



# TWIN CITY TIMES

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## LePage and Poliquin host Senior Forum at Franco Center in Lewiston



Former Gov. Paul LePage and former U.S. Congressman Bruce Poliquin hosted a senior discussion forum at the Franco Heritage Center in Lewiston. TCT photo by Laurie A. Steele

## AARP and Senior College Present Fraud Alert Program

**LEWISTON, ME (October 20, 2022)** -- Lewiston/Auburn Senior College is excited to invite Grace McCarthy, an expert on fraud and a speaker for AARP Maine, to give our November Food for Thought program.

Grace is a former police officer from Maryland who was selected to attend the FBI National Academy. Her husband is a Mainer, and after several trips to Maine (and reading newspapers revealing very scant criminal activity), they decided that Maine was the place to start a family. For a few years she worked as a substitute teacher and ultimately started a career with L.L.Bean in Security. Grace retired after 23 years as a senior analyst having spent the majority of her time investigating internal/external fraud. Currently she is a member of the Bowdoinham Committee on Aging, a volunteer for People

Plus in Brunswick, and a presenter from AARP's Fraud Watch Network.

Grace will speak with those who wish to attend in person in room 170 at USM Lewiston/Auburn on Westminster Street in Lewiston. For those who prefer Zoom, we will be putting out a link to sign in from home. The presentation will be Monday November 14 beginning at 11:00 AM and last from 1-2 hours depending on questions and discussion. Due to COVID restrictions we will not be serving food, but those who wish to get coffee and/or snacks at the university's cafe are welcome to do so.

To attend please email: [lewiston-auburnseniorcollege.org](mailto:lewiston-auburnseniorcollege.org) by Nov. 13 at noon. If you wish to be part of the Zoom audience please make sure to give your name and the program you wish to attend. You will receive a link the morning of the 14th.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month pages 7-9

## Lewiston Adult Education, CMCC Celebrate CNA Student Success



Hailey Theriault, Melissa Fortin and Katherine Mills cut up slices of cake following their graduation ceremony at Central Maine Community College in Auburn on Oct. 14.

**AUBURN, ME (October 18, 2022)** -- Certified Nursing Assistant students celebrated their graduation from a Lewiston Adult Education and Central Maine Community College collaborative CNA program on Oct. 14 with family members and staff from both institutions.

The graduates were: Amanda Carr, Elizabeth Coyne, Melissa Fortin, Katherine Mills and Hailey Theriault.

Lewiston Adult Education Assistant Director Razell Ward and Dr. Dwayne Conway, Dean of Workforce & Professional Development at CMCC, welcomed guests and family members to the ceremony. CNA instructor Elise Wiley presented the students with their state certification and special recognitions. The Florence Nightingale Award was awarded to Melissa Fortin, who was selected by her peers as the graduate most would want to care for their loved ones.

"The students were outstanding.

They worked very hard and their scores on the final certification exam reflected the hard work they had done," Wiley said of the students.

Lewiston Adult Education and Central Maine Community College partnered to provide the Certified Nursing Assistant program. Students completed 140 hours of instruction, including classroom theory, labs, and clinical practicum at Clover Health Care in Auburn.

"Lewiston Adult Education is very proud of all of the students who completed," said Director Jennifer Tiner. "They had to balance many responsibilities including school, work and family."

In addition to Healthcare pathways, Lewiston Adult Education is offering Applied Technology in the Workplace, Medical Assisting, Today's Teller, and other workforce certifications for more information call 207-784-2829.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Christmas Fairs Set for Over 20 Maine Parishes

**PORTLAND, ME (October 11, 2022)**— Many parishes around Maine are holding Christmas fairs during the months of November and December. They are wonderful opportunities to join with other members of the community in advance of Advent and Christmas, and they are valuable fundraisers that help support many church ministries. All are welcome at any fair. Below you will find a list of confirmed fairs around the Diocese of Portland listed

chronologically and by city/town. Any additional fairs will be added to the list at [www.portlanddiocese.org/content/christmas-fairs-2022](http://www.portlanddiocese.org/content/christmas-fairs-2022).

Saturday, November 5

Brunswick

The Christmas fair at St. Charles Borromeo Church, part of All Saints Parish, will be held Saturday, November 5, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the church hall at 132 McKean Street in Brunswick. Choose from 19 booths featuring a won-



derful selection of gifts. There will also be raffles with cash prizes and a food court offering breakfast sandwiches, haddock chowder, beef stew, sandwiches, and homemade pies.

Westbrook

St. Anthony of Padua Parish will hold a Christmas Fair on November 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., bringing together the gifts and talents of parishioners from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Windham and St. Hyacinth Church in

Westbrook. The fair, which will be held in the hall of St. Hyacinth Church on 268 Brown Street, will feature crafts and knits, baked goods, gift baskets, a children's area, great food, and more.

Saturday, November 12

Gorham

The St. Anne Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church on 299 Main Street in Gorham. The fair will feature crafts, jewelry,

themed baskets, Gramma's Attic, and lunch and supper put on by the Knights of Columbus.

Saturday, November 19

Auburn

The Christmas by the Lake Fair will be held on Saturday, November 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Philip Church on 2365 Turner Road in Auburn. The event will feature handcrafted wreaths, baked goods, knitted goods, crafts, raffles, and more.

## Collins, King Announce \$45M to Rehabilitate, Replace ME Bridges

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 19, 2022)**— U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Angus King (I-ME) announced that Maine will receive a total of \$45,000,000 to maintain and reconstruct bridges across the

state. This funding was authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and provided through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Senator Collins, the

SENATOR SUSAN  
**COLLINS**



SENATOR ANGUS  
**KING**

<http://www.collins.senate.gov>

<http://www.king.senate.gov>

Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, was part of the core group of 10 Senators who negotiated the text of the bipartisan infrastructure law. Senators Collins and King both worked to negotiate and pass this historic legislation, which will deliver billions of dollars to Maine for investments in roads, bridges, broadband, and more.

This funding will

help to address the backlog of repairs needed for Maine's transportation network. Maine currently has more than 300 bridges considered to be "structurally deficient."

"Improving Maine's infrastructure is one of my top priorities as Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee," said Senator Collins. "This \$45 million investment to replace and rehabilitate deteriorated bridges will benefit residents and local economies across the state, particularly in rural communities. Without adequate funding for maintenance, bridges that fall into disrepair become unsafe and subject to eventual closure, resulting in substantial detours and economic harm. By supporting projects that will strengthen bridge reconstruction programs, this funding through the bipartisan infrastructure law will help ensure that Mainers can reach their homes and jobs quickly

and safely."

"Go for a drive basically anywhere in the State of Maine, and you'll see the need for investments in roads and bridges. Whether it's potholes, erosion damage, or rust, these vital arteries of our communities are aging — creating unsafe conditions, hampering our economy, and inflicting an average of more than \$500 in annual repair costs for Maine drivers. Fortunately, thanks to funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, historic investments are on the way," said Senator King. "This funding to maintain and reconstruct bridges will improve our state's infrastructure for decades, create good-paying jobs, and ensure that Maine people can travel without undue risks or expenses. I'm pleased to see this significant investment in Maine's needs and look forward to the legislation's continued support for our state's communities."

FHWA announced that it is providing \$59.9

billion in funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This apportioned funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 provides a \$15.4 billion increase as compared to Fiscal Year 2021 for Federal-aid Highway Program apportionments. This funding is distributed annually by FHWA for the Federal-aid Highway Program based on a statutory formula contained in the bipartisan infrastructure law. This investment will help reduce the backlog of major repairs for highways and bridges and support communities' efforts to reduce traffic deaths, serious injuries and carbon emissions.

Federal-aid Highway Program funds are authorized periodically by Congress in multi-year laws to assist the States in providing for construction, reconstruction, and improvement of highways and bridges on eligible Federal-aid routes and for other special purpose programs and projects. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law establishes or continues FHWA programs and authorizes funding for those programs from the Highway Trust Fund.

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Franco-American Genealogical Society to Hold Fall Meeting

**AUBURN, ME (October 17, 2022)** -- The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society's Fall Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St. Auburn, ME.

There will be a brief business meeting followed by light refreshments and presentation by guest speaker, Anna Faherty at 11a.m. to noon.

This event is free and open to the public.

Maine families may be surprised to learn why some of their Canadian ancestors ended up in Northern New York State and Vermont instead of Maine.

Anna will begin with an overview of the Lake Champlain region and discuss the movement between Canada and the US in the French and Indian War. This will include the different groups and settlements in the area that were French Canadian and online web-

sites and resources for your research.

Anna, the archivist at the Franco-American collection is a graduate of Simmons University's dual Master's program in History and Archives Management. Before working at the Franco-American Collection, she worked at Fort Ticonderoga, an 18th century military site, integral in the French and Indian War (also known as the Seven Years War) and the American



**Anna Faherty, Guest Speaker**

Revolutionary War. Anna's historical background is in labor and immigration in

the United States from the 19th-early 20th centuries. Anna is an appointed member of the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), a group of records professionals with a mission to coordinate and encourage the preservation of and access to historical records in a variety of ways. Anna also serves as the secretary of the Maine Library Association, a professional association for librarians in Maine.

Anna will discuss the history of Fort Ticonderoga and the Adirondack region as it relates to French-Canadian immigration, and how genealogy enthusiasts may find more information about family members from Northern New York and Vermont.

Remember to save the date for this free and informational event.

Please visit [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org) for parking information.

## Tri-Town Optimist Club Announces Student of the Month



**Jason (L) with Teacher Drew Robbins (R)**

**M E C H A N I C FALLS, MINOT and POLAND, ME (October 20, 2022)** -- The Tri-Town Optimist Club of Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland is proud to announce its RSU 16 Student of the Month recipient for October, Ja-

son Letourneau. Jason, a sixth grader from Poland Community School, is described by his teacher and principal as a student leader who models the school code of conduct to be respectful, responsible and safe. He is always kind to everyone and is never

seen without a smile. Jason goes the extra mile in both his school work and in his caring relationships with others.

## DKG to Host Teddy Bear Fair to Raise Scholarship Funds

**LEWISTON, ME (October 15, 2022)** -- The Ladies of Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International are bringing back their annual Teddy Bear Fair on November 5th from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Lewiston High School gym.

The Ladies of Mu are all educators, active and retired, from the Lewiston/Auburn area. Money generated by our Fair goes to scholarships, one for a graduating senior from one of the high schools in the Twin Cities and surrounding communities, who plans to go into education; the other goes to a DKG Member who is working on an advanced degree.

The Ladies of Mu

will sell baked goods such as cookies, cakes, pies, bread and an assortment of candies and pastries; used books & DVDs; white elephant items; harvest items such as jellies, jams, salsas, pickles; gently loved stuffed animals; crafts including knitted scarves, hats & mittens, baby layettes, as well as kitchen towels and dishcloths; and

holiday crafts including Christmas and Thanksgiving decorations.

They will also have a raffle table with handmade items, gift certificates for lobster and gas, a children's craft basket, and many other treasures. We hope many will come out to see us and support our efforts to raise scholarship money.



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## Out and About

# Artist Irene Rothe on Display at August's Art in the Park Exhibit



Plots of flowers add beauty throughout the Art in the Park Exhibit (Rachel Morin Photo)



The Pool in Millcreek Pond with the Art in the Park Booths in back of the pond at the Big Art Exhibit a couple months ago. (Rachel Morin Photo)



Lupins. Photo of the painting Lupins that is on the wall in the artist's bedroom. (Photo by Artist Irene Rothe)

**By Rachel Morin**

It was an exciting day when we heard the news. Our friend and neighbor, Irene Rothe, at Schooner Estates Retirement Community in Auburn, was going to have her artwork displayed at the huge Art in the Park Exhibit held this past August at Millcreek in South Portland.

We were not surprised Irene would be participating as she has had her work exhibited in other art shows many times before. We had also viewed her beautiful framed artwork hanging on the walls in her apartment. Also we saw Irene, on one occasion, at her easel with her brushes and paints set up outside in the fresh air working on her canvas and getting the

lighting just right. So we knew she would be a natural to participate in this Art in the Park Exhibit.

And so, eager to show our support, Shannon Cook, Schooner Residential Services Director, offered to drive us in her car to the Exhibit. And that is how Polly Glavine, Helen McKinley and I, were thrilled with the offer and able to see Irene and her booth with all of her art pieces beautifully arranged and also enjoy a tour of the Park and see the other exhibits.

We got to meet Irene's daughter, Elizabeth Rothe and Irene's son-in-law, Ryan Keith, who had set up her booth and the display of paintings as well as packing up her paintings

and transporting them to the Park. Irene was generous with her praise of the work they did in setting her up at the Exhibit. "I couldn't have done it without them" she said, and added, "They are always there for me."

The Park was full of the many booths with art of all kinds. oils, watercolors, pastels, wood, cloth, and the subjects the artists favored: flowers, trees, airplanes, houses, musical instruments, cars, dogs, birds, boats, airplanes, lakes, rivers, oceans, a huge variety of the images the artists liked to paint. Everything appealed to us as we wandered from booth to booth. We en-



Schooner Tenants with Artist Irene Rothe, L to R, Interested Art Patron, Rachel Morin, Polly Glavine, Helen McKinley and Artist Irene Rothe. (Shannon Cook Photo)

gaged with the artists who were happy to talk about their art with us.

The attendance was huge with crowds of people with their children, dogs on leashes and everyone moving along, stopping in and out of booths, many carrying art purchases, some with huge art pieces carried over their heads so as not to bump into people or damage their art piece. They were going to place it safely in their car or whatever transport they came in.

We met Irene's daughter, Elizabeth Rothe, and her son-in-law, Ryan Keith. They set up her booth and the display of paintings as well as pack-

ing up her paintings and bringing them to the Park. Irene was generous with her praise of the work they did in setting her booth up at the Exhibit. "I couldn't have done it without them" she said, and added, "They are always there for me." Elizabeth and Ryan smiled at us and nodded and you could tell they were regular assistants, happy to be involved.

I had the opportunity to learn about Irene and her interest in art after the Art Exhibit. Irene told me she was interested in watercolor since the fourth grade when she had an opportunity to take a class from a local artist. She never had another opportunity until

she reached high school in Freeport, Illinois. And that was short lived as well.

It wasn't until she moved to Maine in 1973 and met a local artist, Phyllis Woodson of Wayne, who had studied with artist Frank Soltez for seven years in Connecticut.

Ms Wayne had started an art class in water colors and Irene was so pleased to be in her class. She received the best advice that has helped her painting: always use the best watercolor paper, brushes and paint.

Another person who gave her direction was Charles Reid who had illustrations in "Better Homes and Gardens" and it was exactly the style she wanted to follow. And so she studied his style and has done well.

Irene explains how she gets to the scene she will paint. She takes photographs of the scenes she sees and wishes she had a photographic memory, but a 35mm Canon is her second best choice. She paints from the photos she took.

And here in Irene's words are her feelings about being in Maine—"I am so grateful that I live in Maine because of the wealth of scenery from land and water. Not only the coast and the ocean, but the mountains and the farms and fields of local towns and villages."

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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age

# Biking Historic Quebec



Two cyclists ride through the remains of an ancient sawmill on the Dansereau Trail in Quebec

**By Ron Chase**

My Maine outdoor companions and I have enjoyed adventures with our Quebec friends for about thirty years. We've visited them to paddle whitewater, sea kayak, ski, hike, and bike. On many occasions, they've joined us in Maine for similar exploits.

The pandemic resulted in a three-year border crossing hiatus. Recently, six of us retired Mainers were invited to the wedding of two of our Quebec friends, Caroline Lauzier and Richard Bedard. Fortunately, Covid restrictions have finally relaxed so the invitation provided the perfect opportunity to restart our friendships.

The invitation also included a unique opportunity to lodge with our Quebec friends in their home

in Sillery, a historic Quebec City neighborhood. Since we planned to spend a few days there, I asked for bike trail suggestions. Their two in-city recommendations were Samuel Champlain Promenade and St. Charles Linear Park.

The wedding was scheduled for late afternoon on our first full day in Quebec. Although Caroline and Richard had a busy agenda, they weren't going to forego participating in outdoor activities. While Caroline went out for a half-marathon training run, Richard volunteered to guide four of us on a city bike ride.

We began our ride at a Sillery trail junction on the Champlain Promenade. Separated from traffic, we rode east on the scenic trail adjacent

to the St. Lawrence River while enjoying outstanding views on our left of the prominent cliffs for which the city is famous.

After negotiating through some construction, we entered the Old City passing many 17th Century structures. The distinctive Chateau Frontenac towered high atop the cliffs dominating the surrounding unique architectural landscape. The trail joined the road for a short distance before turning left and connecting with St. Charles Linear Park.

Here we had a choice to continue east towards Montmorency Falls or complete a loop along the St. Charles River. The picturesque St. Charles Linear Park Loop Trail was our selection. The character of the ride changed as we rode north on the west side of the river. While the promenade was primarily flat and open, the busy often shaded St. Charles Trail rolls through gentle hills in residential neighborhoods. After a few miles, we crossed a bridge over the river and finished the loop on the east side.

Rejoining Champlain Promenade, we returned to Sillery completing an exceptionally stimulating 19-mile ride. Rather than load my bike on our shuttle vehicle, I

followed Richard up the steep hill to his residence. Up is an understatement. The precipitous climb quickly deteriorated from invigorating to exhausting. I stayed on my bike but it was a challenge.

The wedding reception was held at Montmorency Manor adjacent to spectacular Montmorency Falls Park. Following a fascinating walk exploring the falls on park trails, we joined other guests for an elegant dinner. The six Mainers and two additional longtime Quebec friends, Josee Paquet and Pierre Larue, were seated at the "Whitewater Table."

The next day, Josee and Pierre joined the rest of the group for more outdoor escapades. Some went birding, others mountain biking, and four of us elected to ride the Dansereau Trail. Located between St. Catherine and Pont Rouge about 30 minutes northwest of Quebec City, the hard-packed dirt Dansereau Trail follows along the Jacques Cartier River. The lower end near Pont Rouge parallels Grand Remous, a popular sector of whitewater we had paddled in the past.

Departing from St. Catherine, we rode south along the river on a relatively flat surface. A sunny Saturday, many families and groups were out



A Maine cyclist rides the Champlain Promenade along the St. Lawrence River

for a day of recreation. After passing by several Grand Remous rapids, we stopped to scout the most difficult one, La Chaudiere. Time was spent reminiscing about previous whitewater exploits on the turbulent falls, particularly paddling around a dangerous hydraulic called B-52.

Several short steep hills were encountered nearing the Pont Rouge Trailhead. We passed the interesting remains of an ancient sawmill in this area. The return trip to St. Catherine was equally entertaining. Our other friends reported comparatively enjoyable exploits birding and mountain biking. We retired to Sillery for a traditional corn feast. Josee and Pierre brought corn from the renowned cornfields of nearby Neu-

ville; the perfect ending to two great days of outdoor adventures and a wonderful wedding in historic Quebec.

Read about more exciting Maine biking adventures in my book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine*. Five bike trails and three unique offshore island bike rides are featured.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" is available at [www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco](http://www.northcountrypress.com/maine-al-fresco) or in bookstores and through online distributors. Visit his website at [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net).

## September Maine Home Sales Ease; Prices Up 3.13%

**AUGUSTA, ME (October 20, 2022)**—Home prices may be stabilizing, according to the Maine Association of Realtors. Sales remain strong; Maine Listings today reported a median sales price (MSP) of \$330,000 for the 1,890 single-family existing homes sold in September. The MSP

indicates that half of the homes were sold for more and half sold for less. Comparing September 2022 to September 2021, sales did ease 8.56, through demand for homes resulted in a price increase of 3.13 percent.

"Nearly 1,900 homes were sold during September, the third best September

in the 20 years since we've been keeping records" says Madeleine Hill, 2022 President of the Maine Association of REALTORS® and Designated Broker at Roxanne York Real Estate in Harpswell.

"For-sale inventory had been trending upward, but strong September sales

slowed that momentum," added Hill, "and demand remains active."

The National Association of Realtors reported a 23 percent decline in sales nationally in September 2022 compared to September 2021. The national MSP rose 8.1 percent to \$391,000. Regionally, sales

dipped 18.7 percent and the regional MSP of \$418,500 represents an increase of 8.3 percent comparing September 2022 to September a year ago.

"As we move into the 4th quarter, the silver lining of rising mortgage interest rates and the inflation-driven volatility of financial

markets may be the stabilization of home sales prices," says Hill. After 25 consecutive months of double-digit pricing increases, both August and September 2022 came in with single-digit price appreciation. Overall, REALTORS® across Maine are feeling a leveling in the marketplace."

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# Arts & Entertainment

## The Victorian Ladies Detective Collective at The Public Theatre

**LEWISTON/AUBURN, ME (October 21, 2022)** -- Is Jack the Ripper at it again? It's 1893, and there's a murderer loose in London preying upon single women. Tired of waiting for the men of Scotland Yard to find the murderer, two sisters who run a local boarding home for women decide to take matters into their own hands. Joining forces with a cheeky American actress, these three determined ladies set off to solve the crime themselves.

"It's like a female Sherlock Holmes story", says director Christopher Schario. "Set over 400 years ago, this witty play also cleverly addresses many of the same social issues women today are still facing, making it a tale of murder and mayhem for the modern-day woman."

Leading the investigation to find the murderer

is Loveday Fortescu played by **ROBYNE PARRISH**. Robyne is returning for her 6th production at the Public, (The Revolutionists, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The Book Club Play, Miss Wither-spoon and Rough Crossing) and recently appeared Off-Broadway in the world premiere of Strings Attached as well as in the film A Man Called Otto with Tom Hanks. Playing her sleuthing sister Valeria Hunter is **JOYCE COHEN**.

Public Theatre audiences may recognize Joyce from last season's Middletown, and previously in Humble Boy and The Midvale High School Fiftieth Reunion. Joyce has extensive experience performing on Broadway, in films and was most recently seen Off-Broadway in the World Premiere of This Space Between Us. Playing the cheeky Ameri-



Actresses left to right are: Robyne Parrish, Courtney Thomas, Joyce Cohen

can actress Katie Smalls is **COURTNEY THOMAS**. Courtney has previously appeared at The Public in The Book Club Play as well as Off-Broadway and in re-

gional theatres and is now based in the "other LA". New to Public Theatre audiences from his career in Arizona is **MATHEW ZIMMERER** playing all

the juicy male characters in the show including PC Crane, theatrical producer Warham-Wynn and the meat butcher Toddy.

The set for Victorian

Ladies is designed by Jennifer B. Madigan, lights by Erin Fauble, costumes by Anne Collins and original music and sound design by Scott O'Brien.

The Victorian Ladies Detective Collective will be performed at The Public Theatre, Lewiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre on Fri Nov 4 at 7:30pm, Sat Nov 5 at 7:30, Sun Nov 6 at 2pm, Thurs Nov 10 at 7:30, Fri Nov 11 at 7:30, Sat Nov 12 at 3pm and 7:30 and Sun Nov 13 at 2pm. Tickets are \$25. For reservations call 782-3200 or visit thepublictheatre.org. Location: 31 Maple St, Lewiston. Sponsored by Auburn Manufacturing, Bangor Savings Bank, Warp +Weft and LA Metro Magazine. Season Underwriters: Sun Journal, Platz Associates, Austin Associates, Maine Magazine and Bennett Radio Group.

### The Victorian Ladies' DETECTIVE Collective

by Patricia Milton

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## YWCA Hosts November Lifeguard Certification

**LEWISTON, ME (October 21, 2022)** -- YWCA Central Maine is hosting Lighthouse Health Services to offer the YWCA's final American Red Cross lifeguard certification course of 2022. The course will run from 9am to 5pm on Saturday November 5th, Sunday November 6th, and Saturday November 12th at the YWCA in Lewiston (130 East Avenue). There is an optional swim test practice session on Saturday October 30th.

"The Lewiston-Auburn community and State of Maine continue to face lifeguard shortages. Of course, lifeguards are critical to maintaining safe bodies of water and preventing devastating accidents and drownings, but this is also an economic and workforce development issue. Without lifeguards, pools and beaches can't open," explains Amanda Hatch, Chief Program & Impact Officer at YWCA Central Maine.

The cost of the certification course is \$350, and candidates must be at least 15 years old. Need-based and workforce development scholarships to cover the full costs are available through the YWCA. For more information on course scholarships, email Amanda (ahatch@ywcamaine.org). To sign up for the lifeguard course, visit the Lighthouse Health Services website (lighthouse.training). Deadline for registration is Friday October 28th.

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MICHAEL G.



# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## pages 7-9

### Get Involved with Safe Voices and Make a Difference

You can make a difference. Get involved and help us end domestic violence.

Our organization depends on the goodwill and generosity of our donors, volunteers and community partners. If keeping family, friends, and neighbors safe from domestic violence is something that you care about, we'd love to have you as part of our team. Whether as a donor, event participant, volunteer or more, please contact us to support our mission.

#### Safe Voices and COVID-19

Safe Voices advocates has resumed holding meetings by appointment at our offices in Lewiston, South Paris, Rumford, and Farmington. Please call ahead to set up a time with an advocate.

All our offices are set up for social distancing, and we require guests to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

Other forms of support and advocacy are available

Our Helpline number is 1-800-559-2927.

Support groups have moved online. To get connected, please call our Helpline and ask to speak with an advocate.

Community partners looking to connect about meetings, trainings, or events are encouraged to call or email staff and may also contact us at [info@safevoices.org](mailto:info@safevoices.org).

#### How to Help

We are committed to supporting survivors through this difficult period, and we recognize that social distancing is challenging in many ways. For people affected by domestic violence and sex traf-

ficking, social distancing and staying at home may result in more prolonged contact with an abusive partner. It may also be more difficult to access resources and make plans for safety.

Below is a list of our most immediate needs and opportunities to assist survivors. For any other inquiries, please contact Emily Mitchell, Development Operations Coordinator, at [emitchell@safevoices.org](mailto:emitchell@safevoices.org).

**Monetary Gifts:** Giving online is the most immediate and safe way to help. Donations can be made at [www.safevoices.org/donate](http://www.safevoices.org/donate). We are still accepting donations by mail, as well: Safe Voices, PO Box 713, Auburn, ME 04212.

**Gift Cards:** Gift cards to Hannaford and Wal-Mart, or gas cards, are portable and can be given to survivors fleeing an abusive situation. Mail to Safe Voices, PO Box 713, Auburn, ME 04212.

**In-Kind Gifts:** Due to concerns about transmission of the virus, we are limiting in-kind donations at this time. However, we encourage you to visit our Amazon Smile wish list, where your purchase can be shipped directly to one of our sites. As people move out of our shelter, we have an immediate need for towels and household items, such as pots and pans, coffee makers, dish sets, and utensils.

**Volunteer:** We are looking for Helpline volunteers to assist with our 24-hour service. All trainings will be 100% online until further notice. Contact Alyssa Coyne, volunteer and intern coordinator, at [acoayne@safevoices.org](mailto:acoayne@safevoices.org).

**Get Informed:** Join our mailing list to get the

latest on the work to end domestic violence and sex trafficking locally and across Maine.

#### Internships

Interns are a valued part of the Safe Voices team, and we are proud to offer internship opportunities across all our programs and catchment areas. Read on to learn more about available internship positions and our application process.

Visit <https://safevoices.org/get-involved/internships> for our Internship Prospectus

#### Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for an internship at Safe Voices:

- Must be a current student enrolled at an accredited college or university

- Must be willing to complete Safe Voices' CAIRET\* training or equivalent orientation process

- Must agree to undergo a criminal and Department of Health and Human Services background check

- We accept interns for fall and spring semesters as well as summers and the full academic year.

- While many of our interns come from social work, mental health or other human services programs, we welcome and offer opportunities for all majors/courses of study.

- \*Interns will be required to complete Safe Voices' 50+ hour training known as CAIRET: Comprehensive Advocacy, Intervention Response and Ethics Training. This training equips volunteers to provide advocacy and support to callers on our 24-hour Helpline. All material is approached with a social

justice lens that emphasizes empowerment, collaboration, and inclusion.

Annual CAIRET Offerings: Winter - Begins in January; Spring - Begins in March; Summer - Begins in June; Fall - Begins in September.

Available Internship Opportunities: Civil & Criminal Court Advocacy; Helpline Advocate; Nonprofit Operations; Safe House Counselor Clinician; Shelter Advocate; Violence Intervention Program; Development & Engagement.

#### Application Process and Deadlines

All internship candidates must submit the Safe Voices Internship Application form as well as a resume, brief cover letter, and at least two references. Visit <https://safevoices.org/get-involved/internships> to access the internship application.

Completed application packages may be sent to Alyssa Coyne, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator, [acoayne@safevoices.org](mailto:acoayne@safevoices.org).

We often have more internship applications than we can accommodate. To ensure your application receives full consideration, please adhere to the following application deadlines.\*

- Fall Semester/Academic Year: June 1

- Spring Semester: November 1

- Summer/Fall Semester: April 1

Safe Voices will review all eligible applicants and invite top candidates for in-person or phone interviews before making their selections.

\*Applications received after these deadlines will be considered on a case-by-case basis dependent on program openings and capacity.

A Note About Independent Studies

With their time and skills, Independent Study students add value to our

work by allowing us to pursue projects that are worthy but often under-resourced.

We will consider a limited number of Independent Study projects where there is a clear, mutual benefit to the student and to Safe Voices. Students seeking an Independent Study are asked to complete the same application process outlined for interns. When submitting an application, please specify that this is an Independent Study project, providing as much detail about your availability and program requirements as possible.

#### Task Forces

Safe Voices facilitates several task forces to engage community stakeholders in addressing domestic violence and related issues.

Androscoggin Domestic Violence Task Force meets quarterly in Auburn. Contact [kglidden@safevoices.org](mailto:kglidden@safevoices.org) for more information.

Androscoggin Elder Abuse Task Force meets monthly in Lewiston. Contact [kglidden@safevoices.org](mailto:kglidden@safevoices.org) for more information.

Oxford County Domestic Violence Task Force meets monthly, alternating between Norway

and Mexico. Contact [dgalagher@safevoices.org](mailto:dgalagher@safevoices.org) for more information.

Franklin County Domestic Violence Task Force meets every other month in Farmington. Contact [hhooke@safevoices.org](mailto:hhooke@safevoices.org) for more information.

#### Volunteer

It was a group of volunteers who founded Safe Voices (then the Abused Women's Advocacy Project) in 1977. And it is volunteers who make our work possible today.

Volunteers: Complete your monthly timesheet online

We are proud of and grateful for the work volunteers do to advance our mission and the work to end domestic violence.

Safe Voices seeks volunteers to cover shifts on our 24-hour Helpline. This is the only volunteer position being offered at this time.

Helpline volunteers are there to listen and support individuals experiencing or affected by domestic violence. The Helpline is often the first point of contact a victim or survivor has with our services. Volunteers are trained by Safe

See *Safe Voices*, page 8

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# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## pages 7-9

### Safe Voices

*Continued from page 7*

Voice staff to provide advocacy and empower others.

#### The Training

All prospective volunteers will be required to complete Safe Voices' advocacy training known as CAIRET: Comprehensive Advocacy, Intervention Response and Ethics Training. This training equips volunteers with the necessary skills to support callers on our 24-hour Helpline.

All material is approached with a social justice lens that emphasizes empowerment, collaboration, and inclusion. The CAIRET is offered throughout the year, with exact dates being released at least four weeks before training starts.

#### Getting Started

Complete an application at <https://safevoices.org/get-involved/volunteer>

Qualified volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, attend all scheduled trainings, and pass criminal and DHHS background checks.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send your completed application and background check consent forms to Alyssa Coyne, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator, [acoyn@safevoices.org](mailto:acoyn@safevoices.org).

You will be contacted for an interview prior to the start of the next CAIRET.

#### Events

Fall Mixer & Community Partner Awards - Bates Mill Atrium, 36 Chestnut St.

October 20, 2022 | Androscoggin County

Our annual reception celebrated the people who make our work possible. This event featured a carnival theme for 2022, complimentary drinks, and light food service.

Feed-A-Family/ Adopt-A-Family

Fall & Winter | Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin counties

Our annual Thanksgiving and holiday gift programs that match community donors with families experiencing domestic abuse and violence during the holidays.

Link: Sign up online to become a donor.

Safe Voices 5K/10K to End Domestic Violence Summer | Lewiston

Join us for a fun-filled day as we raise funds to support Safe Voices' mission: to support and empower those affected by Domestic Violence and engage the community in creating social change in Androscoggin, Oxford, and Franklin counties.

Interested in sponsoring one of our events? Please contact: Grace Kendall, Director of Development and Engagement, at 207-795-6744 ex. 214 or [gkendall@safevoices.org](mailto:gkendall@safevoices.org).

#### Wish List

NOTICE: Due to our recent administrative move and rising COVID-19 cases, Safe Voices will be accepting a very limited number of items. Please contact us if you have items you would like to donate by calling 207-795-6744 or emailing [emitchell@safevoices.org](mailto:emitchell@safevoices.org). In the meantime, we continue to accept donations

from our Amazon wish lists (linked below) and monetary donations:

1. Make a tax-deductible, unrestricted gift through our website at [www.safevoices.org/donate](http://www.safevoices.org/donate) or by mailing a contribution to PO Box 713, Auburn, ME 04212.

2. Visit our Amazon wish lists (below) and have items delivered directly to our sites.

3. Donate gift cards to Hannaford, Wal-Mart, and area gas stations in various amounts (most common are \$10 - \$50). Staff are able to give these cards directly to survivors in order to help them meet the immediate needs in their lives.

Our Year Round Amazon Wish List

Recurring Needs: Winter clothing/outerwear (all sizes); new underwear and bras (all sizes); baby monitors; diapers and wipes -- all sizes; laundry soap; fabric softener; bleach; silverware/dishes/cups; towels; pillows; mattress and pillow covers; full size toiletries (ex shampoo/condition, soap, body wash);

new socks; hair elastics and bobby pins

Additional Needs: small household appliances; pots and pans; coffee and sugar; bakeware.

Disclaimer: We have limited capacity and ask that donors call ahead before bringing items (207-795-6744). Donations that we ultimately cannot use may be donated to another nonprofit. We cannot pick up items from residences.

Things we do not accept include: Soiled or unwashed clothing; broken or rusted items; opened/used hygiene items and cosmetics; used stuffed animals; perishable food items; fabric furniture; car seats

#### Employment

See <https://safevoices.org/get-involved/employment> for our latest postings.

#### Donate

Be an Advocacy Ally and make an impact with monthly giving

At Safe Voices, we believe all people deserve to be treated with dignity. It is the foundation for everything we do. Join us as we support survivors and build a future that is more compassionate, where every person feels empowered and valued. Make your gift today.

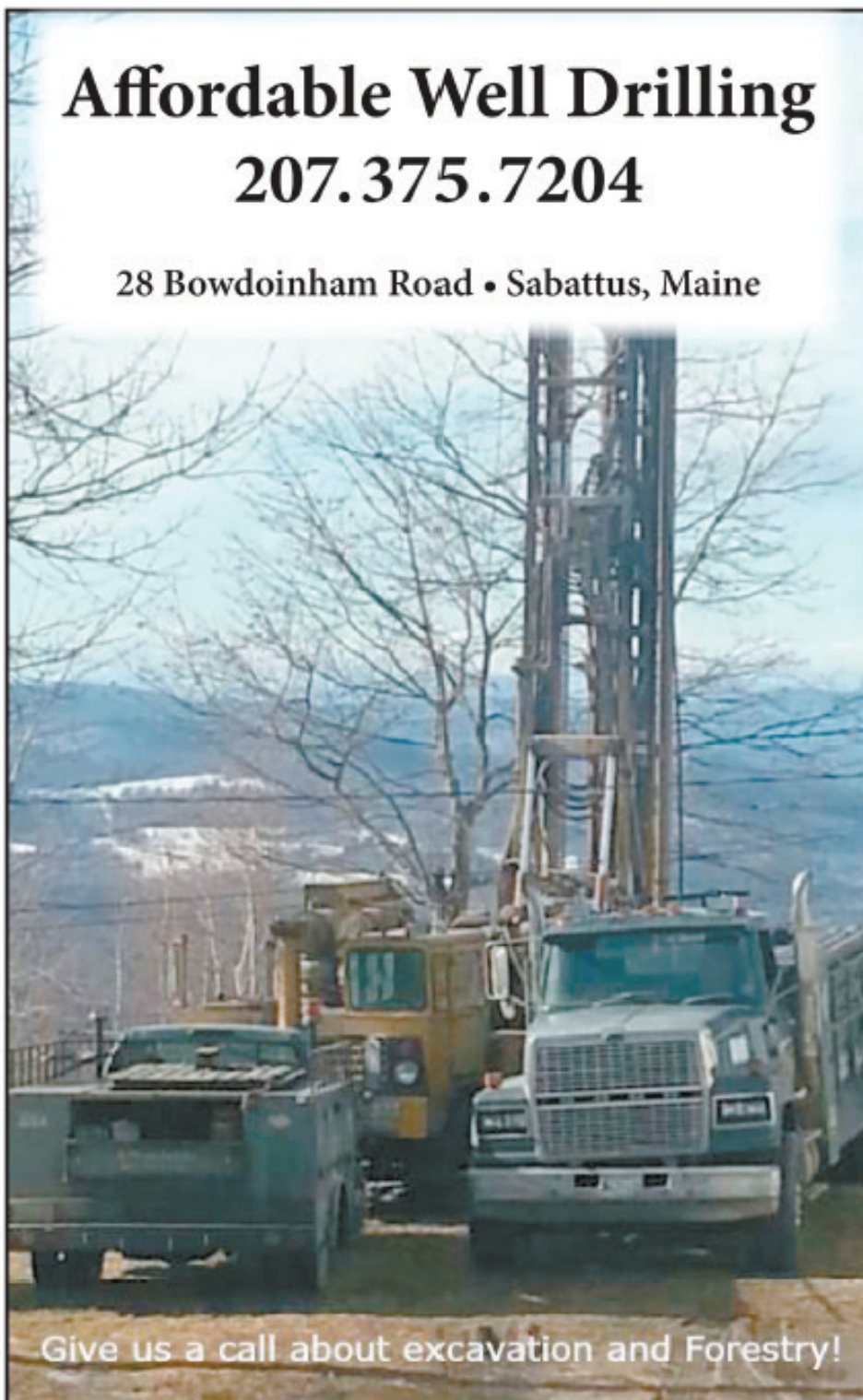
Monthly donations make giving affordable and budgetable, and it adds up to gifts that make a big impact for Safe Voices and the survivors we work with.

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# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## pages 7-9

### MCEDV: Support the Liberation Fund and Invest in Freedom

Nearly all domestic violence survivors experience economic abuse, which creates a barrier to separating from the person abusing them.

“  
*The Liberation Fund has been essential in helping survivors with a variety of crucial expenses they could not otherwise afford while seeking escape from domestic violence.*  
 -Domestic Violence Advocate



**By The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence**

**(September 30, 2022)** -- This October, as part of Domestic Violence Action Month (DVAM), we are highlighting the Liberation Fund, which was established in 2020 to provide survivors with immediate access to services and resources that will help them establish a life free from abuse. This is our only funding source that can be used directly to support survivors, and with the flexibility to meet each survivor’s unique needs.

Many survivors who leave an abusive partner do so without the basic necessities that will allow them to provide for themselves and their children, such as clothing, food, and personal documents. Starting over can be further complicated when a survivor does not have furniture, appliances, or other items that help make a new house become a home. The Liberation Fund provides for these personal needs, offering survivors and their children with immediate relief and support.

Survivors who benefit from the Liberation Fund also receive a comprehensive array of support and resources through Maine’s Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs). DVRC advocates work closely with survivors to develop safety plans and

reduce barriers that stand in the way of achieving safety. The Liberation Fund complements these services, enabling advocates to help in immediate and practical ways. This can be a key component of a sur-

vivor’s ability to enact their safety plan and establish freedom. Since 2020, more than 800 survivors across Maine have benefited from the Liberation Fund.

The Liberation Fund helps survivors by:

Purchasing used furniture and household items for a survivor who moved from homelessness into permanent housing after working with a DVRC for over a year to navigate housing options. This survivor had to start over completely after leaving all her belongings behind when she fled abuse.

Resolving credit issues for a survivor whose abuser did not pay the utility bills when she fled abuse, causing her credit

rating to plummet.

Purchasing a grocery gift card for a survivor whose abuser had cut their access to the bank accounts.

Helping a survivor with diapers, formula, and clothing for her baby and some personal hygiene items and clothing for her after she had to leave her home without any belongings.

Covering legal fees to help a survivor retain an attorney throughout her divorce process.

“Receiving funding for a vehicle has been a gift of freedom. Being able to choose where I live, work, and travel freely will help with my independence, personal growth, and a

brighter future without fear of being under an abuser’s control.” – Liberation Fund recipient

We invite you to make a difference to survivors of domestic abuse and their children by contributing to the Liberation Fund today. Every dollar we receive will be used to connect survivors to resources and services that will remove barriers standing in the way of establishing independence and a future free from violence. On average, survivors who access the Liberation Fund ask for help to overcome obstacles that cost less than \$500 to resolve. By donating to the Liberation Fund, you can make an immediate difference, and no

amount is too small to help change a life.

Visit <https://www.mcedv.org/domestic-violence-action-month-support-the-liberation-fund-invest-in-freedom/> to donate online (be sure to specify Liberation Fund), or you can send a check to: Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Attn: Liberation Fund, PO Box 5188, Augusta, ME 04332-5188. Contact us with any questions.

“Thank you for the funds that made this possible. It makes such a difference to families to have the things they need to live with dignity and comfort and to experience the kindness and care of others.” – DVRC advocate



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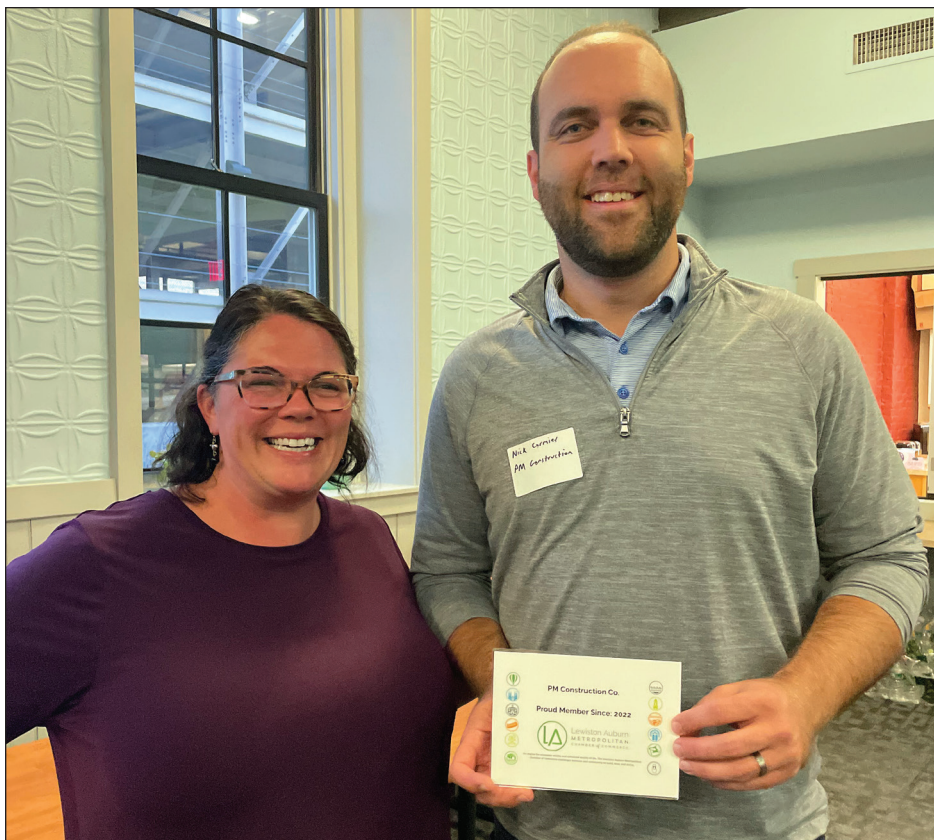


# Lajoie wins door prize at Chamber Happy Hour last week in Lewiston



The LA Metro Chamber of Commerce held a drawing for a door prize at their monthly happy last Thursday at their offices on Lisbon Street in Lewiston. Elbert Johnson of LA Metro Chamber presented Nicole Lajoie of Champoux Insurance tickets to Public Theatre. TCT photo by Laurie Steele.

# PM Construction joins chamber



Shanna Cox, president of LA Metro Chamber of Commerce welcomes Nick Cormier of PM Construction Co. to the chamber at the after hours held last Thursday at the chamber offices on Lisbon Street in Lewiston. TCT photo by Laurie Steele.

# DHHS Issues \$25M to ME Hospitals for COVID-19 Recovery

**AUGUSTA, ME (October 20, 2022)**—The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced today that it has issued \$25 million to Maine hospitals in the latest round of funding to support their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and address ongoing challenges such as workforce recruitment and retention.

Governor Mills proposed the one-time MaineCare payments as part of her FY22 supplemental budget which the Legislature passed with bipartisan support. DHHS issued the payments to Maine hospitals on Wednesday to help them address pandemic-related costs, building on the Mills Administration's significant financial support for hospitals.

"This funding will help Maine hospitals continue to recover from the pandemic while providing the high-quality care that Maine people count on," said DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. "The payments recognize hospitals' extra work during the COVID-19 pandemic when hospitalizations surged as well as Governor Mills' commitment to rebuilding and expanding Maine's health care workforce to ensure access to hospital care for all Maine people."

Hospitals received payments from the \$25 million proportional to their

pre-pandemic MaineCare revenue.

With this week's payment, the Department has directed over \$75 million in COVID-19 supplemental payments to Maine hospitals throughout the pandemic. Additionally, the federal government has directly made funding available to Maine hospitals, for a total of over \$600 million. This includes:

From 2020 to 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Provider Relief Fund directly provided approximately \$530 million directly to Maine providers.

In 2020, DHHS provided an immediate infusion of funding to hospitals totaling \$10 million.

In December 2020, the Mills Administration established the Maine Health Care Financial Relief Grant Program and awarded \$2.2 million to hospitals.

In August 2021, the Mills Administration awarded Maine hospitals \$12.5 million which, like the Relief Grants, was funded from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

In 2020 and 2021, DHHS passed through new federal grant funding to hospitals, including the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) grants totaling \$6.2 million.

The Mills Administration has also provided operational and workforce to support to Maine hospitals

in response to the pandemic, including:

In 2021 and 2022, deploying a total of 230 members of the Maine National Guard to help maintain critical care during COVID-19 surges, such as by administering monoclonal antibody treatments, caring for people convalescing from COVID-19 in special units, and providing nutrition and other supports for hospital staff.

In 2021 and 2022, securing Federal clinical staff to complement the non-clinical work of the Maine National Guard in hospitals.

From 2020 to 2022, mobilizing the Maine Responds Emergency Health Volunteer System that organizes health care, public health, and volunteers to respond to emergency situations and engaging 50 clinicians to serve in hospitals during surges to help administer therapeutic treatments for COVID-19

Starting in 2021, providing flexibility for acute-care hospitals to use Critical Access Hospitals to alleviate capacity constraints.

Starting in 2021, the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan has started investing \$20 million in health care workforce initiatives such as supporting hospital-based training programs, a loan repayment program for physicians, and numerous initiatives to train more nurses.



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# Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home to Host Halloween Party

**RAYMOND, ME (October 17, 2022)** – Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond—now involved in Phase 2 of its fundraising effort to repair, upgrade, and sustain the historic house—will hold a fun-filled Halloween party on Saturday, October 29, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., featuring music, dancing,

contests, and valuable prizes. The beloved "Hawthorne House" is located at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond. Admission to the Halloween party is FREE, with fundraising donations greatly appreciated. Costumes are encouraged and the event is BYOB. Those wishing to attend are asked to please register in

advance by emailing Hawthorne@maine.rr.com or by going online to <https://hawthorneassoc.com/halloween-party-2022/>

Phase 2 Fundraising Effort

To donate to Phase 2 of the effort to fully repair Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home, please consider a much-appre-

ciated check payable to "Hawthorne Community Association" / PO Box 185 / South Casco, ME 04077. PayPal and credit card donations may be made online at: <https://www.hawthorneassoc.com>.

For more information, please contact Abel Bates at (207) 318-7131 or [jbates4@maine.rr.com](mailto:jbates4@maine.rr.com).



Image courtesy of Hawthorne Community Association.

# PHC Presents Spooktacular Séance Murder Mystery

**BRUNSWICK, ME (October 13, 2022)** -- Who killed Roger Stewart? Maybe it was you! Those two lines capture the intrigue of a new Seance Murder Mystery program hosted by Pejepsco History Center (PHC) October 27-29 in its 19th century mansion, the Skolfield-Whittier House Museum. Running for three sessions each evening, at 4PM, 5:30, and 7PM, the hour-long program begins in the formal dining room with canapes and cocktails. Participants then move throughout the rooms of the house to search for clues to who did the dirty deed.

This event follows PHC's 2021 sell-out Live CLUE game in the Victorian house. "The clear feedback from that event was 'Do it again!'" says PHC director, Larissa Vigue Picard. "We thought it would be fun to change it up this year and kill off a real historical character—and a real scoundrel—involving actual Skolfield-Whittier family members as potential culprits. But the story is entirely fictitious."

Seatings are limited to 13 guests each who assume a character in the mystery. Following the seance, participants look for



clues throughout the rooms of the mansion to eliminate fellow suspects and find the murderer of Roger Stewart. One of the participants will be murderer.

An actual business associate of Alfred Skolfield, the home's patriarch shipbuilder and ship captain, Roger Stewart was indeed a scoundrel: a slave owner from Mobile, Alabama. Pejepsco History Center has focused research over the past couple of years—including a college intern over the summer—to uncover the family's ties in

the first generation to the 19th century slave economy, and how those connections resulted in their wealth and status.

Tickets for the 21+ event are \$25 for PHC members and \$30 general admission. Participants can also purchase raffle tickets to vie for one of two "Basket of Spirits"—one of top-shelf liquors and one of fancy non-alcoholic mocktail components—donated by the PHC board.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five. For more information and online tickets, visit <https://pejepscohistorical.org/special-events>.

## West Auburn Congregational Church to Hold Public Supper



**Public Supper** – Come join us for dinner or take yours to go. Ham or Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Macaroni and Cheese, Rolls, Coffee, Water and Dessert. Location: West Auburn Congregational Church. Time: 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Date: Saturday November 12.

### What do you think?

We strongly encourage Letters to the Editor, Op/Eds, columns or any other submissions from our readers.

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Email all submissions, including name, address and phone number, to the editor.



Navigating icy driveways and walkways can be challenging, especially for seniors. For seniors who are housebound or cannot lift heavy 5-gallon buckets of sand, which weigh about 50 pounds, lifting those buckets is nearly impossible.

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- Order by November 11, 2022.
- Until supplies last.
- Seniors are encouraged to keep bucket until next year.

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# Fall Enrollment Up 12% at Maine's Community Colleges

**AUGUSTA, ME (October 19, 2022)** — Fall enrollment is up 12 percent at Maine's community colleges, boosted by a new Free College Scholarship aimed at re-engaging people whose high school experience was severely disrupted by COVID.

"This is great news because Maine needs people with skills and education that our community colleges deliver. Free College has really opened the door for so many people who may not have otherwise pursued their interests and dreams," said David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS).

Total headcount this fall is 16,791 students, up from 15,004 students last year, according to the official tally on October 15. First-time student enrollment is up 28 percent from last year.

Slightly more than a third of this year's fall class (5,574 students) are eligible for the Free College Scholarship because they graduated from high school or earned a Hi-SET diploma in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

"The large number of high school graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 really shows how the Free College Scholarship accomplished what it set out to do — draw in students who paused their education or maybe decided they weren't going to pursue

college in the midst of the pandemic," Daigler said.

Of the Free College-eligible students, 2,481 are from the Class of 2022; 1,821 are from 2021; and 1,272 are from 2020.

"A deeper look at those Free College students reveals that 1,232 students graduated in 2020 and 2021 but had never enrolled in college before. That's huge" Daigler continued.

High school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 all qualify for a Free College Scholarship that pays 100% of tuition and mandatory fees after grant aid has been applied. The Free College Scholarship was proposed by Governor Janet Mills and enacted by the Legislature in the state's most recent supplemental budget.

Current high school seniors are the last graduating class to qualify for Free College scholarships, unless the program is extended in the next legislative session. Students must pursue a two-year degree or one-year certificate full-time, live in Maine while enrolled, and stay on track for graduating on time.

"This is outstanding news for the state of Maine and for our future. I am thrilled that thousands of recent high school graduates are taking advantage of the opportunity to receive a free college education," Governor Janet Mills said.

College	Fall Headcount		
	2021	2022	% Change
Central Maine Community College	3,003	3,375	12%
Eastern Maine Community College	2,076	2,376	14%
Kennebec Valley Community College	2,108	2,119	0.5%
Northern Maine Community College	596	783	31%
Southern Maine Community College	5,435	6,007	11%
Washington County Community College	405	505	25%
York County Community College	1,381	1,626	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,004</b>	<b>16,791</b>	<b>12%</b>

"These students will enter Maine's workforce with a good-paying and in-demand job that will not only help address our state's workforce challenge, but also put them on a path to a meaningful career so they can live and raise a family here in Maine. My Administration will continue to work with our community college system to make college more affordable for every student in the State of Maine."

Other factors that contributed to higher enrollment this fall include: expanding high-demand nursing programs; adding new, high-demand, one-year certificate and two-year degree programs; increasing outreach to high schools and adult learning centers; adding staff in admissions and advising; boosting marketing; and participating in more community and business events. The colleges also launched a new "Return, Resume, Reward" program forgiving up to \$2,000 in

past debt to returning students.

"We don't want to be the best-kept secret in Maine," Daigler said. "We've been doing everything we can to get the word out about the terrific programs and opportunities we offer. It's relevant, it's a bargain, we bring education to rural and remote corners of the state, and we are truly committed to our students' success."

In addition to a double-digit increase in headcount and new students, the system has a 17 percent increase in credit hours, meaning more students are taking more classes. Four community colleges have more than 20 percent increase in credit hours.

"That's good news for students," said Janet Sortor, MCCS vice president and chief academic officer. "Studies show that students have a much higher success rate if they enroll full-time."

Daigler noted that there's a major financial

component to be considered as well. "We know our students come from lower income households. A scholarship covering \$3,700 in tuition and mandatory fees may not sound like a lot of money, but it represents an incredible opportunity for our students," Daigler said. "Removing that financial barrier, paired with our commitment to helping them succeed, is a huge step towards helping more Mainers get the education they need for better paying jobs that are in high demand in the current economy."

The gender breakdown of this fall's Free College-eligible students also points to the scholarship attracting entirely new populations who would not otherwise have gone to college. Among the Free College-eligible students this fall, men and women are about equally split 50-50. For years, before the pandemic, the gender balance was roughly 60-40, with

more women than men enrolled at Maine's community colleges, a trend seen nationwide. Re-engaging men in post-secondary education is a major educational policy goal that is needed to build our economy.

Fall enrollment figures do not include students enrolled in non-credit courses, including short-term job training programs offered at all seven colleges as part of the MCCS' Alford Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce. Short-term workforce training has also been growing exponentially in recent years.

In total, MCCS serves more than 29,000 people a year through a broad range of two-year degree programs, one-year certificate programs, advanced certificates, continuing education, and short-term workforce training courses that take between a few weeks and less than a year to complete.

The Free College Scholarship is funded with a one-time \$20 million state allocation. The expansion of short-term training programs is funded through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan and a grant from the Harold Alford Foundation.

The average cost of tuition and mandatory fees at Maine's community colleges is \$3,700 a year, the lowest in New England.

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Awards \$5.9M in Grants

**MAINE (October 20, 2022)** — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding more than \$5.9 million to federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native Tribes to benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Tribal Wildlife Grants Program helps to fulfill federal trust responsibilities and achieve tribal sovereignty by expanding Tribes' natu-

ral resource capacity. This year's funding will support 33 Tribes in conservation projects across 16 states, benefiting a wide range of wildlife and habitat, including species of cultural or traditional importance to Indigenous communities.

"Our success in achieving shared conservation goals depends on our relationships, knowledge-sharing and co-stew-

ardship with federally recognized Tribes," said Service Director Martha Williams. "By respecting and supporting Tribal interests and needs, we can improve and enhance fish, wildlife, and natural and cultural resources for the benefit of all — a main pillar of the America the Beautiful initiative."

The Biden-Harris administration's America the Beautiful initiative is a lo-

cally led, voluntary conservation and restoration effort that aims to address the nature and climate crises, improve equitable access to the outdoors and strengthen the economy. This effort calls upon local, state, and federal leaders to honor Tribal sovereignty and support the priorities of Tribal nations when making decisions related to sustainable land management and the conservation of natural, cultural and historical resources.

The Service recognizes the need for strong, healthy communication and relationships with Tribal governments and communities so we can work together to improve and enhance our conservation mission. Since its inception in 2003, including this year's grants, the competitive Tribal Wildlife Grants Program has awarded more than \$111.6 million to Native American and Alaska Native Tribes, providing support for 626 conservation projects.

The grants have enabled Tribes to develop increased management capacity, improve and enhance relationships with conservation state partners, address

cultural and environmental priorities, and help train the next generation of conservationists by engaging Tribal students interested in fisheries, wildlife and related fields of study. Some grants have been awarded to support recovery efforts for federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Projects approved this year include:

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program: Phase VI - Continuing Instream Restoration) - \$116,698 to improve opportunities for sustenance fishing by improving fish habitat along the Meduxnekeag River and increase awareness of watershed restoration. This grant builds on previous funding for the project.

Passamaquoddy - Indian Township Tribal Government (Build and Maintaining 10 Water Control Devices "Beaver Deceivers" on Passamaquoddy Reservation and Trust Lands) -\$63,770 to construct 10 water control devices installed at critical road crossings on Passamaquoddy Reservation and

Trust Lands. This grant will engage Passamaquoddy Tribe youth in this project while educating the public on the importance of beavers to our ecosystem and the Passamaquoddy culture.

The grants are provided exclusively to federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native Tribal governments and are made possible under the Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002 through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. To learn more about the grant program and application process, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>.

For additional information about the Service's Native American Programs, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and connect with us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube.



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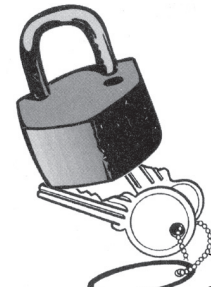
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**Tuesdays**

LEWISTON – Baby Storytime held on Tuesdays, starting September 6th at 10:15am. Enjoy an interactive storytime with your baby that includes early literacy fun with books, songs, rhymes and body movement. Recommended for children ages 0 – 24 months old and their caregivers. Play and social time immediately follow the program. Siblings are always welcome. Please stay home if you or your child are sick and not feeling well.

Free. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

**Wednesdays**

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.

**September 20 – December**

LEWISTON -- 3rd Tuesdays from September-December 2022, 3-5pm at the Lewiston Public Library: MAINE-TRANSNET TEEN TABLETOP TUESDAYS

This fall, LPL Teen and MaineTransNet Youth are joining up to host monthly tabletop role-playing sessions, on the 3rd Tuesday from 3-5pm in person in the LPL teen space. All supplies will be provided and no previous RPG experience is re-

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

quired – just bring yourself and your creative mind!

This program is open to teens ages 13-19.

For more information, contact the Lewiston Public Library Adult & Teen Services Department at 513-3135 or LPLReference@lewistonmaine.gov. www.LPLonline.org

**October 1 – October 31**

LEWISTON -- TEEN MANGA CONTEST at LPL: Lewiston Public Library's Teen space is holding a manga drawing contest this fall. Submissions to the Teen Manga Contest can be made online via google form or in-person at the library's 2nd floor Reference Desk from October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. Art will be displayed in the LPL teen space and shared on library social media for voting from November 9, 2022 through November 23, 2022. Two winners will receive a pack of manga-making supplies as a prize. Contact the Adult & Teen Services Department at lpreference@lewistonmaine.gov or 513-3135 for more information; www.LPLonline.org

**October 8 – November 13**

BOOTHBAY -- Boothbay Region Art Foundation's 15th annual juried exhibition, Art in

Maine, will be held at the foundation gallery Oct. 8 through Nov. 13. Art in Maine's exhibit presents a fresh and selective look at the fine art being created by Maine artists today, showcasing originality in the media of painting, drawing and sculpture. The opening reception is Saturday, Oct. 8 from 5-7 p.m.; over \$1,000 dollars in prizes will be awarded.

The prospectus and other details can be found on the gallery's website: www.boothbayartists.org.

Works will be juried by artist Kathleen Galligan who is represented by Portland Maine's Greenhut Gallery and Littlefield Gallery in Winterport.

**October 27**

LEWISTON -- The Lewiston Public Library will be holding a Throwback Thursday Movie Matinee event on Thursday, October 27, 2022 from 4 to 6pm in Callahan Hall. This is a free event open to all age groups will take place in Callahan Hall at the Lewiston Public Library Contact info. 513-3135; www.LPLonline.org

**October 29**

LEWISTON -- The Midcoast Symphony Orchestra presents "Season Opener" with conductor Rohan Smith and special guest artist Chiharu Naruse from Bates College. Oct 29

at 7:00 p.m. at The Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston. For info and tickets visit <https://www.midcoastsymphony.org/tickets> or call 207-481-0790. Tickets \$24.50 (advance) \$25 (cash or check) at the door. Under 18 and college students with ID are free.

**October 29**

BUXTON -- Bar Mills Community Church will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 29 at 5:30pm. Come in costume for fun and candy! How sweet is that! - 13 Hermit Thrush, Buxton.

**October 29**

Buxton -- Haddock Supper Buffet - Saturday, October 29 2022 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$8 Adult, \$4 Child, \$20 Family.

Please note: We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating. Wearing of face masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

**November 3; November 17**

LEWISTON -- Maine's first & only Backgammon club is looking for new members! Meetings October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17; 6pm - 8pm at Obscura Cafe & Drinkery, 108 Lisbon St. Lewiston

**November 5**

MINOT -- Come to the Holiday Fair at Minot Corner United Methodist Church, Rt. 121 Corner of Minot Ave. & Empire Rd. 9 a.m. Until 1 p.m. Homemade Baked Goods, Candy and Fudge Table, Crafts, Soaps, Old Fashioned Cabot Extra Sharp Cheddar Cheese, Jams & Jellies, Pickles and More. Takeout Luncheon Available at 9:00 a.m. Silent Auction Table with great Christmas Gifts.

**November 5**

LEWISTON -- The Ladies of Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International are bringing back

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their annual Teddy Bear Fair on November 5th from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Lewiston High School gym. The Ladies of Mu are all Educators, active and retired, from the Lewiston/Auburn area. Money generated by our Fair goes to scholarships, one for a graduating senior from one of the high schools in the Twin Cities and surrounding communities, who plans to go into education; the other goes to a DKG Member who is working on an advanced degree. The Fair includes raffles, baked goods, harvest items, books, and a variety of crafts!

**November 5**

GORHAM -- Public Bean Supper White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham. Saturday, Nov 5, 4:30-6:00pm

We are back inside! Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney & pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. Wearing of masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested.

\$10 adults, \$5 under 12 Follow us on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub

**November 7**

AUBURN -- The Auburn Art Club will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7 at the Park Avenue Methodist Church in Auburn. The program for this month will be our annual scholarship auction with auctioneer Mary Ann Norcross providing great fun. Members are urged to bring items to be

auctioned. It is suggested that members arrive early so that they can view displayed items. Hostesses for this meeting are Jean Pacheco, Lucky DiBello, and Bonnie Ross.

**November 12**

AUBURN -- West Auburn Congregational Church at Public Supper. Come join us for dinner or take yours to go. Ham or Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Macaroni and Cheese, Rolls, Coffee, Water and Dessert. Time: 4:30 to 6:00 pm; Date: Saturday November 12.

**November 16**

AUBURN -- JobsInME is hosting a Career Fair at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn, on November 16, 2022 from 3-6 PM. ME Career Fairs are back by popular demand — live and in person! JobsInME, a leading resource for Maine employment advertising, is proud to present the ME Career Fair! For more than 20 years we've provided job seekers with real, quality jobs online. And, with our popular ME Career Fairs, we also bring you the opportunity to meet face-to-face with recruiters from some of the best companies in Maine. Job seekers, pre-register now at [www.mecareerfairs.com/](http://www.mecareerfairs.com/) and be entered to win a \$100 Visa gift card upon check-in at the event. It's fast and free — plus you'll avoid registration lines at the door! Employers, if you are interested in registering as an exhibitor, contact our sales team at 877-374-1088 or email [sales@jobsinme.com](mailto:sales@jobsinme.com)

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## CONCERT

South Parish Church State Street Augusta, Sunday, November 6, 3:00 p.m. Schubert Rosamunde Overture Tchaikovsky Rococo variations soloist Hyun-Ji Kwon, Bizet Symphony in C. Conductor Jinwook Park. Free admission. Donations accepted.

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### LEWISTON SENIOR CITIZENS TRIPS FOR 2022 White Mountain Hotel & Resort - December 4 - 5, 2022

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### Spotlight on San Antonio, Texas - April 2-6, 2023

Trip includes 5 days, 4 nights lodging, 3

breakfasts and 2 dinners, visit to two UNESCO world heritage sites, visit to the Mission San Jose, visit to the ALAMO, boat ride along the Paseo del Rio known as the River Walk, National Museum of the Pacific War and so much more.

### Reflections of Italy - October 9 - 18, 2023

Trip includes 10 days, 9 nights lodging, and 12 meals, including Rome, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Assisi, Perugia, Cortona, Florence, Michelangelo's DAVID, Chianti Winery & Cooking Class, Venice, St. Mark's square, boat ride to Murano Island, Milan and much more.

### Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk - May 22 - 27, 2023

Trip includes 5 nights lodging and 8 meals, guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg, narrated

Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus & Battleship Wisconsin, visit to Mariner's Museum and Park, admission to Virginia Beach Aquarium & Marine Science Center and free time on Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. A \$75 deposit pp is due when signing up. Price is \$809 pp double occupancy and includes bus driver's tip.

For more information on any of our trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau (207)784-0302 or Cindy Boyd (207)345-9569.

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

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# UMaine Extension 4-H Offers Expanded Options



Image courtesy of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

**ORONO, ME (October 20, 2022)** — University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will be piloting a new club specifically for independent 4-H members. The new Independent 4-H Clubs are an opportunity for individuals

to come together, virtually or in-person, and build relationships with their peers. They will share interests, projects, goals, plans for the year and reflections at the end of the year. This will be a space for youth to foster friendships and

collaborate on projects of similar interests.

Independent 4-H'ers are registered with their county organizations, but they don't belong to a specific club. Instead, they work on their own to develop a project around a topic of their choosing. The new Independent 4-H Clubs will be a way for these individuals to make connections with other youth in their counties or in the state, learn from other projects and gain additional support and guidance.

The Independent 4-H Clubs will hold two to three meetings annually. Meetings will be held in Oxford, Franklin, Hancock, Waldo and Androscoggin/Sagadahoc counties. In addition, UMaine Extension 4-H will also host virtual statewide meetings. These meetings are open to all ages. For information about specific meeting dates and to register, visit the event webpage. For more information or to request reasonable accommodation, contact Tara Marble, 207.778.4650; tara.marble@maine.edu.

# Alexander Mihalov Joins Skelton Taintor & Abbott

**LEWISTON, ME (October 17, 2022)** — The law firm of Skelton Taintor & Abbott announced that Alexander Mihalov has joined the firm as an associate attorney. Mihalov graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 2020 and Virginia Tech in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in geology. He was admitted to practice in all Maine state courts in 2020 and to the United States District Court, District of Maine in 2022. Mihalov intends to focus on creditors representation and collections.

David R. Dubord, shareholder and head of Skelton Taintor & Abbott's creditor rights section, commented: "We are excited to have Alex join our firm. His experience with foreclosure matters and his enthusiasm for expanding his practice to include all creditor rights matters will be a tremendous asset to our firm and to our clients."



Mihalov clerked for Bendett & McHugh P.C. from 2019-2020. He was a legal intern at the Friends of Casco Bay in 2019 and served as an environmental intern for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in 2018.

Skelton Taintor & Abbott is a full-service trial and general practice law firm representing clients throughout Maine. With the addition of Mihalov, the firm consists of 12 attorneys practicing in virtually all fields of law and in both federal and state courts.

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