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Auburn unveils plans for mixed income housing project



AUBURN, ME – At a meeting of the Auburn City Council held on Monday, October 16, the City of Auburn’s Business & Community Development Department announced its groundbreaking plans for an innovative mixed-income housing development comprising 100 units in the heart of New Auburn.

The comprehensive project proposal was introduced during the city council workshop. This initiative also includes a grant application submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, aimed at securing \$9.5 million to cover critical infrastructure costs such as the installation of new roads, sidewalks, and essential public utilities like water, sewer, and gas services for the upcoming residential community.

The proposed housing development includes the construction of 48 brand-new single-family homes, 8 owner-occupied duplexes, and three multi-unit apartment buildings. This forward-thinking project emphasizes the city’s commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community for its residents.

“This is a wonderful example of government working with private developers and community partners to create innovative, transformative projects that will enhance our housing choices,” said Auburn Mayor Jason J. Levesque. The highlight of Monday’s workshop presentation is the revelation that Homes for All, LLC, represented by Fatuma Hussein and a team of

experienced housing developers, will be spearheading this transformative project.

In addition to the city’s involvement, several esteemed partners have pledged their support for this initiative, including the Androscoggin Land Trust which will oversee the management of 25 acres of adjacent conservation land, providing residents with access to scenic hiking trails, as well as the YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston which pledges to establish a modern childcare facility within the development, offering invaluable support to families and working parents.

“As an advocate for a more equitable Maine and community, the Winter Oaks Housing Development reflects Auburn’s progress and our hard work towards improving our overall quality of life and building healthier and sustainable communities for everyone through housing and workforce,” said Hussein. “I’m excited to see how this project unfolds and begins to pave a new future for Auburn residents.”

The project has garnered substantial letters of support from key stakeholders, including the Androscoggin Emergency Management Agency, Community Concepts Inc., the Maine State Housing Authority, and Androscoggin Savings Bank.

The City of Auburn is proud to usher in a new era of housing development that not only addresses the diverse needs of its residents but also reinforces its dedication to community growth and wellbeing.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month pages 8-9

A great girls’ night out at The Public Theatre

LEWISTON, ME -- The Public Theatre presents the world premiere of *Paint Night*, a hilarious and heartbreaking new play that will speak to women of all ages Oct 20 – 29.

Imagine a modern-day *Steel Magnolias*, when six women get together in a Paint Studio for a much-needed girls night out. Their plan is to paint and sip, but as the alcohol flows, so does their laughter and tears, and their thoughts on motherhood and womanhood get hilariously and heartbreakingly revealed. *Paint Night* is about the way women support each other in an unpredictable world and what happens when we put down our cell phones and paint outside the lines of our comfort zone.”

Director Janet Mitchko says, “Whether you’re a mother, a daughter or a grandmother, every woman will recognize a part of herself or her life in this play. *Paint Night* also raises current topics happening in our world in a funny, honest, and relatable way”.

Last season Mitchko directed playwright Carey Crim’s, *Morning After Grace*. “The great thing about Carey’s writing” says Mitchko, “is her sense of humor and the way she incorporates it so truthfully into the difficult moments of life. We are pleased that Maine audiences will be the first people to see this play and we promise it will make you laugh, cry and perhaps even inspire you to try a paint night”.

In fact, audiences will have a chance to meet playwright Carey Crim and share their thoughts about the play as she will be attending the free Sat, Oct 21 post-show discussion following the 3pm performance.

The six professional actresses in the show portray mothers, daughters, and grandmothers, as well as friends. Kate Udall (Miriam) plays the mother of Lolly (Jessica Mosher) the bride-to-be the paint night is celebrating. Also at the paint night is Miriam’s old college roommate Fern (Susan Craves),



“Paint Night” cast – Left to Right: Jane Abernethy as Vera, Jessica DiGiovanni as Bree, Kate Udall as Miriam, Jeri Marshall as Gwen, Susan Craves as Fern, and Jessica Mosher as Lolly

accompanied by her multi-tasking daughter Bree (Jessica DiGiovanni) and Bree’s best friend and mother of three, Gwen (Jeri Marshall). Leading the paint night is Vera (Jane Abernethy) the creative and Yoda-like owner of the paint night studio. These actresses have been practicing their painting skills with local artist Melanie Therien from *Wicked Illustrations*. In fact, many of the paintings on the set are from actual local paint nights!

The art studio where the play takes place has been designed by Kit Mayer, costumes by Anne Collins, and lighting by Betty Faul-Welfare.

Grab the women you love and go see *Paint Night*, now playing at The Public Theatre, Lewiston/Auburn’s Professional Theatre, Oct 20 - 29. Showtimes are Thurs and Fri at 7:30pm, Sat at 3pm, Sun at 2pm with an added Sat evening on Oct 28 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$30 Adults, \$25 Groups 10+, \$20 Student 19+ with ID and can be purchased online at thepublictheatre.org or by calling 782-3200. The Theatre is located at 31 Maple St., Lewiston.

Paint Night is sponsored by Platz Associates, The Sun Journal, Bennett Radio Group, Androscoggin Bank, Butler Brothers and Twin City Times.

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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

AARP Maine celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month

PORTLAND, ME -- AARP Maine celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month -- and the contributions of Maine community activists in building a civil rights movement -- on Friday, Oct. 27 at 12 p.m. Eastern when it hosts the online event Maine's LGBTQ+ Trailblazers: Exploring the University of Southern Maine's Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity. Registration for the free online event is now open at <https://virtualevents.aarp.org/Trailblazers/>

"Engaging with the LGBTQ+ community and highlighting its valuable history in our state is important to AARP's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion," says Noël Bonam, AARP Maine State Director.

"AARP Maine is excited to highlight the remarkable role our state has played in the greater movement for LGBTQ+ civil rights. The University of Southern Maine's collection illuminates the lives of change-makers active in this movement over the past 50-plus years, as well as those here in Maine who simply lived ordinary lives."

Maine's LGBTQ+ Trailblazers will feature three University of Southern Maine (USM) staff members who have played key roles in the development of the University's LGBTQ+ collection, which preserves papers, photographs and other significant contributions of LGBTQ+ activists in Maine dating back over 50

years.

Susie R. Bock, Coordinator of Special Collections and Director of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine at USM, will discuss the work of the Center and spotlight some of the images in "Act Up Fight Back Take Pictures: Ten Years of Queer Activism in Maine," a collection of photographs by Annette Dragon taken during the 1990s, when HIV/AIDS activism and non-discrimination protections in Maine law were prominent concerns.

Megan MacGregor, Instruction and Outreach Librarian at USM, will discuss the importance of the LGBTQ+ collection and its impact on a variety of audiences. She will also field questions from

attendees during the Oct. 27 online event.

Wendy Chapkis, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Women & Gender Studies at USM, will discuss "Querying the Past," an oral history project that now features recorded interviews with over 100 LGBTQ+ individuals in Maine. Dr. Chapkis will discuss the unique role oral history plays in giving voice to individuals who might otherwise be overlooked in the narrative of a civil rights movement.

The event will also feature Steven G. Bull, longtime social activist whose LGBTQ+ activism dates back over 50 years, when in 1973 he co-founded the Wilde-Stein Club at the University of Maine in Orono, as well as one of

Maine's earliest LGBTQ+ publications, the Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, launched in 1974.

Registration for Maine's LGBTQ+ Trailblazers, a free online event, is available at <https://virtualevents.aarp.org/Trailblazers/>. Those who join the event at 12 p.m. Eastern on Friday, October 27 will be able to place questions in the chat section about the LGBTQ+ collection at the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. The event will also be available on-demand by registering at the same URL following its premiere.

AARP's unwavering commitment to the LGBTQ+ audience reflects our core belief in the dignity, worth and potential

of every individual. Our commitment can be measured by what we say -- and what we do. In our policy work at the community, state, and national levels, we are proud to stand with LGBTQ+ members, non-members, allies, and partner organizations. As our founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, said, "What we do, we do for all." We proudly carry this guiding principle forward in our work with LGBTQ+ audiences. For more information about AARP's LGBTQ+ outreach and resources, visit <https://www.aarp.org/pride>

To learn more about AARP and our work in Maine, visit www.aarp.org/me and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @aarpmaine.

New Ventures Maine launches mini-grant competition

AUGUSTA, ME—New Ventures Maine (NVME) has announced open applications for their statewide Fall 2023 Marketing Mini-Grant Competition.

The NVME Marketing Mini-Grant Program aims to strengthen access to markets for micro-businesses by supporting the development of marketing tools, materials, and activities. NVME will award cash mini-grants—up to \$1,000 per region (defined below)—to microenterprises for marketing projects through a competitive application process. Applications are due Friday, November 3, 2023.

Eligible applicants include individual micro-business owners, business partners, or groups of business owners. Businesses apply to the region in which they are based (see below for

details).

Application criteria include: 1) Five or fewer full-time equivalent employees; 2) sales in the current calendar year; and 3) gross annual sales of no more than \$150,000 (previous calendar year).

New Ventures Maine's mini-grants support new or expanded business marketing and promotion. Winning grants must be matched by a 25% contribution which can come from business profits, personal funds, or other sources.

Regions and contacts are defined for the NVME mini-grant program as follows:

Aroostook County: Destin DeCambre, 207-768-9468, destin.decambre@maine.edu

Kennebec & Somerset Counties: Jean Dempster, 207-621-3434, dempster@maine.edu

edu

Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox & Waldo Counties: Alicia LaFosse, 207-621-7457, alicia.lafosse@maine.edu

Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock & Washington Counties: Banjo Ogunlela, 207-262-7842, oyebanjo.ogunlela@maine.edu

Cumberland & York Counties: Elaine Thomas, 207-799-5025, elaine.thomas@maine.edu

Androscoggin, Oxford & Franklin Counties: Dion Olmstead, 207-753-6581, dion.r.olmstead@maine.edu

Marketing mini-grants are sponsored in part by Norway Savings Bank, Katahdin Trust Company, and Kennebec Savings Bank. For more information, contact the region representative listed above or visit the New Ventures Maine website.

Help light the world in teal for Alzheimer's Awareness

NEW YORK — The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is inviting sites around the world, from large skyscrapers and stadiums to small town halls, to help Light the World in Teal on November 2 to raise Alzheimer's awareness. To date, more than 1,000 landmarks in all 50 states and 13 foreign countries have signed up to participate in the initiative, which takes place during National Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Teal is AFA's Alzheimer's awareness color.

"Every site that participates in this global initiative is making a difference in the fight against Alzheimer's disease-- and the more that join, the more awareness we will raise about Alzheimer's," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's President and



CEO. "We invite everyone to 'go teal' on November 2 to show their support for the millions of people living with Alzheimer's."

Sites that have already signed up to participate include:

One World Trade Center (New York, NY)

Willis Tower (Chicago, IL)

SoFi Stadium (Inglewood, CA)

Raymond James Stadium (Tampa, FL)

George Bush International Airport (Houston, TX)

Ford Field (Detroit, MI)

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (Phoenix, AZ)

Columbia Center (Seattle, WA)

Ben Franklin Bridge (Philadelphia, PA)

Sites interested in participating in the Light the World in Teal Alzheimer's Awareness program on November 2 can sign up by visiting www.lighttheworldinteal.com or contacting the Alzheimer's Foundation of America at 866-232-8484. There is no fee for sites to participate in the program.

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



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Newsmakers, Names & Faces

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LEWISTON ME

LEWISTON, ME – Absentee ballots for the City Candidate and State Referendum election on Tue., Nov. 7, are now available for Lewiston voters from the City Clerk's Department at City Hall, 27 Pine St., 2nd Floor. The statewide deadline to request an absentee ballot is 4 PM, Thu., Nov. 2.

All pending requests for absentee ballots have been filled, and over 200 ballots have been mailed out.

Registered voters wishing to obtain an absentee ballot may order one via four methods:

Visit the City Clerk's Department - second floor - at Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street, M-F between 8:30 AM and 4 PM.

Download an absen-

tee ballot application from the City's web site www.lewistonmaine.gov/absenteevoting and either mail the completed application or put it in the red drop box on the Park Street side of City Hall, 27 Pine Street.

Use the State of Maine Absentee Ballot Request online site www.lewistonmaine.gov/absenteeatellink

Call the Lewiston City Clerk's Department at 207-513-3124 to have an absentee ballot mailed to you.

In addition, commencing on Mon., Oct. 23, the Early Voting Polling Place will once again be open at Lewiston City Hall to allow voters to cast their absentee ballot in person. The site will be open through Nov. 2, excluding

weekends. Hours will be 9 AM – 4 PM.

Races on this year's ballot include Mayor, School Committee At Large, City Councilor seats in all seven wards and School Committee seats in all seven wards. In addition, there are eight questions on the State ballot regarding Constitutional amendments and other items.

Also, the City's website contains sample ballots, directions to polling places, and other election information that voters may find useful at www.lewistonmaine.gov/elections

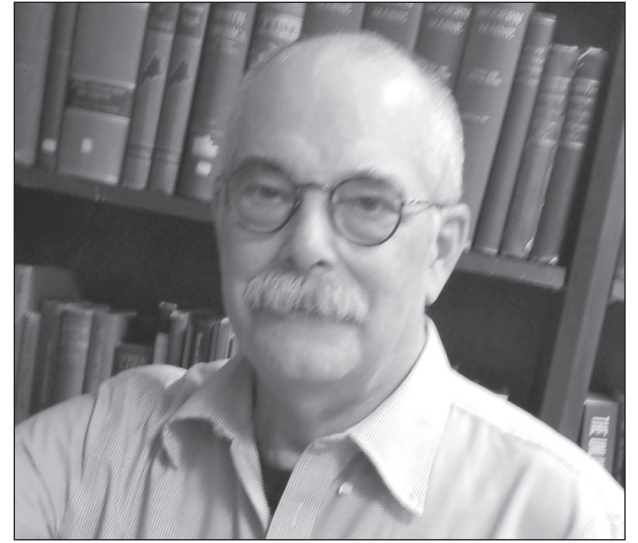
Voters are encouraged to contact the City Clerk's Department at 513-3124 with any questions they may have.

AHS President to speak at Franco-American fall meeting

AUBURN, ME -- The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society [MFGS] will hold its fall general meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 21, in the Androscoggin Community Room of the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St., Auburn.

After the brief business meeting and light refreshments, our guest speaker David Chittim, Androscoggin Historical Society President, will present an overview of recent changes at AHS and explore some of the resources it has available for genealogical research. This is free and the public is welcome to attend both the business meeting and Chittim's presentation which will begin at 11 a.m.

The Historical Society has, as its mission, the collection, preservation and dissemination of history about Androscoggin County and the State of Maine. It maintains thousands of archival records, a research library containing upwards of a thousand volumes pertaining to local history, many hundreds of artifacts, and a small store featuring relevant items for sale. A stated goal of the new facility is to develop rotating thematic exhibits focused on a particular topic, era,



David Chittim

or geographic area so that there will always be something fresh for the public to view. It offers monthly programs on topics of general historical interest, walking tours related to architecture, historic points of interest, and local cemeteries. In addition, the Society sponsors six to eight open houses at the 1796 Knight House during the summer and invites school groups to experience a typical 1850 school day at its West Auburn Schoolhouse.

Chittim, a retired engineer and land surveyor, has actively served on the AHS Board as Treasurer for nine years and as President for the past two, guiding it through the transition from

its cloistered existence on the third floor of the County Building in Auburn to a new, accessible home in the heart of Lewiston. Although not yet fully open to the public, the new museum / library / research facility is accessible by appointment. The Society hopes to be open and fully operational in time to celebrate its 100th anniversary before the end of the year.

For parking information, visit www.auburn-publiclibrary.org. For more information about the meeting, contact Connie Hitchcock, Recording Secretary of the Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society, at 207-312-5917 or cahitchco@aol.com.

Cooking safety starts with you

AUBURN, ME (October 6, 2023) -- Fire Prevention Week was started by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Today, this week is used to teach children and adults how to be safe in the event of a fire.

Scheduled for October 8 through October 14, 2023, this year's theme is "Cooking Safety Starts with YOU." The Auburn Fire Department would like to remind everyone to cook safely with the following safety tips:

Always stay in the

kitchen while frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove.

Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.

Have a "kid and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove or grill, and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Be alert! If you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol or medication, please don't use the stove or stovetop.

If you have a fire on the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over

the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

For an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed.

As always, if you have a fire, please call 9-1-1 so that the fire department can assist and verify that the fire has been completely extinguished.

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

Understanding health issues as we age

AUBURN, ME -- Have you ever wondered what are the most common problems, diseases, and treatments for people over 50?

We're all going to get there, if we're not over 50 already. And, Dr. William Schmitt is prepared to help us understand health issues that we may encounter as we age.

Dr. Schmitt earned a BS and MD from Loyola University, Chicago and completed a residence in Family Medicine at Duke University. He was also a Fulbright Scholar while completing a Masters in Journalism. In addition, he has taught at medical school.

Dr. Schmidt will be the featured speaker at the Auburn Public Library on

October 20 at 10:30 in the library's Androscoggin Room at 49 Spring Street. This program is free and open to the public.

To learn more, visit the Events Calendar on Auburn Public Library's website -- <https://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org/events/upcoming>

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King: Helping older Maine people ‘stand strong’

By Senator Angus King

We all know the saying: ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.’ Well, I’ve heard of too many older Maine people who have suffered from a household fall and then faced months of costly hospital visits and doctor’s bills. So, in an effort to help older Maine people ‘Stand Strong’ throughout their golden years – while also saving theirs and taxpayers’ dollars – I am working to provide Maine adults with cost-effective prevention measures and resources.

In 2021 alone, Maine had over 325 deaths from

adult falls and our state ranked 8th highest in the nation per capita on the rate of deaths due to falls. When you look nationwide, over three million older people are treated in emergency rooms for falls on average, yearly. That is too many loved ones injuring themselves—or worse—from events that are entirely preventable.

The good news is that we have an ‘ounce of prevention’ approach to help Maine’s older people. Last month, I introduced two bills as the ‘Stand Strong’ legislative package, which will directly address these challenges and ensure older Maine people have ac-

cess to preventative care resources. The ‘Stand Strong’ package is a combination of two bills: the Preventative Home Visits Act and the WELL Seniors Act. Together, these bills will expand Medicare benefits to help with home improvements, make telehealth more accessible and include comprehensive screenings during Medicare Annual Wellness Visits.

‘Stand Strong’ interventions can be as simple as installing a grab bar or signing up for an exercise class that improves balance – and the cost-effectiveness is clear-cut. Hospitalizations are ex-

pensive, and the cost to Medicare and other payers to replace a hip can be tens of thousands of dollars. In terms of direct medical expenditures, falls cost our healthcare system \$50 billion annually, with 76% of that borne by Medicare and Medicaid. The CDC estimates that the 2014 total direct cost of treating non-fatal falls in Maine was \$255 million. However, direct costs do not account for the long-term effects of these injuries, such as disability, dependence on others, lost time from work and household duties, and reduced quality of life.

Telehealth has also

played a huge role in making sure Maine people stay healthy – especially for those of you who live in rural communities. In the past, many had to travel a half a tank of gas away to get care. All too often, I heard stories of people that decided to postpone the doctor’s visit and cross their fingers for another couple of months. But today, more families across our state can regularly and conveniently attend doctor appointments online which is why these bills include telehealth provisions.

So, the way I see it, this boils down to simple math. We could continue to have millions of Amer-

icans visit ERs every year because of falls – with an annual cost of \$50 billion – or we could utilize telehealth and expand Medicare benefits to cover the cost of a \$400 shower rail or \$200 leaning bar—helping older Americans get around their homes safely and ‘Stand Strong.’

It’s clear we need to do everything we can to keep older Maine people on their feet and thriving. From supporting them with grab bars to expanding access to medical professionals, we’d be offering them that ounce of prevention and taking a good first step to avoid costly injuries.

\$450K for Maine CDC Alzheimer’s programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 8, 2023)—Today, U.S. Senator Susan Collins announced that the Maine Center for Disease Control and Pre-

vention (Maine CDC) has received \$450,000 for Alzheimer’s disease prevention and care programs through the Building Our Largest Demen-

tia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act, a bipartisan bill authored by Senator Collins to create a public health infrastructure across the country to combat Alzheimer’s disease and preserve brain health.

“Millions of Americans and thousands throughout Maine are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and that number continues to rise as our overall population grows older and people live longer,” said Senator Collins. “This important funding will support the Maine CDC’s efforts in supporting those

affected by Alzheimer’s. As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease, I remain committed to advancing research, care, and support for individuals and families living with this devastating disease.”

“We are thrilled that the Maine CDC has been awarded with a competitive grant to carry out Maine’s forthcoming Alzheimer’s State Plan and the Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap. As a partner on this project, the Alzheimer’s Association Maine Chapter is looking forward to working with Maine CDC to help drive public awareness, early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease, and access to care and support statewide,” said Drew Wyman, executive director for the Alzheimer’s Association Maine Chapter. “Furthermore, we thank Senator Collins for her leadership on the bipartisan BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act (P.L. 115-406), which enables states like Maine to access

the resources necessary to improve their response to dementia. These funds are critical to ensuring a robust public health approach can be implemented at the state level.”

The BOLD Act, which was signed into law in 2018, authorized the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to allocate up to \$20 million per year for five years to local entities that provide dementia and Alzheimer’s disease care and support. In 2020, Maine was among the first 15 public health entities nationally to be awarded federal funding to expand support services for people with dementia through the BOLD Act. This funding was renewed annually through FY2023 and assisted the State of Maine in building Maine’s Alzheimer’s Prevention Program and advancing Maine’s efforts as a designated Age Friendly State. Today’s announcement will provide implementation funding to build on these initial investments and allow Maine to carry out Alzheimer’s disease

and related dementias activities in line with their strategic plan and the CDC’s Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map.

In fiscal year 2023, Senator Collins secured \$3.74 billion to support Alzheimer’s research. The FY23 government funding law also included \$38.5 million – a \$8 M million increase – for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Alzheimer’s disease activities, including increased investment in the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act.

More than six million Americans—and 29,000 Mainers—are living with Alzheimer’s. This disease costs the United States more than \$345 billion per year, including \$222 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. Barring the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent or cure Alzheimer’s disease, Alzheimer’s is projected to claim the minds of nearly 13 million Americans and nearly surpass \$1 trillion in annual costs by 2050.

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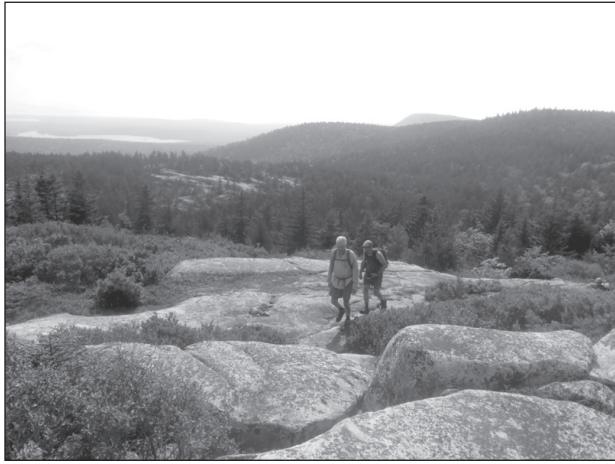
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Seniors Not Acting Their Age

Hiking the Scenic Mountains of Donnell Pond Public Lands



A series of long ledges lead to East Black Peak



A hiker reaches the barren summit of East Black Peak



Schoodic Mountain provides remarkable views of the surrounding area

By Ron Chase
For me, Labor Day marks the beginning of a change in my outdoor activities. Paddle sports are winding down and fall mountain hiking is gearing up. Not one to quickly surrender the joys of kayaking, for many years I've eased into the transition by planning what I call surf and turf outings. These adventures are loosely described as paddling to a secluded location and using it as base camp to climb mountains. I prefer to get my "mountain legs" by starting with smaller scenic peaks.

The picturesque mountains of Donnell Pond Public Lands meet that criterion. Located in central Hancock County near the Town of Franklin, the lands consist of over 14,000 heavily forested acres that include several rugged mountains enveloping isolated ponds and lakes. An extensive trail system meanders over

and around the summits that dominate the conservation area. Numerous campsites have been established along the shores of the lakes and ponds.

While it's possible to connect with some mountain trailheads by road, the campsites can only be reached by hiking or watercraft. That's fine with me since I prefer to load my sea kayak and paddle to one of the remote locations. And, difficult access minimizes crowds.

One of my favorite encampments in the reserve is Schoodic Beach on the extreme southern shore of Donnell Pond. Maintained by the Maine Bureau of Public Lands, the long sandy beach offers several sites with picnic tables and toilets. Trailheads for Black and Schoodic Mountains begin at the beach and the paddling distance from a public landing in Franklin is about three miles.

An excellent two-

day weather forecast in early September inspired me to invite several outdoor friends on a Donnell Pond surf and turf trip. Three of the usual suspects agreed to join me.

We met at the Franklin boat landing on the western terminus of Donnell Pond on a hot, steamy day with light winds predicted. Three of us were in solo sea kayaks while the fourth chose a canoe.

Paddling due east for a couple of miles towards prominent Caribou Mountain, we turned south into a narrow channel opposite Redmans Beach Campsites. A trailhead for Caribou Mountain starts at the beach. Our goal was the more impressive peaks farther south.

Continuing in a southerly direction, a gentle tailwind helped propel us towards Schoodic Beach. The distinctive cliffs of Black Mountain towered above our destination. Approaching the

expansive sandy beach, we spotted colorful tents on both ends. Fortunately, ample space remained available in the center. We found an excellent shaded site with a picnic table.

After setting up tents and changing into hiking gear, the turf portion of our excursion began. Black Mountain Cliffs Loop Trail originates and ends at the beach. Hiking clockwise, we persisted steeply up the wooded northwest side of the cliffs and then along the rim.

Our map indicated it was 1.3 miles to a junction leading to Black and East Black Peaks. An unusual amount of time elapsed without locating the junction and then we began to descend. Consulting a GPS did not resolve the dilemma. We decided to backtrack. Fortunately, the well-concealed East Peak Trail was finally discovered.

Leaving the loop

trail, we progressed north over a hilly route to a rounded high point. Unmarked, it appeared to be the forested Black Mountain summit.

The path towards East Peak declined steeply to a soggy area and then ascended gradually over partially open rocky terrain. A series of long ledges led us to the spectacular barren summit. Although the skies were hazy, we enjoyed sweeping views of the surrounding area before beginning our return.

Following hours of hiking in hot humid weather, our trek ended with a very refreshing swim in the pond. Camping that night was idyllic.

After a leisurely breakfast the following morning, we completed a hike on exceptionally scenic Schoodic Mountain. The open summit offers marvelous views of the mountains of Mount Desert Island.

A moderate headwind resulted in a challenging paddle during our return to the landing in Franklin. Ours was an extremely enjoyable excursion in an outdoor paradise.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates a Moosehead Lake and Mount Kinneon surf and turf and nine mountain hikes around the state.

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 ronchase-outdoors@comcast.net

\$287K for Maine mental health services

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 21, 2023) – Today, U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (Maine DHHS) will receive a total of \$287,194 from the Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) program. This funding is part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), and is in addition to the more than \$4 million Maine DHHS

will receive in Fiscal Year 2023 through the MHBG program.

"Mental health remains a critical component of overall community health," said Senators Collins and King. "This funding will help to enhance our state's capacity to ad-

dress mental health challenges effectively while helping to ensure that every individual in our state has access to the support they need."

The MHBG program supports grantees in carrying out plans for providing comprehensive communi-

ty mental health services. Specific targeted populations include adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances.

Senators Collins and King were key supporters of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, legisla-

tion that protects America's children, keeps our schools safe, and reduces the threat of violence across our country. The legislation included an expansion of children and family mental health resources and school-based mental health and supportive services.



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Arts & Entertainment

Fiddle-icious afternoon concert Oct. 29 at the Franco Center



The toe-tapping music of Maine's largest fiddle orchestra will be heard in an afternoon concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston. Special guests include Erica Brown and Matt Shipman; and Rossby, Elsie and Oliver Arnott. Tickets can be purchased at 207-689-2000 and www.francocenter.org/shows. Submitted photo.

LEWISTON, ME—The Franco Center will present the trademark toe-tapping music of Fiddle-icious at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Fiddle-icious is a community-based orchestra whose members are determined to preserve the cultural heritage of Maine's traditional fiddle music, dances, and

songs passed down from Scottish, Irish, Quebecois, and Acadian ancestors.

The members of Fiddle-icious are part of a larger fellowship that strives to bring joy and purpose to all who participate. The orchestra is directed by master fiddler Don Roy and accompanied by Cindy Roy on piano.

Special guests for this concert include Matt and Erica Brown Shipman, and the sibling act of Rossby, Elsie, and Oliver Arnott.

The audience will hear fiddles, guitars, flutes, banjos, tin whistles, accordions, cellos, violas, mandolins, harps, stand-up bass and other instruments. The orchestra's music is scored for beginner to advanced players, creating a full, rich sound.

Roy and his wife, Cindy grew up in

French-Canadian families where music was an integral part of their lives. Fiddle-icious grew out of their desire to share their knowledge with others, foster community through music and keep their musical heritage alive.

In a social media post, Fiddle-icious stated that the 2023 season is: "Our first concert series since 2019 and we can't wait to see all your smiling faces!"

To learn more about the group, view the 2009 documentary short, "Fiddle-icious - Community of Music," produced by the Salt Institute, at www.fiddleicious.com.

Tickets can be purchased through the Franco Center's box office in person from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays or call 207-689-2000. Ticket purchases can also be made online at www.francocenter.org/shows.

Tickets in advance: Tier 1 at \$25 and Tier 2 at \$20.

Tickets at the door: Tier 1 at \$30 and Tier 2 at \$25.

Doors and cash bar open at 1 p.m. Concert is at 2 p.m. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston.

"Taste the Music" Volume 17, the 2023 Music Series by Fiddle-icious music CDs will be available for purchase at the concert.

Handicap access is on the Lincoln Street Alley side of the building. Parking is in the mill lot across the street. Additional parking, should the mill lot be full, is in the city-owned Lincoln St. Lot on the corner of Lincoln and Oxford streets; in the parking garage at the corner of Lincoln and Chestnut streets; and in the Lincoln St. Lot across from F.X. Marcotte.

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PAINT NIGHT

BY CAREY CRIM

Imagine *Steel Magnolias* with modern day issues, as six women gather for a much needed girls' night out.

New York comic coming to Great Falls Comedy Club

AUBURN, ME – Great Falls Comedy Club announces more live improv and stand-up comedy hitting the stage on October 20, and 21.

Make laughter a priority by being part of the fun on Friday night and welcoming the return of Capital City Improv as they present Broski, Three Dude and Your Suggestions, featuring Greg Lambert, Nathan White, and Dennis Price at 7:00 pm.

Then on Saturday head



down to the club as host Nic Dufault presents headliner and New York comic, one of the strongest crowd work talents there currently is, Annick Adelle. Also appearing, Bill Douglas and

Nestor Matute. Doors at 7:00, show at 7:30.

Tickets can be found at <https://www.greatfallscomedyclub.com> or purchased at the door. Great Falls Comedy Club is located inside Craft Brew Underground at 34 Court Street, Auburn, under the red awning.

For more information contact the club at info@greatfallscomedyclub.com or by phone at 207-200-5366.

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WMPG releases “An Extraordinary Place”

PORTLAND, ME — WMPG Radio, the renowned radio station affiliated with the University of Southern Maine, is excited to announce the release of “An Extraordinary Place,” a 30-minute documentary film, directed and produced by Tom Bell.

“An Extraordinary Place” delves deep into the heart of an extraordinary community and explores the stories, the people, and the experiences that make it truly unique. This captivating documentary is set to wow audiences with its rich storytelling and insightful interviews, showcasing the artistry and dedication that go into creating a thriving and vibrant com-

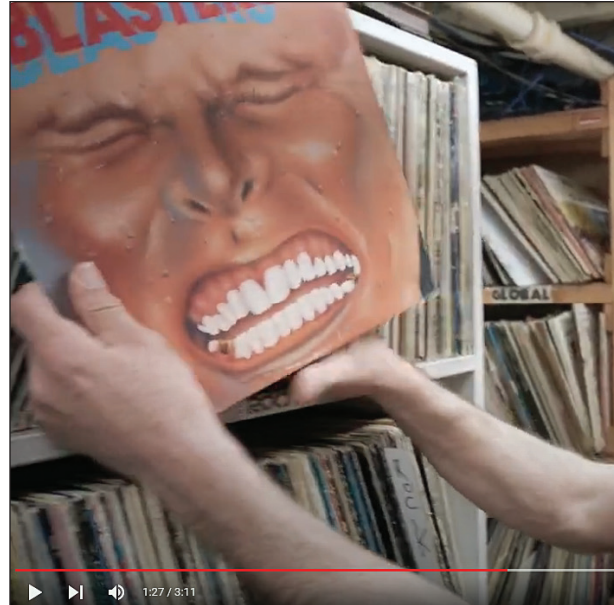


munity.

The documentary takes viewers on a remarkable journey through the lives of the community members who work tirelessly to make their space truly extraordinary. It highlights the shared

vision, determination, and the unwavering spirit of individuals dedicated to making a difference.

Tom Bell, an accomplished filmmaker and a key figure at WMPG, brings his exceptional talent and vision to this project.



said Tom Bell, the film’s director and producer. “This project has been a labor of love, and I hope that it will inspire and uplift everyone who watches it. It’s a testament to the resilience, creativity, and dedication of the individuals who make this community so special.”

The documentary was set to premiere at the WMPG 50th birthday party on October 14th at 7pm, and it will be available for public viewing shortly afterward.

For more information about “An Extraordinary Place” and to connect with the team behind this film, please contact Tom Bell directly at 207-613-4361 or tbell@tombell-media.com.

ect. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for storytelling, Bell provides viewers with an intimate and compelling look into

the heart of this extraordinary place.

“We are thrilled to share ‘An Extraordinary Place’ with our audience,”

MaineHealth Introduces Online Scheduling for Primary Care Visits

PORTLAND, Maine — Patients at MaineHealth’s 52 primary care practices across Maine and New Hampshire may now schedule primary care office visits through the online MyChart patient portal.

“We’ve heard from our patients that they are looking for flexibility with scheduling. These

days, you can schedule everything from a car repair to a restaurant reservation online and we’re pleased to extend that same level of convenience to scheduling a primary care visit,” said Aileen Mickey, MD, president of the MaineHealth Medical Group.

In a survey of MaineHealth patients,

more than 70 percent said they would welcome the new scheduling option.

Online scheduling is available 24 hours a day to existing MaineHealth primary care patients who have a MyChart patient portal account. Scheduling by phone remains available. Not all primary care visit types are available for online schedul-

ing. Appointments available to schedule online include vaccines, Medicare annual wellness visits, physical exams and well visits, as well as office visits for new or ongoing health issues. Other appointment types can also be requested through MyChart.

MaineHealth primary care practices

include those affiliated with Maine Medical Partners, Southern Maine Health Care, Mid Coast-Parkview Health, LincolnHealth, Pen Bay Medical Center, Waldo County General Hospital, Franklin Community Health Network, Western Maine Health and Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH.

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

Harvest Supper held on Veterans Day

AUBURN, ME -- The West Auburn Congregational Church will be hosting a Harvest Supper on Veterans day, November 11, 2023. We will be serving Turkey, Ham, Potatoes, Squash, Carrots, Peas, Corn, Rolls, beverage and

dessert. To show our appreciation for the men and woman in service and Veteran’s we reduce the cost of the meal to \$7.00.

We have meal for inside and to go.

Time: 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Price: Free for under 3; \$5.00 for 13 and under; \$7.00 for Veterans & Service Men and Women; \$10.00 over 13

Location: West Auburn Congregational Church, 811 West Auburn Road, Auburn, Maine 04210

West Auburn Congregational Church
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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Safe Voices Therapy Dogs Say hello to two new staff members!

In 2022, Safe Voices staff was thrilled to add two therapy-dogs-in-training to our team!

Oliver (AKA Ollie), the older of our two therapy dogs, is teamed with owner/handler Katrina, who is the Safe Voices Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Outreach Coordinator. Ollie and Katrina started a year-long therapy dog and handler

training program in September, 2022, and while his training is ongoing, Ollie accompanies Katrina to nearly all her Safe Voices work, including time in the office and out in the field meeting with survivors, community members, and members of law enforcement and legal agencies. Ollie has a TikTok account where we share updates on his work and training and use



Jefferson and Ollie

his experiences at Safe Voices to educate followers about domestic abuse and sex trafficking and the work Safe Voices does within our communities.

Youngster Jefferson joined his owner/handler Alyssa — our Program Manager of Community Engagement — in October, 2022. Jefferson has already passed his temperament test with flying colors and regularly comes

to the office with Alyssa. Now that his training has officially started, visiting lots of new places and meeting lots of new people is the name of the game! Jefferson may not have a TikTok like Ollie, but he does love Venmo and thinks it would be pretty paw-some if you donated to Safe Voices by finding us there. Our username is @safevoices on the Venmo app.

Safe Voices to honor Cloutier, DA's office, community members

LEWISTON, ME (October 4, 2023) -- Safe Voices will hold its annual Fall Fête and Community Awards on Oct. 19, where they will honor area leaders for their work supporting the agency and the communities in which it works.

Rep. Kristen Cloutier of House District #94 and the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit of the Androscoggin County District Attorney's Office will join Auburn resident Ralph Poland and Lewis-

ton resident Kimberly Bailey in being honored at the event.

Rep. Cloutier will receive the agency's Kimberly Wilson Community Transformation Award for her dedicated work to develop and pass a Paid Family & Medical Leave program for the State, her thoughtfulness around all bills that will affect survivors of domestic abuse, sex trafficking, and sexual exploitation, and her energy in supporting and showing up for local non-

profit agencies.

Receiving Safe Voices' Community Partner Award is the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault unit of the Androscoggin County District Attorney's Office. This award recognizes the team's dedication to justice for survivors and accountability for offenders, as well as their continual partnership with Safe Voices to advocate in support of survivor-identified needs.

Local residents Ralph Poland of Auburn

and Kimberly Bailey of Lewiston will be awarded the Volunteer Impact Award and the Shining Star Staff Award, respectively. Poland had been a volunteer with the agency for over a decade, in addition to his work locally as a peer support mentor for others who have experienced brain injury. Bailey, a shelter lead case manager at Safe Voices, is being honored for her work as a leader on the Safe Voices staff and her fierce advocacy for the rights and

needs of survivors.

"Each of these awards represents an impactful and committed relationship with Safe Voices," says the agency's executive director Elise Johansen. "It is always an honor to take an evening each year to recognize that we are not in this work alone, and that it is best served when organizations, individuals, and agencies can link arms and work together."

For more information about the Safe Voices

Fall Fête, please contact Safe Voices director of development and engagement Grace Kendall at gkendall@safevoices.org or visit bit.ly/tickets_SV to purchase tickets.

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

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Safe Voices hosts annual Fall Fête and Community Awards tonight

AUBURN, ME -- Safe Voices is hosting its annual Fall Fête and Community Awards on Oct. 19 in Auburn. Safe Voices friends and supporters will gather in the ballroom of the Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch to celebrate organizations and individuals who have worked to support survivors of domestic abuse, sex trafficking, and sexual exploitation in Maine.

This year's theme is "Maine Gems" — honoring the people, work, and communities that make Maine special.

"Each year, this event celebrates the community that does this work together," said Safe Voices executive director Elise Johansen. "It's such an honor to take this night to recognize Safe Voic-

es employees, partners, and volunteers who make supporting survivors a priority in their everyday work."

Joining Safe Voices will be Dr. Connie Adler, board chair of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights, who will speak about the history of the movement to support survivors of domestic violence in Maine as well as the intersection between limitations on bodily autonomy and domestic violence.

Dr. Adler has provided healthcare for women in Maine for over 30 years. She has won the Maine Women's Fund Leadership Award, the Maine Medical Association's award for humanitarian services, and was inducted into the Maine

Women's Hall of Fame in 2016.

The cocktail hour from 5-6pm will be open to all and presented with the L/A Metro Chamber of Commerce as their monthly Business After Hours event, with ticketed programming starting at 6pm.

At the gem-themed event, guests will enjoy a full buffet and cash bar, photo booth, and a silent auction featuring a 4-night stay at an oceanfront cottage, jewelry, a family membership to the Portland Museum of Art, and more.

To ensure equitable access for community members and neighbors, tickets are being sold on

a sliding scale from \$25-\$75 and can be purchased at bit.ly/tickets_SV.

To find out where you fall on the sliding scale, there is a guide included on the ticket page.

For organizations

interested in purchasing a table, which includes eight tickets, please contact Grace Kendall at gkendall@safevoices.org. Safe Voices Fall

Mixer & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 5pm-8pm at Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch, 14 Great Falls Plaza, Auburn, Maine

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Let's Celebrate!

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Auburn branch and the Norway Savings Bank Arena with us! Join us for a Public Skate from 3:50—4:50 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, at 985 Turner Street. Admission is \$5, and skate rentals are \$5. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the **Good Shepherd Food Bank!** Non-perishable food items will also be collected!

Also, what better way to celebrate than to support another local nonprofit? From **October 23–27**, come into the branch or go online to vote for your favorite local cause. Nonprofits will receive a share of \$2023 based on the votes, so go vote!

Lake Stewards of Maine Tree Street Youth
 New Beginnings You can also write in
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You can also visit our branch to vote.



The Right Priorities

Lowering Taxes

Mayor Levesque is acutely aware of the importance of reducing taxes. Throughout the past six years, he has successfully limited tax increases to rates below inflation. Furthermore, under his leadership this year, taxes have remained unaltered. Although these efforts have presented challenges, Mayor Levesque’s commitment to fostering development in Auburn’s tax base will ultimately contribute to stabilizing tax rates, enhancing the overall quality of life, and safeguarding crucial city services.



Quality Education

Mayor Levesque was the first Mayor to take his seat on the School Board in over 20 years, championing educational excellence with tangible outcomes: notably, significant improvements in proficiency scores and a remarkable surge in the graduation rate, soaring from 73% to an impressive 93%. Led the efforts to create Auburn’s and CMMC’s Spring Ahead initiative creating the likelihood that ELHS students can attain an associates degree, or trade certification program upon graduation. Mayor Levesque has also been at the forefront of implementing strategic and efficient education funding, ensuring that Auburn’s taxpayers receive the maximum benefit from their investments in education.

Economic Development

Under Mayor Levesque’s leadership, Auburn has achieved record-breaking development in 4 out of the past 6 years, positioning the city as a leader in both new growth and high-paying job opportunities within the state. This remarkable expansion of the tax base promises to ensure the long-term sustainability of Auburn for generations to come.

Attainable Housing

Mayor Levesque is a strong advocate for making housing accessible to everyone. He has championed inclusive zoning, worked to dismantle obstacles, and facilitated partnerships between developers, landowners, and contractors to foster growth in the housing sector.

Protecting Natural Resources

We cannot have a vibrant city without identifying and protecting the natural resources that are essential to our future. Mayor Levesque is proud of the work done to Protect Lake Auburn.

ote **Jason Levesque**
AUBURN’S MAYOR
PAID FOR BY LEVESQUE FOR AUBURN

CMH: Screening crucial for early breast cancer diagnosis

LEWISTON, ME -- Central Maine Healthcare (CMH) is joining healthcare organizations throughout the world in recognizing National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. This important observation began in 1985 and has evolved into a worldwide effort to promote screening and prevention of the disease.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in this country, with one in eight being diagnosed.

“There is a lot of social awareness about screening and the fact that early detection saves lives,” said Renee Pinette, MD, OB/GYN and breast surgical oncologist at CMH. “However, every day we still meet women who have never had a mammogram or have missed some mammograms, and we should continue the effort to increase awareness until we reach all of those people, too.”

Dr. Pinette recommends annual screening mammograms for women,



Cancer Care Center at CMMC, team members wear pink and encourage women to get screened

starting at age 40, and annual breast exams with a primary care provider, gy-

necologist or breast health specialist.

Central Maine

Healthcare has an excellent, comprehensive breast health team, and is one of only a few in the state that is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.

“Patients feel that when they encounter our team, from front desk staff to our mammogram technicians, from the radiologists reading the mammograms to the surgical staff, we treat people like our neighbors, like we would want our family to be treated,” Dr. Pinette said.

Central Maine

Healthcare team members are recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month in a number of ways, including holding breast cancer screening events at Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) in Lewiston, Rumford Hospital and Bridgton Hospital.

On Fridays throughout October, Central Maine Healthcare team members are wearing pink to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the signs at the Cancer Care Center at CMMC are illuminated in pink.

DKG Teddy Bear Fair supports community



LEWISTON, ME -- The Ladies of Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International are bringing back their annual Teddy Bear Fair on October 28 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 hand-made

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.

Androscoggin-Sagadahoc Counties Extension hosting annual meeting

LISBON FALLS, ME — Androscoggin-Sagadahoc Counties Extension Association (ASCEA) will hold its annual meeting and elect new officers from 6-7:30 p.m. on Oct. 23 at the Univer-

sity of Maine Cooperative Extension Androscoggin-Sagadahoc Counties office, 24 Main St.

The event is open to the public and will feature presentations from UMaine Extension ed-

ucators Griffin Dill and Tori Jackson on Maine ticks, UMaine Extension’s work and how to get involved. A question and answering session will immediately follow the presentations.

Registration is not required. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit the ASCEA webpage or contact Izzy Viselli at is-

abella.viselli@maine.edu, 207.353.5550, or 1.800.287.1458 (toll-free in Maine).

The ASCEA is recruiting new members. In partnership with UMaine Extension staff, the mem-

bers of each county association assist with providing input on local educational programming needs and oversee the county budget appropriations that support Extension educational programs for county residents.

GREAT FALLS FORUM



Photo courtesy of Russ Dillingham/Sun Journal

Jonathan LaBonte
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Maine delegation announces \$4M for GEAR UP program

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 29, 2023) –U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden, have announced the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the University of Maine \$4,058,656 for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Maine RISE program. GEAR UP Maine, run by UMaine Farmington and the non-profit Syntiro, has helped prepare Maine students for postsecondary education since 1998, in-

cluding more than 29,000 students since 2007. "For decades, GEAR UP has helped to provide a solid foundation for students across Maine who at times might have felt that opportunities for a postsecondary education were financially out of reach," the Maine delegation said. "By equipping our young people with the resources and guidance needed to build a brighter future we are, in turn, making investments in the future of Maine." "We are incredibly pleased to have GEAR UP funded in Maine again," said Debbie Gilmer,

GEAR UP Maine Project Director. "This multi-million dollar investment in youth from Maine's most rural and economically disadvantaged communities, including a GEAR UP scholarship program, will help address the inequities facing rural students, their families and their communities." "The University of Maine at Farmington has a long history of supporting the success of students from rural communities, the first in their families to pursue postsecondary education and other underserved students. Over the

last 25 years, the GEAR UP program has transformed the futures of thousands of Maine students by raising their aspirations and preparing them to affordably attend and complete college, helping more of Maine's young people reach their full potential through this proven program," said University of Maine Farmington President Joseph McDonnell. "We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has agreed to fund this work and grateful to Sens. Collins and King and Reps. Pingree and Golden for their ongoing

support of our partnerships with Maine students and schools." GEAR UP Maine has prepared economically disadvantaged students in Maine for college by providing tutoring, mentoring, academic and career counseling, and exposure to college campuses since its establishment in 1998. Many of the participants of the program go on to earn college scholarships. Over the course of seven years, the annual \$4 million grant funding will allow the program to follow cohorts of seventh graders through the first

year of their post-secondary experience. GEAR UP Maine has 53 school partners located in Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Oxford, Somerset and Washington counties. The Maine delegation has been supporting GEAR UP Maine for many years. In 2021, with the understanding of how many students GEAR UP supports, they challenged the Department of Education when it rejected UMaine's application for a renewed GEAR UP grant. They have also secured millions of dollars for the program in prior appropriations spending bills.

Maine gets \$272K for water quality monitoring at beaches

BOSTON, ME (August 11, 2023) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$272,000 grant to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to protect the health of beachgoers. This funding is part of \$10.6 million in grants, announced in May, to help coastal and Great Lakes communities. The funding will support water quality monitoring and public notification programs for beaches.

"With so many beach closures across New England this summer, people want to know 'where can I go swimming in clean water?'," said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. "Today's grant will advance environmental justice in communities vulnerable to and overburdened by water quality impacts by supporting critical monitoring and notification programs. We will continue to work closely with our state, municipal and local partners to deliver information

that people need to make good decisions about their health. The results of monitoring can also help us enforce environmental laws and make investments, so beach closures become a thing of the past." This grant helps fund programs to ensure that beachgoers know when our coastal waters are safe for swimming and recreation. Under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, EPA awards grants to eligible

state, Tribal, and territorial applicants to help them and their local government partners monitor water quality at coastal and Great Lakes beaches. When bacteria levels are too high for safe swimming, these agencies or their local partners notify the public and post beach warnings or closings. Since 2001, EPA has awarded nearly \$216 million in BEACH Act grants, including over \$25 million to New England states, and almost \$5.6 million to Maine, to

test beach waters for illness-causing bacteria and help with public notification and identification of the problem. This program is essential for protecting the health of beachgoers across the country. "With 3,500 miles of iconic and pristine coastline, Maine is a haven for beachgoers. Especially during the summer season that draws crowds from across the country, it's critical our beaches and waters are safe," said U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and

Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden. "The BEACH Act funding announced for Maine today will help better monitor water quality and inform the public of unsafe conditions, so Mainers and all who visit our state can safely enjoy all Vacationland has to offer." EPA's 2023 BEACH Act grant funding will be allocated to the following New England states, contingent upon their meeting the eligibility requirements: EPA Region 1: Maine \$272,000

Maine Masons encourage thousands of kids to read

HOLDEN, ME (September 1, 2023) -- Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation and local Maine Masonic Lodges provide bicycles for students to win, simply by reading books. The 'Bikes for Books' program started 16 years ago in partnership with schools and libraries in Maine communities.

Don Pratt, Deputy Grand Master of the Maine Masons says: 'Over the past 16 years, we've been fortunate to give away over 15,000 bikes here in the state of Maine.'



Maine Masons have always been committed to helping local community organizations accomplish their goals. With funding from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, Maine Masons encourage students to read through their time-honored program - 'Bikes for Books'.

'Bikes for Books' is under the umbrella of the Foundation's community funding initiative, MAC - Masons Assisting Communities'. That initiative empowers Maine Masons to partner with organizations and nonprofits in their communities and help provide additional funding through matching grant programs. Any questions about 'Bikes for Books' or other community program funding should be directed to a local Maine Masonic Lodge. The location and contact information of



each Lodge plus more information about the various programs can be found by visiting MaineMCF.org. Scan the QR code below to view a video about 'Bikes for Books'. Susan Scacchi, Executive Director of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, says: "The Trustees have committed additional funding to ensure that lo-

cal Masonic Lodges have the resources they need to continue to be leaders in their communities and provide assistance where it is needed most. We encourage nonprofits and towns to reach out to their nearby Masonic Lodges for volunteers and support - together we will make a difference." The Maine Mason-

ic Charitable Foundation, improving lives in Maine through charity and good works. Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.



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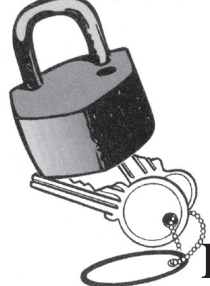
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LEWISTON -- MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 3:30PM starting September 13th

ArtVan will be providing hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun.

Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Oct 21
WESTBROOK -- Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Silent Auction
 Where: Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Westbrook, ME 04038

When: October 21, from 9AM to 3PM

Handmade crafts, baked goods and very popular silent auction items featuring sports memorabilia, game tickets, themed gift baskets, fabulous items and gift certificates! **SILENT AUCTION ENDS AT 2PM.**

Oct 24
VIRTUAL -- Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is holding a virtual public information meeting that is open to anyone interested in

Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

finding out more about FA. Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023. Meeting Time: 9:00 am

Please contact Kathy C. 207-233-4541 for zoom information or for more information.

Oct 25
LEWISTON -- Hiring Event on Wednesday, October 25th from 10:00am-noon at the Lewiston CareerCenter, 5 Mollison Way, Lewiston. Bring your best self and speak with multiple employers all offering great job opportunities! The event is free and open to the public. For a list of participating employers, visit: <https://www.mainecareercenter.com/locations/jobfair.shtml?id=11925243>

Oct 27 - Nov 5
AUBURN -- Community Little Theatre presents the musical comedy The Drowsy Chaperone. When a die-hard theatre fan plays his favorite cast album, the characters come to life in this hilarious musical farce! A loving sendup of the Jazz Age musical that features one show-stopping song and dance number after another. Show dates are October 27, 28, No-

vember 2 & 3 at 7:30 p.m., and October 29 & November 4 & 5 at 2:00 p.m. All performances at CLT on 30 Academy Street in Auburn. Tickets and more information at www.lact.com

Oct 27
BAR MILLS -- The Originals present OUTSIDE MULLINGAR a play by John Patrick Shanley at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, Oct 27, 28, Nov 2, 3, 4 at 7:30pm and Oct 29 at 2:30pm. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at www.sacorivertheatre.org or call 207-929-6473 for reservations.

Oct 28
BUXTON -- Had-dock Supper Buffet - Saturday, October 28, 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 wish is optional. Hand sanitizer is available for those who wish to use it.

Oct 28, 29
LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Soulful Expressions" Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Oct 28
GRAY -- First Congregational Church of Gray Saturday Night Church Supper Saturday, October 28, 2023, @5:00 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: Variety of Casseroles & Salads, Baked Pea Beans, Red Hot Dogs, Breads, Assortment of Desserts & Beverages.

Phone # day of the supper - 657-4279

Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

WESTBROOK -- Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Bean Supper \$10 per person: Two kinds of baked beans, mac and cheese, ham, coleslaw, bread and brownie. Eat in at 5:00PM or Take Out from 4:30-5:30PM. Call 207-415-9260 to reserve your individual meal today.

Nov 11
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TER -- Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 11th from 8 to 1at the Universalist Church, Turner Center, across from the Gazebo. Crafts and Attic Treasures. Lunch available.

Nov 18
GORHAM -- Christmas Craft Fair 9:00am - 2:00pm

White Rock Friendship Club and the White Rock Grange #380 will host our annual Christmas Craft Fair. Over 30 crafters offering jewelry, sewn & knitted items, home decor and much more!

Nov 19
SABATTUS -- Our Lady of the Rosary Christmas craft fair on Saturday, November 18th from 9 to 3. The fair will be located in the lower level of the church at 131 High St. in Sabattus. We'll have around 30 crafters and vendors, a basket raffle, and a

bake sale. Come join us.

Jan 20, 21
LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Song & Dance Music from Around the World" Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

Mar 23, 24
LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "A New Artistic Mélange" - Emily Isaacson, Guest Conductor Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

May 18, 19
LEWISTON, TOPSHAM -- "Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape" Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston ; Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham



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Lewiston improves Auburn Savings Recreation Field

LEWISTON, ME (September 22, 2023) – Lewiston Public Works announced today that they will manage the improvements to Auburn Savings Recreation Field, located at Lewiston’s Mike McGraw Park, 280 Bartlett Street. Once completed, the project will improve turf qual-

ity, field playability, and safety will be enhanced. Improvements to the 1.5 acre field will include: Leveling in low areas; Rolling to create an ultra-smooth surface; Aeration to improve field drainage and overall turf health; Seeding and loaming; Programming of irrigation system water cy-

cling. The work will necessitate a three-week field closure due to seed germination and root establishment. The field will open at the close of three weeks, weather permitting. “We are excited about the updates to this field as part of Lewiston’s

multi-field offerings,” said Megan Bates, Deputy Public Works Director

of Highway/Open Spaces. “The work being done will result in marked improve-

ments, and we appreciate residents’ patience during the field closure.”



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