly dispose of unused baitfish on land or in the trash. Never release any live baitfish into a wa-

ter body. If fishing with worms, dispose of them in the garbage.

Clean, Drain, and Dry your fishing gear to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. This includes your boat, rods, waders, footwear, ropes, and all gear.

If fishing with soft plastic lures, do so responsibly. Secure it, check it often, and dispose of it in the trash or recycling bin.

And make sure you are following Maine's lead laws to protect loons and other wildlife.

## Update Issued In Response to Bird Flu Cases

**AUGUSTA, ME (July 1, 2022)** -- Today, due to another detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Maine in a small, non-commercial group of backyard birds on June 28, Maine Animal Health Officials with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, announced the continuation of their advisory recommending cancellation or postponement of competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events

encouraging the gathering or comingling of domestic fowl or poultry.

Advisory: The risk for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) remains high, and bird owners are advised to keep birds indoors to prevent the spread of this disease. The trends observed with past North American HPAI outbreaks are that we often see a reprieve in the summer months. Unfortunately, this is not the pattern observed in the current outbreak. Animal Health Officials

in Maine now recommend that all competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events encouraging the gathering or comingling of domestic fowl or poultry be postponed until at least 30 days after the last detection of an infected flock in our state.

If organizers proceed with a poultry event, follow these important guidelines for keeping birds and other flocks healthy. Most importantly: if a flock at home is not healthy, DO

NOT go to the poultry show. Even if not bringing birds, clothes and footwear could carry disease into this environment. In addition:

Minimize contact with the birds on exhibit and with their environments

Wash hands on the way into and out of the exhibit

Clean and disinfect poultry cages between use

Keeping gallinaceous (chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl) birds physically separate from waterfowl at the exhibit is strongly recommended. Consider not bringing waterfowl to the exhibit, as they can carry this virus without showing signs of illness.

Be prepared to respond to suspect or confirmed cases of influenza: document show participant information, make a plan

for restricting access to the exhibition barn, and keep contact information for state and local veterinarians handy.

The risk assessment for HPAI transmission is ongoing and dependent on dynamic factors such as weather and wild bird migratory patterns. As the southern migration begins this Fall, adjustments to our flock management

See **Bird Flu**, page 12

## FAMILY KAYAKS

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Celebration Barn Presents Mike Miclon's Show July 9



Brian Jones (photo by James McDaniel)

**SOUTH PARIS, ME (June 25, 2022)** -- Celebration Barn Theater presents Mike Miclon's The Early Evening Show on Saturday, July 9 at 7:30 PM. The show will feature comedy, dancing, juggling, music, and more.

A spoof of late-night talk shows, The Early Evening Show is the longest-running live variety show in Maine, with more than two hundred performances over the past twenty-three years. Packed with

surprise guests and audience interactions, The Bangor Daily News called The Early Evening Show "a seamless, hilarious production," and CBS Sunday Morning called it "must-see reality!"

Special guests on the July 9 show include Brian Jones and Shane Miclon. Brian Jones is a tap dancer and choreographer who has toured from Hawaii to Europe. A modern-day vaudevillian, Jones was called "a rhythmic force



Shane Miclon (photo courtesy of Celebration Barn)

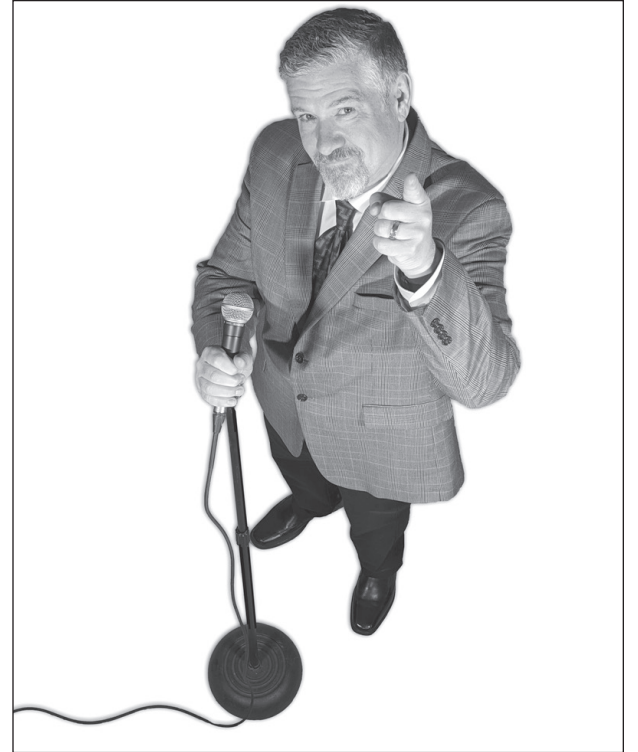
of nature" by the Festival of Arts, Mohonk Mountain House. Shane Miclon is a juggler who has performed across North America. He recently appeared in the Metropolitan Opera's production of Akhnaten in New York City.

The show will also feature regular performer and writer Fritz Grobe, as well as the Early Evening Show Orchestra with Oren Robinson, April Reed-Cox, Eli Allen, and Jed Allen.

Limited tickets to

Mike Miclon's The Early Evening Show on Saturday, July 9 at 7:30 PM are available for \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (65+), and \$10 for kids (17 and under). Tickets are general admission. The lobby and concessions open at 7:00 PM. Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly recommended.

All patrons ages five and up attending a show at Celebration Barn must present proof of full vaccination against Covid-19. Adults are also required to



Mike Miclon (photo courtesy of Celebration Barn)

show a matching photo ID. A booster shot, while recommended by the CDC, is not required in order to attend a show at this time. Attendees 4 and under who are not yet eligible for vaccination are only required

to wear a mask.

To purchase tickets, visit celebrationbarn.com. Celebration Barn Theater is located just off Route 117 at 190 Stock Farm Road in South Paris, Maine.

## Auburn Seeks Nominations For "Spirit Of America" Award

**AUBURN, ME (June 30, 2022)** -- Auburn is filled with truly exceptional people, and each year, we join more than 100 Maine municipalities in presenting "Spirit of

America" tributes to recognize special community volunteers and their outstanding community service.

Do you know of an Auburn resident or orga-

nization that deserves this honor? Nominate your local hero today (deadline: 7/22/22): <https://www.auburnmaine.gov/pages/government/spirit-of-america-tribute>

## Lewiston Citizen Needed For Transit Committee

**LEWISTON, ME (June 30, 2022)** -- The Lewiston City Council is seeking a resident volunteer to serve as a city representative to the Lewiston & Auburn Transit Commit-

tee, the group that oversees the operations of the "Purple Buses". Lewiston residents who are interested in applying can contact the City Clerk's Department

to complete a committee volunteer application. Application forms are also available on the Boards and Committees page of the City's website at [www.lewistonmaine.gov](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov).

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# Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park Nature Programs for June 2022

**FREEPORT, ME (June 28, 2022)** -- Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park offers nature programs daily in July, at 2:00 p.m., except July 27. Nature programs start at the benches by the end of the second parking lot unless otherwise noted and may include walks, talks, and activities in a beautiful natural setting. Programs last about one hour unless otherwise noted, weather permitting.

No reservations are needed, unless otherwise noted. Nature programs are free with park admission. Admission is \$1.00 for ages 5-11; \$4.00 for Maine residents ages 12-64; \$6.00 for non-residents ages 12-64; \$2.00 for non-residents 65 and older. Persons under 5 and Maine residents 65 and older are free. Starred (\*) programs are wheelchair accessible. For more information, to register for programs, or to arrange for group visits, please call 865-4465.

**7/1 Tree Hunt** - Learn to identify the main species of trees present in the park. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/2 Stroll with the Ranger** - Enjoy a leisurely stroll on the accessible White Pines Trail with a knowledgeable guide. 2:00 p.m. meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour program, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/3 Osprey Watch** - Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/4 Leave No Trace** - stop by the table in the field any time between 2pm and 3pm to learn about Leave No Trace and how you can help take care of our outdoor spaces, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/5 Osprey Watch** - Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/6 Stories in Stone** - Get to know the story

of Maine's beautiful rock-bound coast on this walk with short talks and activities. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/7 Forest Detective** - The forest is an open book, if you know how to read it. Learn how on this fascinating tour of natural history. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/8 Fond of Fronds** - Learn about the multitude of fern species that inhabit our forest and how to identify them. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/9 Hike with the Ranger** - Enjoy the best that the park has to offer in this season on this hike with a knowledgeable guide. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/10 Osprey Watch** - Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/11 Casco Bay Walk** - Enjoy views of islands and rocky shores on the one-mile walk along the beautiful Casco Bay Trail. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/12 Osprey Watch** - Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/13 Wild Relatives** - Everyone has them! Get acquainted with the wild relatives of things in and around your home on this

tour. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/14 Tree Hunt** - Learn to identify the main species of trees present in the park. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting.

See Nature, page 10

## St. Dom's Academy Boys' Hockey Program Annual Golf Tournament Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Fox Ridge Golf Course in Auburn, Maine  
Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with a Shotgun Start at 9:00 a.m.

\$100/player or \$400/team.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Captain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Team Entry Fee: \$400  
Hole Sponsor: (\$100) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mulligans: (\$10, max two per player) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact either:

Coach Dan at 207-240-3015 or [ddauteuil@sta-law.com](mailto:ddauteuil@sta-law.com)

Registration forms and checks payable to **St. Dom's Academy** can be mailed to:

Daniel A. D'Auteuil, Jr  
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Lewiston, Maine 04240

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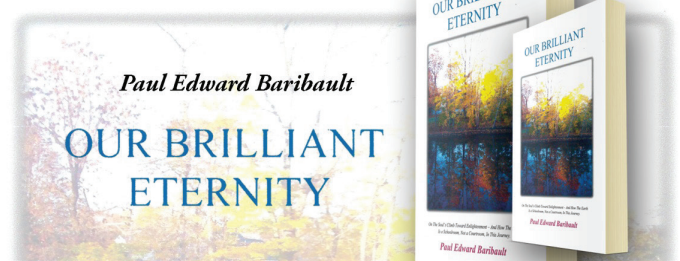
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# APL Holds Esport Workshop, Garden & Allagash Presentations

**AUBURN, ME (July 1, 2022) – ES-PORT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP AND TOURNAMENT**

Join the APL & Central Maine Community College for this summer outreach program at the library! The Auburn Pub-

lic Library is pleased to be hosting CMCC for an Esport Management Workshop and Tournament on July 12th from 1:00-4:00

PM. The workshop will be presented by Jason Libby, the Esports Academic Coordinator at CMCC.

The first half of the program will consist of a workshop where you will be able to learn about esports, video game appeal, basics of game design, marketing, and esports event planning. Following the workshop, there will be a short break and then we will host an esports mini tournament!

If gaming is your passion, CMCC offers an Esports Management associate in applied science degree, which focuses on the business aspect of esports while teaching you to develop teams and online communities.

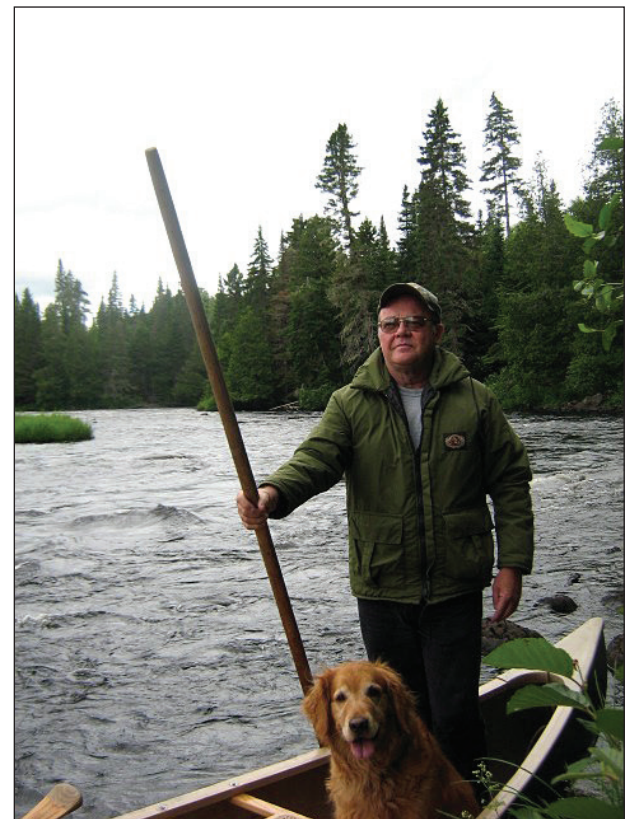
This program is for 6th-12th graders. For more information on this or other upcoming events offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit our website ([auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://auburnpubliclibrary.org)), our Facebook page (Auburn Public Library Teenspace), call the Reference Desk (as above) or send us an email ([kchase@auburnpubliclibrary.org](mailto:kchase@auburnpubliclibrary.org)).

When: Tuesday, July 12th 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Where: In-Person Event; Teen Space

Contact: Kayla Chase, 333-6640, ext. 4

**FOLLOW ME DOWN TO THE GAR-**



### DEN, Part Two

UMO Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Christine Conlogue is back at the Auburn Public Library for part 2 of this series! In this installment, Christine will help identify insects -- both those which benefit our gardens and those which are harmful. She'll also share the best watering habits, talk about succession planting to increase the garden's yield, and how to know when the vegetables are ready for harvest.

This program will take place in the Androscoggin Community Room, and registration is required. To register, visit the Events page of the APL website – [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org) – or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4.

For more information on this or other upcoming programs offered by the Auburn Public Library, visit their website or contact the Reference Desk, or go to their Facebook page *See Esport, page 14*



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# CCI Holds Gauvreau Place Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

LEWISTON, ME (June 22, 2022) – Community Concepts, Inc. (CCI) is pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony for Gauvreau Place, a multi-story apartment building creating 35 mixed-income homes for individuals and families in our community. The

ceremony will take place at 3pm on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 82 Pine Street in Lewiston.

Speakers will include Governor Janet Mills, Avesta President and CEO Dana Totman, Director of Maine Housing Daniel Brennan, Community Concepts'

Shawn Yardley, and Johanna Gauvreau.

Gauvreau Place is named in honor of Paul Gauvreau, a well-known Lewiston attorney who served for more than 20 years in the Office of Maine's Attorney General, state legislator, and Community Concepts'

board member who dedicated his life to community service. Gauvreau passed away unexpectedly in 2020.

"Paul was a man of great integrity and a dedicated public servant," said Shawn Yardley, CEO of Community Concepts. "Community Concepts, the people of Lewiston, and the entire State of Maine benefited from his experience, his intelligence, and his passion to serve his community."

Located at the corner of Blake and Pine

Streets in Lewiston's Tree Streets Neighborhood, Gauvreau Place will bring much-needed safe and affordable housing to the city. Following the dedication ceremony, tours of the building will be available.

"Like much of the country, Lewiston is experiencing a housing crisis," shared Yardley. "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Avesta Housing in the redevelopment and revitalization of our neighborhood and to help meet

the housing needs of our neighbors."

Funders include MaineHousing, FHLB-Boston, Norway Savings Bank, the City of Lewiston, and AVCOG. For more information, please visit the Avesta Housing website.

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



## Central Maine COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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**Nature***Continued from page 7*

Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/15 Stories in Stone** – Get to know the story of Maine's beautiful rock-bound coast on this walk with short talks and activities. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/16 Stroll with the Ranger** – Enjoy a leisurely stroll on the accessible White Pines Trail with a knowledgeable guide. 2:00 p.m. meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour program, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/17 Osprey Watch** – Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/18 Forest Detective** – The forest is an open book, if you know how to read it. Learn how on this fascinating tour of natural history. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/19 Osprey Watch** – Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/20 Wild Relatives** – Everyone has them! Get acquainted with the wild relatives of things in and around your home on this tour. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/21 Fond of Fronds** – Learn about the multitude of fern species that inhabit our forest and how to identify them. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/22 Tree Hunt** – Learn to identify the main species of trees present in the park. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/23 Hike with the Ranger** – Enjoy the best that the park has to offer in this season on this hike with a knowledgeable guide. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/24 Osprey Watch** – Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/25 Secrets of the Shore** – Discover secrets of life in the salt marsh, mud flats, gravel beach, & rocky shore. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting.

Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/26 Osprey Watch** – Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/27 No Program**  
**7/28 Stories in Stone** – Get to know the story of Maine's beautiful rock-bound coast on this walk with short talks and activities. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/29 Fond of Fronds** – Learn about the multitude of fern species that inhabit our forest and how to identify them. 2:00 p.m., meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465.

**7/30 Stroll with the Ranger** – Enjoy a leisurely stroll on the accessible White Pines Trail with a knowledgeable guide. 2:00 p.m. meet at the benches by the second parking lot, 1 hour program, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**7/31 Osprey Watch** – Stop by the osprey sign opposite Googins Island any time between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. for a close look at the ospreys, weather permitting. Free with park admission. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport. 865-4465. \*wheelchair accessible.

**For more information**, please call the park at (207) 865-4465, or visit us online.

# Partnership Raises Nearly \$1M for PFAS Relief for Maine's Farmers

**FREEDOM, ME (May 9, 2022)** -- On March 31, Erin French of The Lost Kitchen in Freedom, Maine, announced the opening of the restaurant's 2022 reservation system with a special fundraising effort to support local farmers dealing with PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) contamination. Through French's encouragement over the last month, over 25,000 people have donated more than \$950,000 to the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund, co-administered by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) and Maine Farmland Trust (MFT). The funds directly support Maine farmers through income replacement, testing and mental health support.

"This was such a natural partnership for The Lost Kitchen," shared Erin French, The Lost Kitchen creator. "So many of these impacted farms and farmers are not only our neighbors and colleagues, but our friends. The Lost Kitchen is so deeply tied to the agricultural community here in Maine as we draw our inspiration with every dinner seating from the fruits of the season."

Sarah Alexander, MOFGA executive director shared, "The crisis that our farming community has been facing with PFAS contamination has created a lot of uncertainty and hardship. The generosity that The Lost Kitchen has inspired exceeds all of our expectations and comes at a critical time to provide a safety net for impacted farms."

To date, more than 13 farms in Maine have found concerning levels of PFAS contamination in their water, soil or food products.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is currently testing more than 700 sites throughout the state.

Maine Farmland Trust's president and CEO, Amy Fisher, said, "The overwhelming response to The Lost Kitchen's fundraiser not only helps us deliver timely resources to impacted Maine farmers, but has helped raise the profile of the PFAS issue nationally. With these funds, MFT and MOFGA will continue to respond to the emergent needs of PFAS-impacted farmers who are facing unimaginable threats to their businesses and their families, and explore additional infrastructure grants and reimbursements for more proactive testing and research. We thank The Lost Kitchen and the thousands of people who gave to the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund for stepping up to ensure a vibrant future for Maine agriculture."

PFAS have been widely used since the 1950s in products ranging from food packaging to fire fighting foam. PFAS have recently been recognized as contaminants in agriculture and are believed to largely be entering soil through the application of biosolids, industrial sludges and ashes, which may contain these compounds that are difficult to break down. Over the past few years PFAS have emerged as a growing contaminant of concern for the food supply in Maine and nationally in the United States, and have been linked to human health problems including some types of cancer.

"MOFGA and MFT created the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund in response to the direct needs of our farming community. This

collaboration shows what's possible when everyone works together to address an urgent need," said Alexander.

The fund is designed to help pay for initial PFAS testing on farms that choose to do their own testing as well as mental health resources, and to provide short-term income replacement for farms that the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has identified as having high test results. This fund will serve as a safety net, providing interim support until impacted farmers can access the state's longer-term support programs. Any Maine farmer dealing with PFAS contamination is eligible to enroll, regardless of whether or not a farm has previously worked with either of the organizations.

"We are honored and humbled to have been able to use our platform to raise awareness about this critical issue facing not only Maine, but our country — and to support Maine farmers and our local food system," said French.

In total, the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund now exceeds \$1 million through this partnership and the generous gifts of Maine foundations, individuals and partners — including Bangor Savings Bank, Farm Credit East, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Johnny's Selected Seeds, the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, multiple funds within the Maine Community Foundation, the Quimby Family Foundation and the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

More information on PFAS and the PFAS Emergency Relief Fund can be found on the websites of both MOFGA and MFT.

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# Auburn Has Another Record Year

**AUBURN, ME (July 1, 2022)** -- For the second year in a row, the City of Auburn has had a banner year, permit-wise. During fiscal year 2022, Auburn set yet another record for permitted construction value and investment, with well over \$74 million in estimated cost of construction. Similarly, the planning and permitting team set a workload record for permitting and inspection.

Even more impressive is the fact that the city's FY 22 estimated cost of construction, \$74,555,212, does not include the single

largest permit of the year: the new \$110M state-of-the-art high school, which is currently under construction. Including the high school project would bring the FY 22 permit value to \$184.5 million.

Next year is looking strong as well," said Auburn's Director of Planning, Eric Cousens. "If half the projects in current discussion move forward, I'm confident we will see our third consecutive record year."

The good news coming out of Auburn doesn't end there. Data from Jan-

uary 2021 through June 2022 shows that the city approved 106 new one- and two-family homes, as well as 285 new apartments. Those 391 new units show that Auburn is making significant progress toward the city council goal of 2,000 new units in five years. "With more than 1,500 new residences in discussion, next year looks strong for continued growth," adds Cousens.

According to City Manager Phil Crowell, this record-setting growth is no accident. "The city's 2019 Strategic Plan and recent-

ly updated Comprehensive Plan placed high priority and clear focus on issues like housing, workforce development, walkability, recreation, and quality of life."

Crowell commends city staff for their responsiveness and hard work. "In 4 out of the last 5 years, our planning and permitting team has handled a record number of permits, and as always, I'm proud of the work our team has done."

Mayor Jason Levesque applauds the city's new record and is proud that Auburn is doing its part to help address the

state-wide housing shortage. "This is proof that when we are focused on excellence in everything we do, from delivering a message of opportunity and cooperation to businesses and people throughout New England to executing aggressive permit and zoning reform, Auburn can and will continue to grow in a positive direction," said Levesque.

Cousens encourages individuals and businesses interested in being part of Auburn's success to visit [auburnmaine.gov](http://auburnmaine.gov) and connect with his team. "It's

more than just a slogan when we say, 'in Auburn, your next opportunity is closer than you think.'"

Auburn's 2019 Strategic Plan vision statement: "Auburn will be a community that balances urban & rural living, with safe, sustainable, livable neighborhoods that are well-connected; a community to be proud of, with a vibrant workforce and resources that are preserved and protected; a unique small city that offers quality education and bold economic, recreation, and housing opportunities."

## Free Trainings Offered through CMCC

### CMCC Offers Free Computer Trainings

**AUBURN, ME (June 28, 2022)** – The Center for Workforce and Professional Development (CWPD) at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is offering free Computer Support Specialist featuring CompTIA IT Fundamentals + and A+, CompTIA Network + and CompTIA Security + course instruction.

All three training courses are being offered in addition to the current CompTIA A+ course. The 4 courses will offer rolling admissions (continuing application review and flexible acceptance), beginning July 11, 2022, and will continue for one year. The courses will be offered in-person on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 – 8:30 PM.

Students who successfully complete the 150-hour, 13-week Computer Support Specialist (IT Fundamentals+ and A+) course, will learn both

theory and practical skills in Computer Support CompTIA Fundamentals+, A+, IT (Information Technology) concepts and terminology, Windows operating systems, infrastructure, software troubleshooting, applications and software, networking, software development, hardware and networking troubleshooting, database fundamentals and security.

Both CompTIA Network + and CompTIA Security + are both 60 hours in length. Security+ is the first security certification a candidate should earn. It establishes core knowledge required in any cybersecurity role and provides a springboard to intermediate-level cybersecurity jobs. Training includes assessing security of hybrid environments and recommending solutions, learning principles of governance, risk and compliance, and identifying, analyzing and responding to security events.

Network+ provides training for the correspond-

ing CompTIA certification. Course material covers networking fundamentals, implementations, operations, security, and troubleshooting. It also covers configuring and managing networks. Learners will be prepared to earn the internationally recognized certification CompTIA Network+, which also carries a digital badge. Starting wages trend at \$40,500. For more information or to register please visit <https://bit.ly/CWPDRegistration>

CompTIA A+ training is a 10-week course that prepares students for the Core 1 and Core 2 exams and includes configuring Windows, Mac, Linux, Chrome, OS, Android and iOS operating systems. For more information or to register please visit <https://bit.ly/3qqym2f>.

These free courses are made possible by the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan and Harold Alfond Foundation. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSet, and be a U.S. cit-

izen and/or authorized to work in Maine.

### CMCC Free High Pressure Boiler Operator Trainings – Rumford and Auburn

**AUBURN, ME (June 27, 2022)** – The Center for Workforce and Professional Development at Central Maine Community College (CMCC) is offering free High Pressure Boiler Operator trainings. The first cohort is Wednesday evenings, July 20 – October 17, 2022, 5:30 – 8:30 PM, at ND Paper in Rum-

ford, Maine. Registration is required and 10 open seats are available. The second cohort is offered Wednesdays, September 7 – December 14, 2022, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, in-person at CMCC in Auburn. Information and links to register for the program are available at <https://www.bit.ly/CWPDRegistration>.

High Pressure Boiler Operator training offers a practical approach, knowledge, and techniques to power plant operation and is designed to prepare the

student to sit for the Maine Licensing Exam. Upon completion of the course and the required in-service experience, the student can take the State exam at CMCC. The cost of the exam is covered. Prior to sitting for the exam, students must meet the state requirement for in-service experience as a high pressure boiler operator under a state issued training permit. The average starting wage for a High Pressure Boiler Operator is \$42,000 in the Lewiston/Auburn region.

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# MaineHealth Awarded Grant for Statewide Overdose Prevention

**PORTLAND, ME (June 30, 2022)** – MaineHealth has received a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a statewide overdose and infection prevention program focused on harm reduction.

The program, Distribution of Harm reduction Access in Rural Maine Areas (Project DHARMA), is a collaboration among MaineHealth and several community organizations including public health agencies, syringe service programs, academic institutions and other treatment providers. Its goals are to provide clients of syringe service programs in Maine’s rural counties with harm reduction supplies and to connect them with care for infectious disease prevention and treatment, wound care and substance use.

“As overdose deaths are at an all-time high in Maine, we feel an urgent need to improve the health of people in our communities,” said Kristen Silvia, MD, an addiction medicine specialist who is co-leading Project DHARMA with infectious disease and addiction special-

## MaineHealth

ist Kinna Thakarak, DO, MPH. “Harm reduction is an evidence-based set of strategies that reduces the risk of overdose and the infection complications of substance use. Anyone can have a substance use disorder. These are mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. They are our friends, our neighbors and our patients. These are people we care about and who deserve care and everything we can do to keep them alive. No one should have to die from a substance use disorder.”

Harm reduction outreach specialists embedded in local syringe service programs will dispense fentanyl test strips and wound care kits, as well as naloxone to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. They also will partner with Colby College to use spectrometry-based drug checking to help identify how much fentanyl and other contaminants are present in drugs circulating in Maine communities.

Collaborators include Maine Office of Behavioral Health, Maine CDC, 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers, academic partners

and treatment providers throughout the state, as well as a Harm Reduction Advisory Council.

“Project DHARMA has the potential to facilitate access to harm reduction supplies and services to people in Maine who need it the most,” Thakarak said. “Harm reduction outreach specialists at the syringe service programs are essential to the success of the project and to improving the health and safety of people using drugs. They are also ideally positioned to help link clients to healthcare and services.”

Project DHARMA will focus on clients deemed at high risk for HIV/hepatitis outbreaks as well as underserved populations such as those who identify as LGBTQ+ and those who are unhoused and use drugs. The program will promote awareness of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) – taking anti-retroviral therapy as a means of preventing HIV – in people who use substances through several avenues, including training primary care providers in PrEP and expanding awareness of a PrEP hotline through

increased messaging delivered by syringe service providers. The project also will involve broader community health efforts, such as expanding the capacity of syringe service providers to screen clients for the blood-borne infections HIV, hepatitis B (HBV), and hepatitis C (HCV).

“The decision by SAMHSA to fund the DHARMA project will enhance the harm-reduction and overdose prevention activities specified in the state’s Opioid Response Strategic Action Plan. We appreciate the work done by MaineHealth and its several partners and look forward to getting the project started,” said Gordon Smith, director of opioid response for the state.

Participating local harm reduction and syringe service providers include Amistad, based in Greater Portland, the Church of Safe Injection, which operates in Oxford, York and Androscoggin counties and Maine Access Points, which serves clients in all 16 Maine counties.

By collaborating with syringe service providers, Project DHARMA expects to serve more than 6,500 clients over three years, in addition to making 7,500 client referrals and 9,000

linkages to health care and support services.

“Amistad is energized to be part of a team of partners that is dedicated to elevating the quality of public health and harm reduction programming throughout the state, and to reducing barriers to critical resources for under-served and vulnerable populations,” said Brian Townsend, Amistad’s executive director.

“Church of Safe Injection staff, volunteers and board members are so proud to be a part of this incredible team offering innovative and life-saving resources,” said Zoe Brokos, executive director of the Church of Safe Injection. “We are excited for the opportunity to work in collaboration with our harm reduction partners to provide essential connections to health care resources for people who use drugs in Maine.”

“At MAP we are truly excited to be working in this collaborative model to increase harm reduction services in Maine,” said Hilary Eslinger, a member of the Maine Access Points leadership team. “It is crucial that we build our understanding of the drug supply and how it relates to both experiences

of overdose and infection across the state, including rural and historically isolated parts of Maine. By building our capacity for drug checking, infectious disease testing, wound care services, and linkage to care we will be able to build a network of support based in the dignity and respect of people who use drugs in Maine.”

Thakarak and Silvia said they are dedicating the work of Project DHARMA to two project collaborators who recently lost their lives. Jessi Gilbert was a project administrator for Maine Access Points and Kari Morissette was the executive director of the Church of Safe Injection.

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### Bird Flu

*Continued from page 5*

practices may remain necessary to protect these birds. Keep an eye on the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry website for new information about the status of the HPAI outbreak. Recommendations and regulations for Maine’s

bird owners can be found here: [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal\\_health/](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/).

For a complete snapshot of HPAI in Maine, the state’s response, a list of frequently asked questions, and additional HPAI resources, visit [maine.gov/dacf/hpai](http://maine.gov/dacf/hpai).

To report sick poultry

or unusual domestic bird deaths, call the USDA’s toll-free sick bird hotline at 1-866-536-7593.

To report a strange-acting or dead wild bird, call the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife at 207-287-8000. If after hours, contact the ME DIFW regional office at 1-800-452-4664.



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**May 4 and every Wednesday GORHAM** – 10:00am Weekly story time has resumed at the North Gorham Public Library! Storytime is open to children & their caregivers. Join us weekly for stories, songs and crafts every Wednesday at 10am. 2 Standish Neck Rd, Gorham ME.

or check) at the door, 207-846-5378, or <http://www.midcoastsymphony.org> for details. Under 18 and college students are free.

the chance to Live, Learn and Recover. Deb York began An Angel's Wing in 2017 and has been helping our community since.

**July 8, 9, 10 THOMASTON** -- Thomaston Place Auction Galleries' spectacular upcoming auction on July 8, 9 & 10. The sale will include artwork by Andrew Wyeth, Jamie Wyeth, Winslow Homer, Andy Warhol, Norman Rockwell, John Singer Sargent, and an outstanding group of Old Master paintings. Additionally, there will be an important group of American colonial era furniture.

**July 12 LEWISTON** -- The Southern Maine Squadron Sampson AFBVA will be having a get together at noon time at the Governors Restaurant in Lewiston. During the Korean War era, those who chose the Air Force went to Sampson AFB, on the East Shore of Seneca Lake near Geneva NY, for basic training before going on to Tech Schools. Now some of these veterans gather monthly through the summer months for lunch and share stories. All veterans are welcome to join.

FMI call 657-4909 Bob Sawyer Sampson, 1953 wwmk-

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

wkr1933@gmail.com

**July 12 LEWISTON** -- Tuesday, July 12 at 5:30pm at the Lewiston Public Library: MAINE COMMUNITY SOLAR

This free, public program will cover what community solar is, how it works, and what the benefits are to Maine residents. If you think you might be interested in participating in community solar, bring a copy of your most recent electric bill and get one-on-one assistance with signing up for a program that is the best fit for you after the presentation concludes.

Free. In-person at Callahan Hall. Virtual options on Zoom and Facebook available. 513-3135; [www.LPLonline.org](http://www.LPLonline.org)

**July 13 LEWISTON** -- Wednesday, July 13, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. READ ME BOOK DISCUSSION: "SIGH, GONE," BY PHUC TRAN. Join us to discuss the nonfiction selection for this year's Read ME statewide summer reading program. Copies available to borrow. Advance registration required at 513-3135 or [lpreference@gmail.com](mailto:lpreference@gmail.com).

**July 15 GREENE** -- Denny Breau performs on Friday, July 15th at 2 & 7 PM. The Araxine Wilkins Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene. Free admission! FMI call 946-5311, visit [sawyer-foundation.com](http://sawyer-foundation.com) or [www.facebook.com/sawyer.foundation1937](http://www.facebook.com/sawyer.foundation1937)

**July 16 WINDHAM** -- 2nd Annual St. Anthony of

Padua Festival July 16, 2022, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 919 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, Me. 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. A family-focused fun day on July 16th with Italian Foods, Grilled Specialties, Books, Jewelry, Knits, Knights of Columbus Yard Sale, Children's Games and Activities, Christmas in July Shoppe, Dolls, Music, and much, much more. July 15, 2022, a special Mass in honor of St. Anthony at 6:00 pm. with a procession to the St. Anthony the Shrine. Followed by a reception.

**July 20 - August 17 FALMOUTH** -- University of Maine Extension staff and volunteers will lead a hands-on, interactive program to teach youth ages 9 and up how to grow and preserve the garden's harvest. The 4-H Kids Can Can program will be held from 9-11 a.m. on Wednesdays, July 20-Aug. 17.

Each session will begin in Extension's Tidewater Gardens in Falmouth where youth will harvest the fruits and vegetables needed to make jam, pickles, salsa and more. The program then moves to the UMaine Regional Learning Center Demo Kitchen where participants will prepare a batch of preserved foods. Each participant will take home a jar of preserves. Current 4-H enrollment is not required for participation.

The \$5 fee per child covers all classes. Register and find more details on the program page online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.781.6099 or 800.287.1471 (in Maine).

**July 21 FALMOUTH** -- A Field Day at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Gardens at Tidewater Farm in Falmouth will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 21.

The free public event is an opportunity to learn about Tidewater Farm and engage with the gardens through hands-on demonstrations led by UMaine Extension staff and Master Gardener Volunteers. Demonstrations begin at 5:30 p.m. focused on pollinator-friendly gardening and vegetable garden succession planting.

No registration is required. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the website or contact Pamela Hargest, [pamela.hargest@maine.edu](mailto:pamela.hargest@maine.edu); 207.949.4524.

**July 27 LEWISTON** -- Outdoor Hiring Event at the Lewiston Career Center, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. The event will be held rain or shine and is open to all job seekers.

**August 24 LEWISTON** -- Wednesday, August 24, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library. READ ME BOOK DISCUSSION: "BENEFICENCE," BY MEREDITH HALL. Join us to discuss the fiction selection for this year's Read ME statewide summer reading program. Copies available to borrow. Advance registration required at 513-3135 or [lpreference@gmail.com](mailto:lpreference@gmail.com).

**Transit**  
*Continued from page 6*  
Applications are due no later than Thursday, July 14 by 4pm.

The purpose of the Transit Committee is to establish, maintain and implement a short and long range bus transit devel-

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opment program, and to apply for, receive and administer Federal and State grants-in-aid for mass transit on behalf of the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn, and to provide adequate and efficient bus mass transit for the Lewiston-Auburn area.

Residents are welcome to contact the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with any questions they may have regarding the committee appointment process. Completed applications shall be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm.

**Esport**  
*Continued from page 8*

(Auburn Public Library Advocates).

When: Tuesday, July 12, 2022; 4-5 p.m.

Where: Auburn Public Library, Androscoggin Community Room

Contact: Donna Wallace, 333-6640, ext. 4

**ALLAGASH: NEW ENGLAND'S WILD RIVER**

Allagash: New England's Wild River will be presented at the Auburn Public Library by author and humorist Tim Caverly. This program includes music as well as scenic and historic photos from our 'northern forest.' Attendees will virtually canoe the world-famous river,

discover forgotten logging history and learn about Native American archaeology. Hear first-hand about the lore, legends, and characters that Tim experienced during his 32-years while a Maine Park Ranger.

This program will be presented as part of our Adult Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities" wherein adults will spend time exploring Maine's waterways. Although an adult program, children ages 8 and up are welcome to attend with an adult. This program will take place in person, and for planning purposes, registration is required.

For more information about this or other programs which are part of this summer series or to register for this presentation, visit the Events page of the Auburn Public Library website - [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org), or call the Reference Desk at 207-333-6640, ext. 4. When registering, please indicate how many will be attending.

When: Thursday, July 14, 2022; 4-5 p.m.

Where: Auburn Public Library, Androscoggin Community Room

Contact: Donna Wallace, 333-6640, ext. 4

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

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# Harlow Gallery Artist Talk with Brunswick Artist Erin Seegers



'We Took a Walk' Mixed Media on Panel 12 X 16 inches



'Within Reason' Mixed Media on Panel 12 X 26 inches

**HALLOWELL, ME (June 29, 2022)** -- On Wednesday, July 13, at 6:30pm, the Harlow will host a conversation with Brunswick Artist Erin Seegers in conjunction with 'Explorations,' a solo exhibition of Seegers's work. 'Explorations' features Seegers's richly layered mixed media paintings and densely collaged sketchbooks. The work is colorful, bold, and dynamic. Text and images playfully layer above and below painted surfaces.

At her artist talk, Seegers will share about

her work, her materials, and her creative process. About her art-making practice, Seegers states, "I view my art as a practice. A practice of inquiry, an opportunity to connect with the mysterious perceptions of time, language, structure, void, relationship and the curious, and the inexplicable elements of being human."

Ellyn Snider, Harlow Gallery staff member, says, "Erin's artwork is both inviting and immersive. It has been inspiring to learn about Erin's process, and it has been

delightful to see her at work. I'm so excited for Erin to share her practice with our art-loving community."

This event is free and open to the public. The Harlow is a membership based 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to connecting and celebrating art, artists and community in downtown historic Hallowell since 1963. The Harlow is open Thursday through Saturday, 11am - 4pm. For more information please visit [harlowgallery.org](http://harlowgallery.org) or email [info@harlowgallery.org](mailto:info@harlowgallery.org)

## Maine-ly Summer at Monkitree



Little Island, painting by Terry Wilson

**GARDINER, ME (June 30, 2022)** -- Join us at Monkitree for a celebration of Summer in Maine.

Terry Wilson of Gardiner, Maine captures the magic of Maine in our favorite season. Whether it is trips along our rugged coast, to our tranquil lakes, hiking in our forests or visiting our historic downtowns, one can't help but savor the vibrancy of the season.

Terry Wilson, born and raised in the state of Maine, clearly has a passion for her subject. She captures the beautiful vacationland she calls home in

every stroke of her brush. Inspired by the many adventurers she takes with her family, she says, "I hope to convey a small piece of the many beautiful reasons we love this state."

The show can be seen at Monkitree-263 Water Street, Gardiner, ME July 1st through August 27th during regular shop hours- T/F 10-5, Sat 10-4. Or during Artwalk Gardiner the evening of August 19th.

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