

Gorham Class of 2023 Graduates! Best Wishes!



Gorham's Maine Construction Academy Graduates Class of 2023



GORHAM, ME (June 16, 2023) -- Gathered around their class hard hat, Maine Construction Academy's first Construction Immersion Program class of 2023 graduated on Friday. All graduates were either current or past students at a local area high school and leave the program with nationally recognized certifications, hands-on & classroom experience in many different trades, and a pathway towards a career in the construction industry.

The Construction Immersion program through the Maine Construction Academy is being provided across the state this year, pro-

viding basic work-ready certifications and multiple craft exposures for students through hands-on experience and job site visits. At the completion of this program, participants will be offered guaranteed interview opportunities with Maine companies, where they will move on to either a post-secondary education or a Registered Apprenticeship Program. "This program is exactly what Maine needs. It is smart, well-coordinated and every detail has been considered to ensure participant success." Says Eliza Kenigsberg, Career Aspirations & ELO Coordinator at Aspire Gorham.

Maine Construction Academy is managed by the Associated General Contractors of Maine and brings together industry, K-12 Education, higher education, workforce development teams, and local workforce boards. AGC Maine has chosen to focus first on out-of-school and in-school youth over 16 through their Construction Immersion Program, however there are plans to expand to the adult population.

"We're so excited to celebrate this achievement with our first class of the Construction Immersion Program and look forward to watching our other classes learn, connect, and grow through these career pathways," said Kelly Flagg, Executive Director of Associated General Contractors of Maine.

The Maine Construction Academy offers Pre-Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship and Incumbent worker training throughout the state of Maine and supports the veteran community, those in active recovery, immigrants and the disability community in partnership with experts in each population.

For more information visit building-maine.com.

Interim President Named At SMMC

AUGUSTA, ME (June 16, 2023) — Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) Dean of Administration Tiffanie Bentley will serve as interim president of the college as of August 1.

Bentley follows President Joe Cassidy, who is leaving to become the president at Saint Joseph's College of Maine. The Maine Community College System (MCCS) Board of Trustees will commence a nationwide search immediately.

Bentley will serve as interim president until a new president is seated, which will likely be in spring 2024.

"Tiffanie is an inclusive and trusted leader." MCCS President David Daigler said. "I look forward to working with her



in this role."

Bentley, who is from South Portland, joined SMCC in 2007 as director of student life, was promoted to dean of students in 2013, and named dean of administration in 2019.

She is a member of the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club and served on the board of The Locker Project, which provides Cumberland County children in need with food. She also served on the City of South Portland's initial Affordable Housing Committee.

Before coming to SMCC, Tiffanie worked at The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Woman's University in Denton, and the University of Southern Maine.

She has a master's degree and bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. *See SMMC, page 14*

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Red Cross: Blood Supply Facing Stress, Donors Needed

PORTLAND, ME (June 7, 2023) – A concerning shortfall in blood donations last month could stress the American Red Cross blood supply. The Red Cross collected over 26,000 fewer blood donations than needed in May to meet the needs of patients. The need for blood is constant, with someone needing a blood transfusion in the U.S. every two seconds. Platelet donors are especially needed at this time. The public can help ensure continuity for patients by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now and in the weeks ahead.

Northern New England blood donor Elizabeth O'Brien has been

rolling up her sleeve for years after learning her O negative blood type was universally accepted by all patients. "It could be a baby needing blood or someone in a car accident – people all around the nation could use that blood and my blood could go to all of them. It feels empowering to know you can make a difference in any one of those people's lives," she said.

Elizabeth lost her own mother to cancer, but credits blood donation with extending and improving her mother's quality of life during her battle with the disease. "She was only 53 years old. So every single minute that got extended, we were grateful to have.

That's what I think about when I'm giving blood. I don't care if it's a minute, an hour, a day, a year, that blood that goes to extend time with a loved one is precious," she concluded.

In thanks for taking time to help, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma June 1-30 will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice. Those who come to give throughout June will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a backyard theater package. Details for both offers can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/June.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities, June 8-30:

Androscoggin
Auburn

6/29/2023: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., East Auburn Baptist Church, 560 Park Ave

Lewiston
6/19/2023: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bates Mill, 35 Canal Street

Cumberland
Bridgton
6/29/2023: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Masonic Hall, 166 Harrison Road, Route 117 Brunswick

6/15/2023: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Morong Brunswick, 314 Bath Road

6/24/2023: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus Drive

6/27/2023: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Morong Brunswick, 314 Bath Road

Falmouth
6/28/2023: 9 a.m.

- 2 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd

Freeport
6/21/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport, 5 Park Street

Gray
6/16/2023: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., American Legion Gray, 15 Lewiston Rd

Portland
6/21/2023: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Portland Elks Lodge, 1945 Congress St.

6/30/2023: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., MMC 995 Congress Street, 995 Congress Street

Scarborough
6/23/2023: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Saint Maximilian Church, 150 Black Point Rd

South Portland
6/20/2023: 9 a.m. - 2

p.m., Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, 200 Sable Oaks Drive

6/29/2023: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Eastpoint Christian Church, 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy

Standish
6/15/2023: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Gardenside Condo Association, 12 Gardenside Drive

Westbrook
6/19/2023: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street

Windham
6/21/2023: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., North Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive

Yarmouth
6/23/2023: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Post 91, 196 Main St

AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in Maine

MAINE (June 16, 2023) -- The American Pickers are excited to return to Maine! They plan to film episodes of The

History Channel hit television series throughout your area in August 2023. AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series



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that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable Characters and their collections.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the

way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

We at American

Pickers continue to take the pandemic very seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming outlined by the state and CDC. Nevertheless, we are excited to continue reaching the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking and are eager to hear their memorable stories!

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone

you know has a unique item, story to tell, and is ready to sell...we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers DO NOT pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public.

If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: american-pickers@cineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184 facebook: @GotAPick



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

Goldfish Swim School in Gorham Area to Open this Fall



PORTLAND, ME (June 12, 2023) – Goldfish Swim School, a state-of-the-art aquatic facility dedicated entirely to year-round indoor swim classes and programs for children 4 months to 12 years old, is opening at 512 Warren Ave in Portland this Fall. The new Maine swim school will offer swim lessons to children of all ages and varying stages from introductory parent-tot programs to beginning swimmer lessons to advanced pro-level lessons.

Goldfish prides itself on offering each parent and child a Golden Experience. From the moment families walk in the door, they enter

a tropical oasis. Brightly colored walls, tiki cabanas, and surfboard benches surround Goldfish’s island-style hair drying station and border their pool. The school is abuzz with the sounds of kids kicking and hands-on swimming instruction.

Goldfish Swim School – Portland features will include:

Heated indoor pool: On the pool deck, kids jump into an always-tropical 90-degree pool. Air temperature is kept at 92 degrees, providing swimmers with a shiver-free swim lesson experience.

Small class sizes: In a class size of no more

than 4 children to 1 swim instructor, children receive the personalized attention they need to master skills to be safe and confident in the water.

Proven curriculum: Goldfish Swim School offers swim lessons and programs using a proprietary philosophy, The Science of SwimPlay®, to build life skills both in and out of the water using play-based learning in a fun and safe environment. The school’s number one focus and main priority is educating children on water safety while teaching them how to swim and respect the water.

Classes for all swimming levels: Beginning as early as 4 months, children progress through a series of perpetual swimming lessons, graduating to higher levels of difficul-

ty as swimming skills are mastered. Goldfish also offers a recreational swim team for those swimmers up to age 12 who want to prepare for the next stages of competitive swimming.

State-of-the-art pool: Goldfish’s new pool features an advanced water purification system, guaranteeing a clean, safe environment for learning swimmers, and fun décor / teaching techniques to get children excited about swim lessons!

“We are looking forward to bringing Goldfish Swim School to the Portland community,” said Tim and Jennifer Casper, co-owners of Goldfish Swim School – Portland. “As parents, we understand the importance of year-round swim lessons and, with our unique, educational teaching equipment

and confidence-building curriculum, our goal is for your kids to feel safe in the water ... all with a smile on their face!”

Tim and Jennifer have been franchisees with Goldfish Swim School for nearly 10 years. They own and have interest in 3 other locations in the NY/NJ region. The Casper’s have family ties to the Portland area and are very excited to bring the first Goldfish Swim School to the state of Maine. Goldfish Swim School – Portland will also include a viewing gallery for parents to watch lessons.

In addition to swim lessons, the program will offer accelerated Jump Start clinics during school

and summer vacation weeks, open swim times for families, weekend birthday parties, a snack shack and a Treasure Island retail shop.

This swim facility also plans to add approximately 40 full/part-time jobs to the Portland area including management, lifeguards, instructors and front desk staff.

Construction in Portland, ME is underway, with an expected opening date of early Fall. Pre-register today to learn more about Goldfish Swim School – Portland and to be one of the first families called when the swim school is open to book lessons: www.goldfishswimschool.com/portland

UMS, Maine DOE Expand Whole-Student Supports for Area Schools

ORONO, ME (June 9, 2023) — More K–12 students and educators in Maine are set to benefit from stronger social, emotional and behavioral supports thanks to Maine PBIS, a collaboration between the University of Maine System and Maine Department Education, which is adding 21 new schools to its professional development cohort.

The schools, which will participate in the initiative over the next three years, are located in communities throughout the state, including Berwick, Boothbay Harbor, Brooksville, Bucksport, Damariscotta, Edgcomb, Litchfield, Madawaska, North Berwick, Sabattus, South Portland and Westbrook.

“Teams of educators from these schools will learn and practice together for the next three years, joining more than 30 schools that are currently part of our professional development model and more

than 75 schools statewide that have already implemented sustainable supports for Maine students,” says Courtney Angelosante, Maine PBIS coordinator at the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS, is a nationally recognized framework providing a multi-tiered continuum of supports in K-12 schools, promoting positive social and behavioral outcomes for all students. It is based on a community health promotion model. In schools that have implemented PBIS, it is expected that 95% of students will have most of their social, emotional and behavioral needs met before schools have to implement the third, or most targeted tier of interventions.

Maine DOE, in collaboration with UMS, supports schools and districts to implement PBIS through

a cohort model that matches Maine-endorsed PBIS trainers and coaches with district and school-level teams. Maine PBIS’s professional development efforts have received national and international attention as a particularly effective example for rural schools and communities.

“Being able to work with our PBIS coaches multiple times a year made our school’s efforts towards Tier 1 implementation much smoother,” says Sierra Bloom, a first-grade teacher at Surry Elementary School, which has already taken part in the UMS-Maine DOE initiative. “Our coaches were always there to support our work directly and led us to a solid foundation for our work in PBIS.”

Bloom adds that being able to work with other

schools in the cohort model was beneficial.

“We were able to collaborate and share ideas for success, while also gaining support towards common struggles,” she says.

This summer, Maine PBIS will host a five-day training institute for educators who are part of its professional development cohort. The training, which is limited to 50 participants and will take place at Husson University from July 10–14, will be designed to help teachers identify why a behavior is happening through a variety of assessment tools and procedures, leading to the development of a positive behavior support plan individualized to a student’s strengths and needs. More information about the Maine PBIS Advanced Tiers Summer

Institute is online.

“The supportive and inclusive practices of PBIS have elicited overwhelmingly positive responses by administrators, educators, students and families. Our office looks forward to supporting and sustaining schools and districts in this work,” says Tracy Whitlock, Special Projects Coordinator in the Office of Special Services and Inclusive Education at the Maine Department of Education.

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

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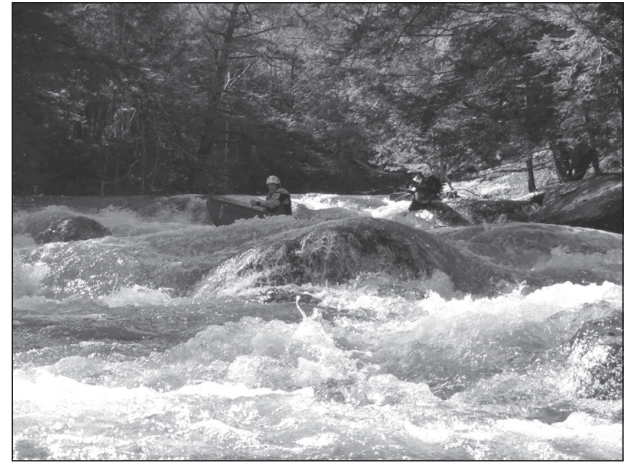
Hazardous Paddling on Cathance River



A kayaker avoids the Room of Doom on the Cathance River



Paddlers work to move a tree on Third Drop



A canoeist paddles over submerged rocks on Boulder Pile

By Ron Chase
The Cathance River is my river. Not really, but I like to think so. Located in my hometown of Topsham, the Cathance travels through a picturesque wilderness area, most of which cannot be accessed without hiking or paddling. Judging from the placid waters at the put-in and takeout, one would never guess a tumultuous whitewater gem is hidden away in an unseen four-mile sector.

For decades, challenging the Cathance has been a rite of spring for members of my outdoor club, the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society (PPCS). Consisting of one long technical rapid and five cataracts, the Ameri-

can Whitewater Association describes it as a Class III/IV creek with two Class V waterfalls.

Proximity and stimulating rapids are not the only benefits of the Cathance. A moderately large watershed for a small river, water levels tend to remain high longer than most similar-sized waterways. And, the Cat is usually one of the first to experience ice-out in the spring.

Another noteworthy feature, the Cathance is notorious for collecting hazardous debris. Twice in recent years, the PPCS has organized special cleanup projects to remove dangerous obstructions that had accumulated in the rapids. The latest was last summer.

A painted gauge is lo-

cated on an Interstate 295 bridge abutment at the put-in. Friends and I have paddled the river between 1.5 and 4.5 on the gauge. The low end is shallow and the excursion gets pushy and intimidating over three feet.

Right after ice-out in early April, I participated in a club trip on the Cathance at a little over two feet. We enjoyed an outstanding day of paddling and all of the rapids were free of debris. Subsequently, two substantial storms visited the area. After the second, I announced another club trip.

When three of us met at the put-in at the end of Old Augusta Road in Topsham, the gauge was over 3 feet, a feisty level.

Concerned about the possibility of new hazards as a result of the recent storms, we decided to carefully inspect all of the difficult rapids.

Following a mile of flatwater, two usually easy rapids were more demanding than expected. A reminder that not only did we need to be alert for hazards but the water level was higher than normal. Just below, we eddied out left to scout Z-Turn, the longest most complex rapid on the river. A small fallen tree partially obstructed the main channel at the top. After careful scrutiny, we were able to negotiate around the impediment and successfully complete our descents.

Next is a tricky cataract we call Second Drop. Midway through, it takes an abrupt left turn and the water tumbles over a ledge in a narrow twisting passage. A notorious boat flipper, everyone managed to stay upright.

Steeper and more hazardous, Third Drop soon follows. Most of the current flows left over a pitch and then beneath a treacherous undercut rock

called Room of Doom. The safest technique is to power through approach waves while angling right and plunging down a precipitous tongue as far from doom as possible. We encountered an added complication; a downed tree blocked the rapid a little downstream of the pitch. Using a small handsaw and lots physical effort, we created a passageway around the hazard. Stimulating plummets over the falls ensued.

Boulder Pile is shortly after. So named because of a seemingly impenetrable mass of boulders at the bottom of a steep slide, it's actually easier at high water. We maneuvered far left and used the robust flow to bounce over submerged rocks at the end.

Intimidating Little Gorilla follows. Careening through a narrow gorge, it ends with a 90-degree left turn down a steep shallow slide into a churning foam pile with boulders waiting just below the surface. Portage was our unanimous decision.

Around the bend, Final Drop is a slightly easier version of Little Gorilla.

Not on this day. A large log blocked the channel normally used to avoid a sticky hydraulic at the bottom. After careful consideration, we decided to walk rather than risk colliding with the log or swimming out of the hydraulic.

Our exciting day completed without any mishaps, I anticipate another Cathance cleanup when the water level diminishes to remove the three newest hazards.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates eight more Maine whitewater adventures.

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 or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England." Visit his website at www.ronchase-outdoors.com or he can be reached at ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net

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‘Hot Lunch Summer’ Provides Children With Nutritious Meals

AUGUSTA, ME (June 16, 2023)--The Maine Department of Education (DOE) announced the return of Hot Lunch Summer, the state's summer food service program which provides free meals to children beyond the school year. These meals are available at hundreds of sites across Maine and families can locate nearby meal opportunities on the Hot Lunch Summer website HotLunchSummer.com or by texting 'Summer Meals' to 914-342-7744.

"Hot Lunch Summer ensures that Maine children can continue to access the healthy and nutritious meals they rely on during the school year," said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. "No child should worry about going hungry when the school

year ends, and we thank the schools and organizations that have stepped up to make the distribution of these meals possible."

Maine's summer food service program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program offered statewide in areas or at sites where more than 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced meal benefits under the National School Lunch Program or where census tract data supports the need. Free meals are provided to children 18 and younger at open meal sites. Eligible sponsoring organizations include schools, nonprofit residential summer camps, government agencies, and tax-exempt organizations including faith-based organizations. This year, rural meal spon-

sors may offer free meals offsite to further assist in reaching children who are unable to access congregational meal programs.

The Maine DOE launched Hot Lunch Summer last year as a statewide ad campaign to raise awareness of summer meal options and clearly explain the logistics of where, when, and how Maine children and adolescents can access complementary meals. This year, the campaign focuses on reaching households through social media networks and includes an animated video to promote summer meal opportunities which can be viewed online.

To find nearby summer meal sites, please visit www.HotLunchSummer.com or text "Summer Meals" to 914-342-7744.

Maine Iris Society Announces Floral Show Winners

AUBURN, ME (June 16, 2023)--The Maine Iris Society announces its winners for the 2023 flower show held at the Auburn Middle School on May 27th. The show was chaired by Chairpersons Paul Dostie and Carol Foster.

Harriet Robinson was awarded Queen of the Show and best Intermediate Bearded (IB) for 'Code of Honor'. First runner up and best historic was Carol Foster's historic iris, 'Sugar'. Peter Young's 'Spring is Here' was the best standard dwarf bearded (SDB) iris and second runner

up. Peter's SDB 'Woody Woodpecker' was third runner up. An arilbred iris, 'Desert Snow', grown by Peter Young was the fourth runner up. The fifth runner up was Harriet Robinson's IB 'Arctic Wind' and the sixth runner up was Katherine Lothrop's species Iris cristata. The best miniature dwarf bearded (MDB) was Harriet Robinson's 'Black Olive'. Harriet won the silver medal for the most blue ribbons and Pauline Grenier won the bronze medal as runner up.

In the artistic division, Peter Young won the



Award winners for the 2023 Maine Iris Show are pictured from Left to Right: Carol Foster of Auburn, Harriet Robinson of Otisfield, Peter Young of Buckfield and Paul Dostie of Greene.

Clara MacLaren award for the best design and the sweepstakes for the most blue ribbon entries in de-

sign. Brent McHale won an Artistic Rosette of Special Merit for one of his designs.

The winner of the Bernard McLaughlin award for the best spring flower was Paul Dostie with columbine 'Pink Petticoat'.

Voting for People's Choice is always popular with both members and the public. The favorite iris stalk was 'By the Sea', and SDB entered by Pauline Grenier. The species Iris germanica entered by Harriet Robinson was second. In spring flowers, Paul Dostie gathered the most votes for his tree peony 'Helen Parmer' and was second with columbine 'Pink Petticoat'.

According to the society's rules, one person can only win one prize in this category. Therefore, Susan Labonville, the entrant who received third place in the voting took home the prize for her flowering almond.

For information about becoming a member, please go to <http://www.maineirissociety.org>. The cost of membership is only \$8.00 (or \$10.00 for two people in the same household) and entitles you to the informative MIS newsletter and opens you up to the opportunity for new friendships with those who love gardening.

Sen. Collins Welcomes Maine Students to Washington, D.C.



WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 16, 2023) – U.S. Senator Susan Collins met with students from across Maine in Washington to wish them luck as they compete in the final round of the National

History Day contest this week. Following victories in Maine's statewide competition, these students will represent our state as they compete alongside nearly 3,000 of America's top young historians.

"I am very proud to welcome the bright and talented winners of the Maine National History Day competition to our nation's capital," said Senator Collins. "I wish them luck at the national competition and am confident that they will do a wonderful job representing our state."

Each year, approximately 600,000 students in grades 6 through 12 compete in National History Day, and about 3,000 students qualify for the national finals, which take place in College Park, Maryland. To participate, students research historical topics related to a national theme and present their findings with exhibits, documentaries, performances, or papers. The 2023 contest theme was Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.

Maine Hosta Society to Hold Auction



Peter Young of Buckfield, president of the Maine Hosta Society, kneels with two of his best friends -- his dog and his hosta garden. To Peter's right, a hosta cultivar named Targeel Blue displays its beautiful foliage. Photo Credit: Carol Foster

AUGUSTA, ME (June 15, 2023) — The Maine Hosta Society will hold two auctions on June 24 at Viles Arboretum which is located at 153 Hospital Street in Augusta. At 10:00 am there will be a silent auction of hostas and

companion plants that have been donated by members from their gardens. The live auction will begin at 1:00 pm. It will include some of the best and newest hostas available.

Admission to this event is free and open to

the public.

The mission of the Maine Hosta Society (MHS) is to develop interest in horticulture with emphasis on the propagation and culture of the genus Hosta and promote the use of hostas in landscape design. Each year MHS organizes a bus trip to leading gardens and Hosta nurseries in New England, a garden tour of member gardens and Maine nurseries (including a picnic and plant swap), and a fall meeting that usually features a nationally known guest speaker.

The cost of membership is \$5.00 (or \$6.00 for two people in the same household) and entitles you to the informative MHS newsletter and opens you up to the opportunity for new friendships with those who love gardening.

As the American Hosta Society puts it -- "Together, we can make the world a more beautiful place, one hosta and one new friend at a time."

Officers of the Maine Hosta Society are president, Peter Young of Buckfield, vice-president, Lenore Tipping of Orono, and treasurer, Kristin Sweeney of Portland.

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Arts & Entertainment

Relay For Life of Southern Maine At USM-Gorham Campus

When we Walk Together, We are bigger than cancer



What is Relay For Life?
The American Cancer Society Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

What is the American Cancer Society Relay For Life?
Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser. It offers everyone in a community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. They sign up as Survivors, Caregivers, and Teams who all raise funds to fight cancer. They raise money throughout the year to support the mission of the American Cancer Society and to fund much needed research to save lives.

Relay For Life opens as cancer survivors take the first lap. This emotional time sets the stage for the importance of each participant's contribution. A festive atmosphere always develops as participants make new friends and spend time with old ones. Highlighting the evening is a Luminaria Ceremony of Hope held after dark to honor cancer survivors and to remember loved ones lost to cancer. The luminaria candles line the track and are left burning throughout the night to remind participants of the incredible importance of their contributions.

Teams of people from all walks of life have fun while raising much-needed funds to fight cancer, and raise awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay.

Why Relay?
One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. The money raised at Relay saves lives by funding cutting-edge cancer research, early detection and prevention education, advocacy efforts, and life-affirming patient services. It is because of your involvement that we are able to save lives, help those battling cancer and empower all to fight back against the disease.

Relay allows all individuals an opportunity to celebrate the lives of those who have survived cancer; to remember those lost to the disease; and to fight back against a disease that takes too much. For the newly diagnosed, Relay is a healing experience that offers a chance to meet others who have claimed victory over cancer. For the caregivers who give their time, love, and support to their friends and family who face cancer it provides hope and understanding.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT RELAY FOR LIFE?

- Join us by starting a team at www.relayforlife.org/southernme
- Share your company, church, or school, start a team with Relay today.
- Register your cancer survivors to be a part of our victory lap www.relayforlife.org/southernme
- Become a sponsor of our events by donating to our Relay.

Relay For Life of Southern Maine
Saturday, June 24, 2023
University of Southern Maine
Costello Sports Complex
32 College Ave, Gorham, ME
10:00 AM to 10:00 PM
www.relayforlife.org/southernme

Every cancer. Every life.
Our vision is to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

GORHAM, ME (June 16, 2023) -- Relay For Life of Southern Maine – the primary awareness-raising, fund-raising program for the American Cancer Society – will take place on Saturday, June 24 from 10am to 10pm inside the Costello Sports Complex at USM-Gorham. It is a free event, and everyone is welcome to attend.

What is Relay For Life?

It is not a race or athletic event. It is a community gathering for anyone concerned about and affected by cancer. Our honored guests are our cancer survivors and caregivers. Teams of concerned volunteers will be set up along the track offering information, game-playing, opportunity drawings, and more. Live entertainment will be featured, along with

three ceremonies and other activities. Opening Ceremony at 10am, Luminaria Ceremony at 7:30pm, and Closing Ceremony at 9:30pm.

All Proceeds to American Cancer Society

All proceeds help fund the following programs of the American Cancer Society:

24/7 Cancer Helpline – 1-800-227-2345 or cancer.org

Hope Lodge – Free place to stay during cancer treatment

Road to Recovery – free rides to treatment

Cancer Survivors Network – connecting cancer patients and caregivers

Reach to Recovery – breast cancer support

Tender Loving Care – hair-loss and mastectomy products

For more information, see Relayforlife.org/southernme




Cancer won't win.

Fighting cancer takes many things like research, free rides to chemo and lodging near hospitals, and our 24/7 helpline. But we can't do any of that without you. Join Relay For Life, the largest, most inspiring, and supportive cancer fundraising event on the planet.

Relay For Life of Southern Maine



June 24, 2023, 10am to 10pm
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
COSTELLO SPORTS COMPLEX

<http://relayforlife.org/southernme> | 1.800.227.2345

Author Event: Irene M. Drago



Join us for a presentation by Irene M. Drago, a Maine author of historical fiction whose latest book is *Lavinia Wren and the Sailmakers*. Her presentation, "Sailing into History," includes photos from the family of Captain Arthur Elliot, who was one of the last schooner captains from Thomaston and a partner in the Dunn & Elliot Company. The story behind the story is truly remarkable!

Lavinia Wren and the Sailmakers
Irene M. Drago

Lavinia Wren reflects the resolute heart of a seafaring family. Orphaned by the Civil War, Vinnie finds a home in Thomaston, Maine, and grows up with a view of the Georges River, busy shipyards, and the forbidding wall of a prison. In 1865, on the verge of turning thirteen, she meets the son of a shipbuilder, two young sailors, and the raven-haired daughter of a ship carver. For the next sixty years, their lives remain entwined through joy and sorrow as schooners replace square rigs, German U-boats appear off the coast, horse-drawn carriages give way to automobiles, and airplanes take flight. Lavinia and the sailmakers pull the thread of love, not war, through history, replenishing our souls.



**Wednesday
June 28
6:00 PM**

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Red Cross Honors Top Volunteers for Incredible Service

PORTLAND, ME (June 16, 2023)— For more than a century, the American Red Cross has been dedicated to serving people in need – thanks to our founder Clara Barton. Through supporting service members and their families, collecting blood for patients, providing individuals with help and hope after disasters, teaching lifesaving training and providing international aid, we've stayed true to our roots.

During FY23, the Red Cross of Northern New England...

Installed 1,836 free smoke alarms (including 847 in Maine), making 579 homes safer across the region (including 275 in Maine)

Responded to 521 home fires (including 271 in Maine) and assisted 1,955 people (including 913 Mainers)

Educated 3,555 adults and children through our Pillowcase Project, Prepare with Pedro and Community Preparedness Engagement Programs

Collected more than 110,000 red cell units of lifesaving blood

Deployed over 200 volunteers and staff to more than 30 large-scale disasters

This work would not be possible with our dedicated volunteers. Regionally, the Red Cross recognizes its top volunteers with the Clara Barton Award. These individuals embody the organization's core values of compassion, commitment, credibility, creativity and collaboration.

This year, the American Red Cross Southern Maine Chapter is honored to recognize John Leeming, of Cumberland, Maine, as the 2023 Clara

Barton Award recipient. Leeming will celebrate 30 years of Red Cross service in October – and remains an exceptionally committed Disaster Action Team responder. In 2022, Leeming responded to 26 disasters, opened 51 cases and served 99 people – which accounts for one-third of Southern Maine's total caseload in 2022.

"John's approach with our clients shows tremendous compassion. He understands all too well that we often meet people on their very worst days, but his calm and reassuring presence invites them to move forward one step at a time," said Steve Thomas, Red Cross Southern Maine Chapter executive director. "It's a privilege to serve with John, and we are so fortunate that he makes his home in our Southern Maine Chapter."

The Red Cross is

also pleased to recognize volunteer Gloria Krayenvenger, of North Waterboro, Maine, as the 2023 Clara Barton Award Runner-up. Krayenvenger has been a steadfast administrative volunteer at the Red Cross office in Portland since 2018 – and has held positions with operations, development and disaster cycle services. She wears many hats in her roles with the Red Cross and performs each with detail, confidence and warmth.

"What stands out most about Gloria, besides her professionalism and skill, is her kindness and love for others. I consider Gloria to be an exemplary representative of the Red Cross and feel so fortunate that she chooses to share her time, passion and heart with the Red Cross," said Kristin Laporte, Red Cross Business Operations Coordinator, Northern New

England. Additionally, the Red Cross is pleased to recognize the following volunteers who achieved the President's Volunteer Service Award which is sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. These awards, issued by the U.S. government, recognize individuals who achieve and record a targeted number of service hours within a calendar year.

Gold Recipients (500+ volunteer hours)

Lorraine Bernier, East Portland
Robert Bouchard, Frenchville
Jessica Craig, Portland
Michael Craig, Portland
Paul Duclos, Glenwood
Jim Larson, Hampden
John Leeming, Cum-

berland
Karen Towle, Gardiner
Lynn Walkiewicz, Lewiston
Solomon Yusim, Scarborough
Silver Recipients (250 – 499 volunteer hours)
Sheila Blackman, Mount Desert
Ann Cibelli, Acton
Raybo Frank, Bucksport
Irene Lang, Winterport
Ruth Lathrop, Windham
Anthony Lawless, Portland
Christopher Luck, Moultonborough
Linda Murphy Luck, Moultonborough
David Pincumbe, Brunswick
Daniel Sayner, Brunswick
Michael Thurston, Auburn

RSU 16 Futures Task Force Calls for Collaboration

POLAND, ME (June 16, 2023) -- The RSU 16 Futures Task Force is dedicated to developing and presenting recom-

mendations to the School Board at the September 2023 Board meeting. These recommendations aim to achieve cost sav-

ings and address RSU 16 issues while ensuring that the quality of education for students is maintained. The Task Force recognizes

the significant challenges it is grappling with and is actively working to make well-informed decisions that will ultimately benefit

the RSU 16 educational community. The Futures Task Force is inviting RSU 16 community members and staff to share ideas

and collaborate on July 12, 2023 from 6:00-7:30PM at Whittier Middle School. Together, let's brainstorm, inspire, and take action.

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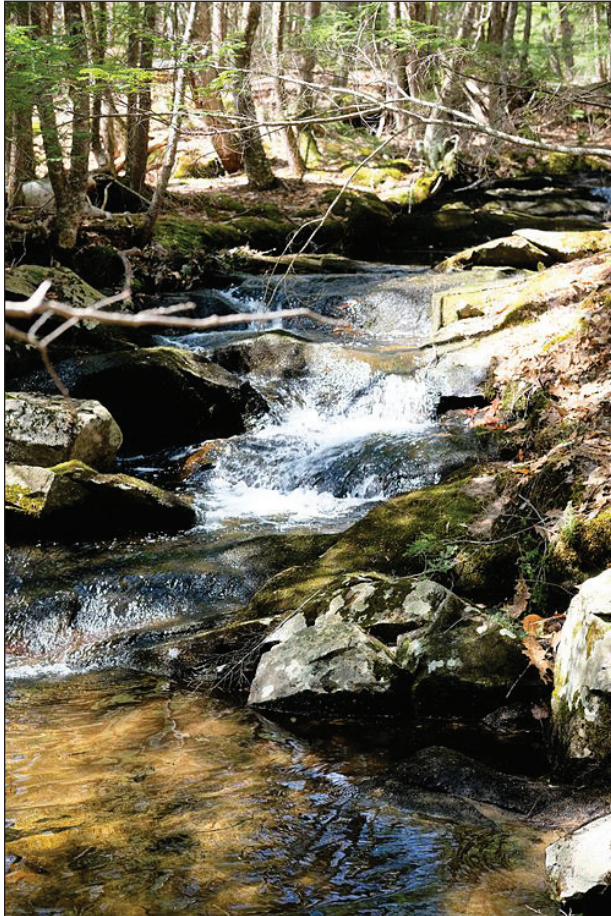


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Get out, Gorham, for the 2023 Summer Trail Challenge



and photograph six Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Preserve destinations this summer:

- 1) Mill Brook Preserve | Westbrook | Landmark: The Waterfall and Viewing Pool
 - 2) Pride Preserve | Westbrook | Landmark: The Cascade Falls
 - 3) Black Brook Preserve | Windham | Landmark: Glacial Erratic
- See Challenge, next page*



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GORHAM, ME (June 16, 2023) -- This free challenge is intended for folks who are new to hiking and for those who know our trails well. The six trails of the challenge are 1-2 miles long (with more trails accessible if you wish to extend your outing), and many include scavenger hunts, fairy houses, and story-walks making this a fam-

ily-friendly adventure and enjoyable for all ages. You could find yourself discovering centuries old trees in Windham, exploring the ruins of a 150-year-old mill along the Presumpscot River in Gorham, enjoying meandering meadows in Standish, and following one of the wildest rivers in the region in Westbrook.

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Challenge

Continued from previous page
(large boulder)

4) Hawkes Preserve | Gorham | Landmark: Viewing Bridge (views of the Presumpscot River)

5) Gambo Preserve | Gorham/Windham | Landmark: Mill Ruins (the grindstone circle)

6) Steep Falls Vil-

lage Preserve | Standish | Landmark: Tucker Brook Overlook

PRIZE: The Trail Challenge is sponsored by REI Co-op. Upon completion of the challenge by August 31st, with photographs of the six preserve landmarks, the first 100 participants will receive a

REI Co-op & Land Trust co-branded water bottle. Every participant will receive a REI Co-op & Land Trust co-branded sticker.

Register for your summer adventure today, details and instructions to follow upon registration: <https://www.prlt.org/2023-summer-trail-challenge>

2023
Summer Trail Challenge
with PRESUMPCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST

MAP KEY

- Trail Challenge Preserves
- Other Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Preserves
- ★ REI Co-op Westbrook Store
- Sebago to the Sea Trail
- Multi-Purpose Trail
- Future Trail

- 1 Mill Brook Preserve (Perry Court entrance) | Westbrook | Landmark: Waterfall and Viewing Pool
- 2 Pride Preserve | Westbrook | Cascade Falls
- 3 Black Brook Preserve | Windham | Glacial Erratic (large boulder)
- 4 Gambo Preserve | Gorham/Windham | Mill Ruins (grindstone circle)
- 5 Hawkes Preserve | Gorham | Viewing Bridge
- 6 Steep Falls Village Preserve | Standish | Tucker Brook Overlook

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UMaine to Host National Experts on Inclusive Education

ORONO, ME (June 16, 2023) — Educators and other professionals in Maine who support people with autism, intellectual disabilities and other developmental conditions will have the opportunity to learn from some of the country's leading researchers and practitioners at the University of Maine next month.

The Council for Exceptional Children Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CEC DADD) is hosting its summer board meeting at UMaine on July 20. The next day, July 21, the division, in collaboration with the UMaine College of Education and Human Development and Maine Department of Education Office of Special Services and Inclusive Education, will host its Summer Symposium on campus.

"A few years ago, the leadership of the Division on Autism and Develop-

mental Disabilities decided that wherever we hold our summer board meeting, we also would host a symposium, or mini-conference, at a minimal cost to local educators," says Bree Jimenez, CEC DADD president and associate professor of special education at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"Part of the reason we selected Maine as the site for this year's symposium was because of the strong partnership between UMaine's College of Education and Human Development and the Maine DOE, and both organizations' commitment to inclusive educational practices for people with autism and developmental disabilities," Jimenez adds.

Sarah Howorth, associate professor of special education at UMaine, has long been involved with the CEC DADD. Howorth is director of Maine Access to Inclusive Education Re-



sources (MAIER), an information and resource clearinghouse for professionals and families to assist in accessing and navigating programs and services related to inclusive education of students with autism and other disabilities. MAIER was established at UMaine in 2014 with significant financial support from Maine DOE, and continues to receive the bulk of its funding from the Office of Special Services and Inclusive Education.

"There's critical work happening in Maine right now to ensure equitable and sustainable access to education for all individuals," says Howorth. "By bringing its summer symposium here, CEC DADD is recognizing these efforts

and providing an important learning opportunity for the teachers, caregivers and others who support people with autism and intellectual disabilities in the state everyday."

The symposium will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 21, and will feature two strands related to inclusive practices for students with autism and other disabilities: "Access to the Curriculum" and "Quality of Life." Workshops, led by experts from the CEC DADD, include "Evidence-Based Practices for Implementing Physical Activity and Motor Development Programs in Pre-K and Elementary Classrooms" and "Planning for Life After High School."

Rachel McInnis is

program coordinator for Woodfords Family Services, which operates a pre-school and special purpose private school in Waterville for students who have disabilities. She registered to attend the CEC DADD symposium to learn more about inclusive practices for her students. She says she's particularly interested in learning more about implementing new physical activity and motor development activities in Woodfords' K-5 program.

"I find that opportunities like this can give teachers confidence in the things we already know, but also give us a new perspective or angle on an approach, as well as teach us something we've never thought of before," McInnis says. "I hope to share the knowledge gained with our teachers and empower them in their teaching. I also hope for our students to engage in new and exciting activities."

Registration for the 2023 CEC DADD Summer Symposium is \$30 for individuals planning to attend in-person, \$40 for virtual, or \$100 for schools or other organizations that would like to host a group attending virtually. The cost for vendors wishing to attend the conference is \$40 per table. More information and a link to register is online.

Send all items for Newsmakers, Names and Faces to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

Celebrate 50 Years of the Washburn Norlands Living History Center




with the Sandy River Ramblers!

Concert on the Lawn
June 29
6 - 8pm
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Contact us at Norlands.org

Fontaine Family Raises Over \$24K for Make-A-Wish Maine



MAINE (June 9, 2023) -- The Fontaine Family Team raised over \$24,000 for Make-A-Wish Maine at their 10th Annual Bid for Wishes Virtual

Auction hosted on Facebook. The team acquired over 300 items from Maine businesses and individuals. Fontaine has been fundraising for Make-A-

Wish Maine since 2009 starting with the Walk for Wishes events and has raised over \$140,000 since then. Fontaine Family Team has been providing a platform for local businesses and individuals to make a difference in the lives of seriously ill children by donating items, collecting, and dropping off items, and bidding on items. Fontaine Family Team is grateful for the generosity of Maine business owners and individuals and for supporting this worthy cause.

Fontaine continues to give back to the community and is committed to making a positive impact on Maine families. For more info to support Fontaine Family's fundraising efforts for Make-A-Wish Maine visit their website, BrendaFontaine.com.

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FMI: www.cschurchauburn.org

Alexandre Fischer, CS
Member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship

Strawberry Fest at Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home

RAYMOND, ME (June 13, 2023) – One of southern Maine's beloved annual events—the Strawberry Festival at Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond (40 Hawthorne Road)—returns this year on Saturday, June 24, from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Featuring an illuminating presentation by Town of Raymond Code Enforcement Officer Chris Hanson on preserving the town's land and shoreline beauty, the festival will

raise funds for the ongoing restoration and preservation of the boyhood home of the legendary author of The Scarlet Letter. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children aged 8 and under, with reservations at Hawthorne@Maine.RR.com or by calling 207-329-0537 strongly recommended. Walk-ins also are welcome.

The annual festival will kick-off with a brief update offered by Abel Bates, Hawthorne Commu-

nity Association member, on the Hawthorne House's ongoing fundraising efforts and the association's vision for the future of the historic house. This will be followed by the special presentation by Chris Hanson.

Wrapping up the event, all attendees will enjoy yummy homemade strawberry shortcake, served with coffee, punch, and lots of friendly smiles!

How to Donate to Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home

Those who would like to donate to the ongoing restoration of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond may do so by sending a much-appreciated check payable to "Hawthorne Community Association" to: Hawthorne Community Association / PO Box 185 / South Casco, ME 04077. Secure credit card, debit card, and PayPal donations may be made online at: <https://www.hawthorneassoc.com>.



Image courtesy of the Hawthorne Community Association.

For reservations and other information, please contact Becky Tracy at Hawthorne@Maine.RR.com or (207) 207-329-0537.

Clothes Galore at Gorham's Mission of Hope Clothes Closet

GORHAM, ME (April 29, 2023) -- The FREE Clothes Closet at Cressey Road Church (Mission of Hope Clothes Closet) is open to all who need Fellow-

ship, Friendship and Clothes. We are located at 81 Cressey Road, Gorham, and we are open on the FIRST and THIRD Saturday of each month from 9 o'clock AM to 12

Noon.

We focus on clothes and accessories (gloves, scarves, hats, etc.) and welcome your donations during our operating hours. Clean clothes

in good shape help the most, as they go right out to help people locally or in nearby communities. An attempt is made to have season appropriate clothes available to you.

After we have displayed them for a time, they are donated to serve the people in need in Ukraine.

In addition to helping folks find clothes, we want to spend time with

you! There are tables to sit, talk and to share a cup of coffee and usually a goodie with volunteers or others. Come see us! You might make a new friend. All are Welcome!

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

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Proceeds to benefit YMCA of Auburn - Lewiston Summer Camp Program

When: Friday, June 23, 2023
 Check-in @ 5:00pm, bags fly at 6:00pm
Where: Simard-Payne Park Lewiston
Cost: Social Division: \$40.00 per team (2 players)
 Competitive Division: \$60.00 per team (2 Players)
 Each player receives one \$5.00 Beer Ticket with registration.
 Round Robin Format with Playoff Bracket
All Teams are guaranteed 4 games
 Bystander Tickers: \$5.00 per person
 Register on-line: YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston (alymca.org)



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Social Division	Competitive Division
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3rd Place- \$50.00	3rd Place - \$100.00

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To get updates during the tournament, register your team on your smartphone using the **Scoreholio app**.
 Search for "YMCA Kids to Camp Cornhole Tournament"

*This app is simply for day of updates, You must ALSO register with the YMCA to be entered into tournament



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 For more information email Marcie Hird: mhird@alymca.org

Gov. Mills Signs Republican-Led Highway Funding Bill

AUGUSTA, ME (June 16, 2023) – For years, the budget that funds all operations of the state’s Department of Transportation (DOT) has been supported through short-term or one-time sources. Last week, Sen. Brad Farrin, R-Somerset, sought to fix that and proposed an amendment to the bill that would dedicate sustainable, permanent funding going forward.

That amended bill, LD 259, was enacted by the Maine Legislature yesterday and signed by Gov. Janet Mills today.

For Senate Republican Leader Trey Stewart, R-Aroostook, the passage of LD 259 proved to be a historic moment and will provide much-needed stable statutory funding for Maine’s roads and bridges.

“Maine owes a debt of gratitude for the leadership of Senator Brad Farrin, Representative Wayne Parry and Republicans on the Transportation Committee, without whom this critical change would not have come about,” said Stewart. “Passage of this bill eliminates the need to continually borrow against our future and pay interest when we don’t have to, par-

ticularly at a time when the State is flush with money. Instead of expanding state government by growing positions or creating new social programs, Republicans said enough is enough and that its time to actually find a way to fix our roads and bridges.”

According to Farrin, who is the Senate Republican Lead for the Transportation Committee, discussion regarding permanent funding for the State’s transportation infrastructure has been ongoing for years. A Blue Ribbon Commission was convened in 2020 to study the issue but couldn’t settle on a permanent solution.

“The proposed two-year transportation budget dedicated \$200 million in one-time funds and we were able to move another \$53 million in liquor fund cascade money into the budget,” Farrin said Thursday after the vote. “But as we were moving forward this session, we heard discussion about another bond issue despite our record amount of revenue.”

Farrin recalled that one of the major findings from the Blue Ribbon Commission was the growing negative impact

of electric vehicles on gas tax receipts. He proposed his amendment to the Transportation Committee that would dedicated 50% of sales tax revenue from the sale of vehicles and vehicle-related parts to the Highway Fund.

Ultimately, his amendment garnered bipartisan support with 9-4 majority vote.

When the bill reached the Senate, a floor amendment reduced the allocation to 40% but also included vehicle use tax, which is collected separately from the sales tax system. The change means the Highway Fund will have at least \$130-\$150 million in permanent funding per year going forward.

“I want to thank all of the members of the Transportation Committee who worked hard on this issue,” Farrin said of the bipartisan effort. “This will ensure that Maine’s transportation infrastructure will have dedicated funding now and in the future and our transportation needs will be met.”

Sen. Rick Bennett, R-Oxford, the Senate Republican Lead for the Legislature’s Appropriations and Financial Affairs Com-



Flanked by members of the Legislature’s Transportation Committee, Gov. Janet Mills, center, holds the highway funding bill LD 259 after signing it on Friday, June 16, 2023, at the State House in Augusta. The bill included a key Republican amendment by Sen. Brad Farrin, R-Somerset (right), that provides permanent funding for the State’s highways, bridges, ferry system and Bureau of Motor Vehicles budget. (photo courtesy of Senate Republican Office/Mike Fern)

mittee and a fierce critic of what he calls Maine’s “broken budgeting process,” said the structural imbalance of the Highway Fund had been growing for years. Electric vehicles don’t contribute to the State’s gas tax; yet they still cause wear and tear on Maine’s transportation system.

“We’ve known for a while that the motor vehicle fuels tax was no longer

sufficient to fund our transportation needs and EVs were only going to make it worse,” Bennett said. “We’ve been avoiding the problem for years through borrowing and other financial sleight of hand but this move to permanent funding will help avoid the need to do that.”

For Bennett, the State’s record amount of revenue gave Republican lawmakers the opportunity

to find a long-term solution, something he said everyone knew had to happen.

“Missing this opportunity to actually solve the Highway Fund’s funding crisis for the long term would have been a tragic mistake,” he said. “This transition to dedicated sources of funding that is going to last and grow over time is a really good move for the people of Maine.”

\$30M to Support Universal Broadband Access in Maine

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 16, 2023) – U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden announced that the Maine Connectivity Authority was awarded \$30,016,472.13 in federal funding from the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure grant. This investment is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will support Maine’s strategic goal of providing universal broadband access throughout the state.

“As one of the most

rural states in the nation, Maine will see immense benefits from expanding high-speed, affordable broadband access to all our people. In the 21st century economy, access to high-speed Internet is absolutely essential to business development and job growth in rural areas, and it opens doors to new opportunities in telehealth and education,” said Senators Collins and King and Representatives Pingree and Golden. “As proud supporters of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are pleased to see the continued impact of this bipar-

tisan legislation.”

“With this grant award, Maine is demonstrating its national leadership in the expansion of high-speed, reliable and affordable internet,” said Andrew Butcher, President of the Maine Connectivity Authority. “MOOSE Net will provide the connectivity infrastructure to enable the industries that power Maine— farming, fishing, forest products and fun.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to support broadband infrastructure nationwide, including \$1 billion for the Middle Mile Broad-

band Infrastructure Grant Program administered by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration. The funding will support the construction, improvement, or acquisition of “middle mile” broadband infrastructure, which will help reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone and bridge gaps in the broadband network.

Senator Collins was part of the core group of 10 Senators who negotiated the text of the bipartisan infrastructure

law. Senator Collins and Senator Shaheen of New Hampshire spearheaded the broadband working group and co-authored the law’s provisions providing for \$65 billion broadband investment. This historic legislation is delivering billions of dollars to Maine for investments in broadband, roads, bridges, and more. As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate Broadband Caucus, Senator King has been a strong advocate for expanding affordable broadband access as a way to increase economic opportunity in rural Maine. Senator King in-

troduced the Middle Mile Broadband Deployment Act in 2021 that proposed creating a grant program to connect internet carriers to local networks in unserved and underserved communities.

The bipartisan infrastructure law is expected to deliver approximately \$2.5 billion to Maine over the next five years for critical broadband, transportation, energy, and environmental projects. In December 2022, Maine received \$5.5 million to plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband service throughout the state.



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Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

June 15-25
AUBURN -- Community Little Theatre presents the Steve Martin comedy Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Young men Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso meet and discuss art, the universe, and everything in between along with some colorful characters who add wit, humor, and wry perspectives. Show dates are June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, & 24 at 7:30 p.m., and June 18 & 25 at 2:00 p.m. All performances at CLT on 30

Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets and more information at www.laclt.com/picasso-at-lapin-agile-2023

June 24
GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper on Saturday June 24, 2023 @ 5 P. M. at the Parish House, 5

Brown Street, Gray. Handicapped Accessible. Meals are Singled-sized and are \$10.00 each. Please pay at the Door.

The Menu includes: A variety of Casseroles and Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads. Assortment of Desserts, and Beverages. Phone # day of the supper - 657-4279.

June 24
LEWISTON -- Members of Lewiston's delegation to the State Legislature will hold constituent office hours at the Lewiston Public Library later this month to provide local residents a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss legislative and state government matters. The delegation will give updates on their work on various policy areas, including the state budget, law enforcement, insurance and financial affairs, taxes, transportation and veterans issues. Office hours are scheduled for the fourth Saturday of every month.

WHO: Sen. Peggy Rotundo, Rep. Kristen Cloutier, Rep. Margaret Craven, Rep. Mana Abdi and Rep. Michel Lajoie
WHEN: Saturday, June 24, 2023 from

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street

June 24
AUGUSTA -- The Maine Hosta Society will hold its Annual Plant Auction on Saturday, June 24th at Viles Arboretum located at 153 Hospital Street in Augusta. A silent auction of plants donated from members' gardens will take place at 10:00 am. The live auction of some of the latest hostas available begins at 1:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

June 24
BUXTON -- Had-dock Supper Buffet - Saturday, June 24, 2023 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 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.

June 27, June 29, July 1, July 2
DaPonte String Quartet Summer Series Concerts Summer Series I. Program: Beethoven String Trio in G Major, Op. 9 no 1, Alan Hovhaness String Trio Op. 201 & Dohnanyi

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Serenade, op. 10
 Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 pm Union Church, South Bristol

Thursday, June 29, 7:30 pm St. Paul's Union Chapel, Waldoboro

Saturday, July 1, 7:30 pm Ocean View Grange, St. George Peninsula

Sunday, July 2, 4:00 pm Surry Arts at the Barn, Surry

July 15
GORHAM -- On Saturday, July 15th, starting at 1:00 pm at the Treworgy Homestead and Garden located at 120 Flaggy Meadow Road in Gorham, the Maine Iris Society will hold its annual auction of bearded iris rhizomes. All are welcome.

Sept 2
GORHAM -- On Saturday, September 2nd, starting at 1:00 pm at the United Methodist Church, 439 Park Avenue in Auburn, the Maine Iris Society will hold its annual

auction of Siberian irises and daylilies. All are welcome.

SMMC
Continued from page 1
 Southern Maine Community College is the system's oldest, largest, and most diverse college, with more than 6,000 students and offering 40-plus programs of study at the Portland and Brunswick campuses, online, and at satellite locations across southern Maine.

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

Fort Hill
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MOVIE

-night-

When: Friday - June 23rd
 Where: Spire 29 - 29 School St. Gorham
 Time: Doors open - 6:30pm
 Movie starts - 7pm

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GORHAM LITTLE LEAGUE

Field Funding Campaign

The Gorham Youth Baseball & Softball Association is making a large capital investment to provide updates and add fields to accommodate practice and game schedules:

- Develop 2 fields at White Rock
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MSMT Launches Sensory Friendly Performance Series



The cast of Rapunzel at MSMT, June 2023. Photo by MSMT.



Rapunzel, MSMT Summer 2023. Photo by MSMT.

BRUNSWICK, ME (June 14, 2023) - Maine State Music Theatre presented the first of two 2023 sensory friendly performances, Robin & Clark's Rapunzel, on June 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Pickard Theater. The move to the main stage represents a change of venue for this program which, for the past seven years, had been held in MSMT's Large Rehearsal Studio at 22 Elm Street, and had gradually outgrown the capacity of that space. The Pickard Theater on the Bowdoin College campus is wheel-

chair accessible and offers a nurturing, welcoming environment suitable for children and families with special needs, as well as increased seating capacity. Rapunzel drew 133 attendees - more than a 130% increase in audience numbers. They came from across the state, from counties as far away as Oxford, Penobscot, and Aroostook.

Artistic Director Curt Dale Clark said MSMT is thrilled by the exponential growth of this sensory friendly series. "Maine State Music Theatre has always been committed

to providing opportunities for young audiences to access live theatre. Furthermore, this program makes musical theatre accessible for children who might not otherwise be able to experience the magic. It's our way of building a theatre that is more inclusive and welcoming of everyone."

These sensory friendly performances are specially created for families with children with autism or other cognitive or physical disabilities. The hour-long presentations are designed to be interactive and to engage the children in the imaginative creative process. Light-

ing and sound levels are adjusted to accommodate sensory sensitivities, and there is the ability to stop and start the performance or for the audience to enter and leave at will. Clark hosts the event and chats with the children, who are also invited to meet the actors and take photos afterwards. Other amenities include a quiet room, study guide and activity booklet, and fidget toys.

The 2023 program is supported with generous gifts from Androscoggin Bank, the Davis Family Foundation, the Onion Foundation, the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, the

Alfred M. Senter Fund, and the Elsie & William Viles Foundation. Previous donors have included the Anna Maria Moggio Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. MSMT also received support in promoting the program among their patrons from local social service organizations such as Adaptive Outdoor Education, the Autism Society of Maine, and Maine Autism Alliance.

The program is offered free of charge, though reservations are required and may be made by calling the box office at 207-725-8769 or online at www.msmt.org. A second sensory performance of the Drewe-Stiles musical, The Three Little Pigs, will be presented at 6:00 p.m. on July 24, 2023.

For more information contact Dane Whitlock at 207-725-0184 or communications@msmt.org



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