

Get your tickets for Julia Gagnon  
New Year Gorham performance

GORHAM, ME – Celebrate New Year’s Eve in Gorham with an incredible night of music and community. We are proud to welcome Julia Gagnon Season 22 American Idol Finalist, along with her band Julia Haven , for a live performance that you will not want to miss.

Their appearance is presented by Maine Community Bank

Maine Community Bank has been serving Mainers with dedication and pride. With 21 convenient branch locations, they continue to support local communities and the people who call Maine home.

Tickets are only \$7 per person and includes admission to the entire day of New Year Gor-



ham activities. Starting at 2 PM, enjoy ice skating, bounce houses, face painting, silent disco, wildlife encounters, food and drinks, improv comedy, a teen dance, and so much more. Julia Haven will close out the evening with their 8:30 PM performance, followed by a

spectacular fireworks finale.

Tickets are available now at [www.NewYearGorham.com](http://www.NewYearGorham.com)

Children under 2 are free. Make your plans today and join us for a full day of celebration leading into an unforgettable New Year’s Eve night.

December Special Section  
National Impaired Driving  
Prevention Month  
page 9

New Year Gorham rings in  
the new year

GORHAM, ME – Ring in the New Year with us at New Year Gorham! Join your friends, neighbors, and community for a full day of family-friendly fun, activities, and entertainment. This annual celebration is 100% volunteer-run by Gorham residents and made possible through the generosity of our sponsors. New Year Gorham – December 31, 2025 | 2 PM – 9 PM

Activities & Attractions

- Free Ice Skating
- Face Painting
- Bounce Houses
- Silent Disco
- Mad Science
- Wildlife Encounters
- Food & Drinks
- Improv Comedy
- Teen Dance
- & More

Live Performances

- Graci Gillen
- Maine’s Own & American Idol Finalist – Julia Haven
- & More

Fireworks Finale at 9 PM!  
Tickets:  
• \$7 per person  
• Children under 2 are FREE

• Save time and skip the line—buy online at [NewYearGorham.com](http://NewYearGorham.com) and show your QR code at the door.

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Lakes Region Senior Center  
invites Gorham seniors to activities

GORHAM, ME – If you are looking for a fun senior center with lots of activities daily, come join us at Little Falls Activity Center, 40 Acorn

Street, Gorham, Maine. We are open from 8:30 to 2 or 3 pm depending on the activity. Our calendar is online.

Call President Su-

zanne Tenney at 781-731-4746 for more information

Membership fee is now \$25 with many perks.

Farrington challenges Gov. Mills  
no bid contracts

MAINE - Assistant Senate Republican Leader Matthew Harrington, R- York, sent a letter to Governor Janet Mills requesting answers surrounding her administration’s use of no-bid contracts. Sen. Harrington’s inquiry comes after changes have been made to the cover page for no-bid contracts and reporting on numerous no-bid contracts of questionable need.

Among the questionable no-bid contracts Harrington highlights in his letter are expenditures on a “happiness expert,”

payments to statewide news outlets for positive coverage, and hundreds of thousands of dollars to house a non-citizen at a residential care facility.

These expenditures, along with State Auditor Matt Dunlap’s 2024 Single Audit Report, which found dozens of material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in the administration’s procurement processes, raise serious concerns about the use of both state and federal taxpayer funds.

“We’ve all seen reporting about absurd no-

bid expenditures coming from the Mills administration. Now, on top of that, they’ve changed the non-competitive procurement form to seemingly make it easier to bypass the competitive bidding process,” said Assistant Senate Republican Leader Matthew Harrington, R-York.

“Maine’s taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their money is being spent. I hope the Governor will answer the simple questions I’ve posed to her regarding her administration’s procurement processes.”

Gorham’s Hope Springs Chapel  
holding Christmas Eve service

GORHAM, ME – Hope Springs Chapel will be holding Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 6 pm at The Old

Robie School, 668 Gray Road, led by Pastor Bill Foss.

For more information, see <https://www.hschapel.org/>

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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## Day's Jewelers celebrates grand opening of new location

SALEM, NH – Day's Jewelers, an employee-owned New England fine jeweler with more than 111 years of history, proudly celebrated the grand opening of its newest location at Tuscan Village in Salem, New Hampshire. The multi-day celebration kicked off with an official ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, November 20, hosted in partnership with the Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce.

The event welcomed customers, community members, and longtime partners to experience Day's newest store, a warm, modern space designed to elevate the jewelry shopping experience through artistry, craftsmanship, and heartfelt service. Guests enjoyed refreshments, interactive experiences, exclusive offers, and daily giveaways throughout the four-day celebration.

"This new store marks an exciting milestone for our company. We're not just expanding our footprint — we're strengthening our commitment to serving our customers and investing in the communities we're proud to be part



of," said Joe Corey, President of Day's Jewelers. "This space represents innovation, connection, and opportunity, and we look forward to welcoming everyone through our doors."

The Salem store marks Day's Jewelers' ninth location and its third in New Hampshire, reinforcing the company's commitment to serving the region with integrity, exceptional value, and a focus on creating meaningful moments for customers. Situated in the heart of Tuscan Village, the new store features an elevated, contemporary design, featuring everything from natural diamonds to unique one-of-a-kind gemstones and designs, a full-service on-site jewelry repair shop, and a robust custom design space where guests can bring their personal vision to life.

"We are incredibly excited to be in our new home in Tuscan Village," said Paul Baker, Store Manager. "The team and I are honored to be part of

this vibrant lifestyle destination and look forward to bringing Day's heritage of service and community involvement to Southern New Hampshire."

Throughout the weekend, Day's Jewelers also introduced its new "Live, Love, Sparkle" give-back bracelets, created to support children's charities nationally through Jewelers for Children, and locally through CASA of New Hampshire and Make-A-Wish New Hampshire. All profits from bracelet sales are donated to JFC, and customers may choose to keep their bracelet or return it to Day's for distribution to CASA advocates, volunteers, and wish recipients. This initiative continues throughout the holiday season.

As the holidays approach, guests are invited to explore the new store, discover meaningful gifts, and participate in Tuscan Village's seasonal festivities, including the installation of Day's "Love Locks" activation within the Holiday Shoppes.

Day's Jewelers is proud to join the Salem and Tuscan Village communities and looks forward to building lasting relationships for generations to come.

## Registration now open for WinterKids Downhill 24



WESTBROOK, ME – Registration is now open for the 14th Annual WinterKids Downhill 24, presented by Agren. Maine's only 24-hour on snow team challenge returns to Sugarloaf on February 26 and 27, 2026. Participants of all ages are invited to ski, ride, or skin as part of a joyful celebration that supports outdoor play and learning for children across Maine.

The Downhill 24 brings together co-workers, friends, families, students, and community groups for a full night and day of movement and connection. Costumes music, and team spirit help create a fun, festival style atmosphere. Everyone chooses their own pace: one lap, many laps, sunrise laps, or cheering from the lodge. It all contributes to helping Maine kids thrive outdoors.

"Our crew has been part of the Downhill 24 for a long time, and it has been one of the highlights of our year," says WinterKids board member, Joe LaJoie. "We have had so much fun out there

together, and now our kids are stepping in with their own excitement and ideas. It makes me proud to see them take on the challenge and make it their own. This event brings out the best in people, and it feels good to share that energy with the next generation."

In 2025, the Downhill 24 community raised more than \$770,000 for WinterKids programs. Those programs help schools and families across Maine access joyful winter experiences that nurture curiosity, confidence, and healthy habits for every child.

This year's goal is \$820,000 dollars.

Event Details  
WinterKids Downhill 24

Date: Thursday, February 26 at 8 pm through Friday, February 27 at 8 pm

Location: Sugarloaf Mountain Resort

Who Can Join: Open to all ages and abilities. Youth under 18 participate with an adult.

Registration: [www.winterkids.org/downhill24](http://www.winterkids.org/downhill24)

Team spots are limited.

Early registration is encouraged.

Team Options  
Teams may include 1 to 12 participants.

School Teams: Any Maine school may register for with a \$3,000 fundraising commitment. Funds raised above that amount are shared equally with the school and WinterKids.

Corporate Teams: Companies cover the team fee. Participants enjoy the event without additional fundraising commitments.

Youth Fundraising Teams: Teams made up entirely of participants under 18. Participants on these teams commit to a fundraising minimum of \$250.

Mixed Ages Teams: Adult teams or adult and youth combinations. Adult participants on these teams commit to a fundraising minimum of \$500.

College Teams: Open to any college group interested in a unique 24-hour winter challenge with friends. Participants on these teams commit to a fundraising minimum of \$500.

Ways to Join the Celebration

Create or join a team  
Become an event sponsor

Volunteer (volunteers receive a free lift pass, with additional bonus rewards for overnight shifts)

Donate to support a participant or team

The WinterKids Downhill 24 is made possible through the generous support of Agren Appliance (Presenting Sponsor), Franklin Printing, Herc Rentals, Pike Industries, Patra, Portland Media Group, and WEX, along with our Community Partners, WMTW (Official Broadcast Partner), Central Maine Power, and L.L. Bean.

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# News-makers, Names & Faces

## NSB contributes \$1K to Goodwill Northern New England in Gorham

**GORHAM, ME** – As part of its “Holiday Helping Hands” initiative, NSB team members are making surprise visits to local nonprofits and delivering donations in the season of giving to thank them for their year-round efforts to make Maine and New Hampshire better places to work and live.

This week, the “elves” visited Goodwill Northern New England in Gorham, bringing a \$1,000 check with them (picture attached, caption below). Goodwill Northern New England provides comprehensive support to individuals facing barriers in achieving their work and life goals. Each year, the organization’s Workforce Services assist thousands of people, integrating best practices from both social work and workforce development. Goodwill stores also bring its mission to



**Pictured (L to R): Janice de Lima, CRA Officer VP at NSB; Gray Triandiflou, Development Coordinator for Goodwill Northern New England; Kelly Sturmer, Mortgage Loan Officer VP at NSB; Trendy Stanchfield, SVP of Mission Services for Goodwill Northern New England; Keith Crowley, Director of Development & Community Engagement for Goodwill Northern New England.**

life by promoting sustainability through the reuse of donated goods, while also offering quality jobs and free support services to all

employees.

For more information about their work and community impact, visit [www.goodwillnne.org](http://www.goodwillnne.org).

## Gorham’s Hope Springs Church welcomes community

**GORHAM, ME** – Hope Springs Chapel is a little over a year old, but in many ways, it has been around a long time. Pastor Bill Foss has been preaching since the 1990s, and has led churches in Scarborough, Westbrook and Windham. With his wife Melissa, who leads the mu-

sical worship, they moved their small congregation to the Old Robie School in Gorham in August of 2024. The church holds services every Sunday at 10 am.

Bill and Melissa have a passion to preach and teach the Word of God and a desire to see revival in

the hearts of the people of the Greater Portland area. The church invites the community to join them for Christmas Eve services at 6 p.m. at the Robie School. For more information about Hope Springs Chapel, please check out the church’s website at <https://www.hs chapel.org/>



## Polar Express pulls into Gorham station tonight!

**GORHAM, ME** – Join Baxter Memorial Library tonight, Thursday December 18 at 6PM for a reading of the Polar Express by our

Conductor, Assistant Superintendent of Gorham Schools, Mr. Quinton Donahue. We will also have a special performance by

The Crescendo Carolers, A Dickens Choir! Come dressed in your pj’s and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies.

JOIN US FOR  
A READING OF

*The Polar Express*

WITH A SPECIAL  
PERFORMANCE BY  
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CAROLERS  
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DECEMBER  
18<sup>TH</sup> AT  
6PM

WEAR YOUR HOLIDAY PAJAMAS AND ENJOY HOT CHOCOLATE  
AND COOKIES WHILE THE CONDUCTOR READS OUR FAVORITE  
CHRISTMAS BOOK!

## Women In Harmony present I Have a Voice choral program

**SOUTH PORTLAND, ME** – Women In Harmony present I Have A Voice at South Portland High School, 637 Highland Avenue, South Portland on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 7:30pm and Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 3:00PM

This winter, we present a formidable choral program entitled “I Have a Voice.”

The seed of this concert was originally a concept of “power.” Themes and memes of power, much of it formulated and wielded in aggressive and destructive ways, are everywhere with us these days. While recognizing this, we did not want to offer a concert that embodied that same posture or tone. Instead we aimed to

highlight healthy and prosocial manifestations of power.

The concert title comes from the song A Beautiful Noise, written by eight women and recorded by Brandi Carlile and Alicia Keyes. All of these women hoped to inspire people to vote in the 2020 elections. An insistent line in the lyric says, “I have a voice/ It is loud, it is clear/ It’s stronger than your fear/ It’s believing you belong/It’s calling out the wrong.” In Women in Harmony, we amplify that voice by a factor of 60.

The courage to claim one’s own power is also part of our concert’s message. Joan Szymko’s Malala lifts up the renowned young Pakistani activist. Its lyrics have her declare, “Their

bullet did not stop me. I am Malala. Their bullet gave me power to raise my voice...” Resilient by Rising Appalachia emphasizes the idea that there is power in numbers. “My voice feels tiny, and I’m sure so does yours/ but put us all together make a mighty roar...”

Other songs on the program include Rise Up, a setting by Jake Runestad of some powerful words of Susan B. Anthony; and Eric Whitacre’s Sing Gently.

We also welcome the group Darlin’ Corey as a participating guest in the concert. Collectively, these musicians play fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, bass, and pedal steel guitar.

Please join us for this empowering concert!

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# Seniors Not Acting Their Age A Memorable Hike to the Summit of Day Mountain

In my opinion, there is no place in Maine that offers more outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities than Acadia National Park (ANP) on Mount Desert Island. The 47,000-acre park includes 26 named mountain peaks for hiking, 46 miles of crushed stone Carriage Roads ideal for biking, and numerous opportunities for sea kayaking along 64 miles of rocky coastline.

My wife, Nancy, and I have been taking fall vacations in ANP for over 40 years. We began when our two sons were little boys and have returned with family and friends almost every year since. For many years, our outdoor club, the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society (PPCS), held its annual multi-day fall outing in the park where we always had a full schedule of hiking, biking and sea kayaking.

Two years ago, the PPCS decided to change venues for the fall outing. After missing a park visit last fall, Nancy and I decided to return on our own.

Circumstances are different this year. I'm rehabbing from knee surgery and Nancy is recovering from some chronic joint issues. We were in search of hikes that would accommodate our current physical abilities and limitations.

After some research, we concluded that an as-

cent of Day Mountain in the southeastern sector of the park would meet our needs. The relatively easy climb is unique in that it is the only peak in the park that has both a hiking trail and a Carriage Road that lead to the top. Since hiking up steep mountains is almost always easier and safer than descending, we decided to climb the hiking trail and possibly return on the Carriage Road.

We began our trek at the relatively new Day Mountain Trailhead located just outside of the park on Route 3 near Seal Harbor. We benefited from excellent hiking weather enjoying a cool, partly sunny fall day.

After crossing the highway, we entered Day Mountain Trail on a wide unobstructed path in a mixed conifer and hardwood forest. After a short distance, the trail passes Champlain Monument erected in honor of the French explorer, Samuel Champlain, who is credited with naming Mount Desert Island when he sailed past in 1604.

Soon after, we traversed a lengthy log bridge and crossed the Carriage Road at a junction where the road begins the climb to the summit. We reentered the hiking trail on the left of the Carriage Road and began climbing more steadily. Soon after, a succession of steep ledges had

to be negotiated before arriving at a massive boulder that provided a partial view of Seal Harbor and the islands beyond.

After another Carriage Road crossing, extended open ledges dominated the trail and led to an even larger boulder that provided a phenomenal view of the entire Cranberry Isles archipelago. We lingered to reminisce about a PPCS sea kayak trip to the most distant island in the chain, Baker Island. During that memorable voyage, we stopped to visit the ancient Baker Island Lighthouse and then traversed the island for a dance on famed Dancing Rock. A bumpy circumnavigation of the island followed.

Leaving fond memories behind, we persisted up the most precipitous ledges on the trail before arriving at the summit. The Carriage Road ends with a loop at the summit. We stopped on a huge boulder for a lunch break while enjoying additional outstanding views of the islands in the south.

The intimidating ledges near the top convinced us to descend on the longer Carriage Road. Initially, we enjoyed the added benefit of marvelous ocean views facing southwest. We made the right choice as the crushed rock surface and gentle grade were welcome relief for our recovering joints.

We had not seen anyone during the trip until rounding a sharp bend at about the road's midway point. A team of cyclists were persevering up the steady incline. Heavily dressed for the cold weather, they didn't need the warm clothing for the arduous climb.

We exchanged

friendly greetings as they passed. Nancy and I were reminded of a fall bike ride we had taken to the summit with close friends two decades ago.

The remainder of our descent to the trailhead was uneventful. More hikes are planned for the coming days.

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* relates several exciting outings hiking, biking and sea kayaking in Acadia National Park.

The author of "The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery" and "Mountains for Mortals – New England," Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, "The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine" will soon be released by North Country Press. Visit his website at [www.ronchase-outdoors.com](http://www.ronchase-outdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)



Steep Ledges were encountered near the summit of Day Mountain



A Carriage Road provided an easier descent of Day Mountain



Cyclists were met ascending the Day Mountain Carriage Road



A lengthy log bridge is encountered on Day Mountain Trail

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# Maine State Parks invite you to hit the trails on New Year's Day



**AUGUSTA, ME** – As Maine welcomes 2026, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Parks and Lands is inviting everyone to kick off the New Year with First Day Hikes, part of a nationwide movement encouraging people to begin January 1 outdoors, moving, connecting, and soaking in the season's beauty.

Why hike on the first day of the year? Science has the answer. Research from the University of California, Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center highlights that three proven contributors to happiness and well-being are:

- Sunlight
- Social connection
- Exercise

First Day Hikes combine all three wrapped up in fresh air and spectacular natural scenery, making January 1 a perfect moment to step into 2026 feeling energized and optimistic. Bonus: Maine State Park admission and the hike are free to First Day Hikers.

Maine State Parks First Day Hike logo

What Are First Day Hikes?

First Day Hikes are a collaborative tradition across state parks nation-

wide, and right here in Maine, offering all of us an easy, joyful way to connect with the outdoors on New Year's Day. Whether it's your first hike ever or your umpteenth year in a row, everyone's welcome.

Hiking not your cup of tea? No problem! Maine State Parks also encourage participants to enjoy:

- Beach walks
- Cross-country skiing
- Snow sculpture building
- Self-guided walks at your own pace
- Lead the Way or Wander Your Own

On January 1, four Maine State Parks will host guided First Day Hikes: Camden Hills State Park, Holbrook Island Sanctuary, Sebago Lake State Park, and Two Lights State Park. For those who prefer solitude or flexibility in scheduling, self-guided options are available statewide. Simply choose your favorite park and go!

Take Advantage of these BPL Self-guided Hike Guides:

- Bradbury Mountain State Park, Freeport - Download self-guided hike.
- Camden Hills State Park, Camden – Download self-guided hike.

Popham Beach State Park, Phippsburg - Download seashore activity pages.

Reid State Park, Georgetown - Download the Little River Trail self-guided hike.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport - Download the self-guided hike

Plan Your Adventure

Find details on all Maine First Day Hikes and self-guided options: [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover\\_history\\_explore\\_nature/activities/first-day-hikes.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/activities/first-day-hikes.shtml)

You can explore how this tradition connects with state parks across the country at First Day Hikes USA and join thousands of fellow hikers welcoming the New Year outside.

New Year. New Energy. Same Beautiful Maine Outdoors.

Boots on trails, skis on snow, or footprints along the beach, spending the first day of 2026 outdoors offers the chance to reset, reconnect, and re-energize. Grab a friend or bring the family. Step into the sunshine (or snowflakes).

Take the trail less traveled, and begin 2026 with a First Day Hike.

# Fishing northern Maine: Mid-winter dreaming of spring

**BRUNSWICK, ME** – Chase away the winter blues by joining a Maine guide for a presentation about fishing in Maine's north woods at the January get-together of the Merrymeeting Bay chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Members and the public are invited to attend the Merrymeeting Bay monthly meeting of this national cold-water conservation organization as we gather sportspeople and conservationists on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at Sea Dog Brewing, 1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Topsham.

Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, the presentation starts at 7:00 pm. The event



is free; dinner and drinks can be purchased.

The January meeting will feature Casey Mowers of Reddog Guide Service. Casey will talk about fishing the Mattawamkeag and Meduxnekeag rivers in northern Maine.

MMBTU monthly membership meetings are held at Sea Dog on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May.

No admission fee. Open to members and non-members alike. Please join us.

# Maine nominees to US Military Service Academies announced

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King today announced their nominees to the United States Military Academies. To be considered for an appointment to a service academy, applicants must be nominated by an authorized nominating source, which includes Members of Congress. Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy, also a federal service academy, does not require a congressional nomination.

"We are proud to have the honor to nominate such an impressive group of

Maine students to our nation's distinguished service academies," said Senators Collins and King. "The young people we have nominated have earned this honor through a commitment to strong scholarship, leadership, and character."

The following students from Maine have received nominations as candidates to the service academies from Senators Collins and King:

Name	Home-town	High School
Jacob Orrington	Bangor	Bangor

High School	Nominee
Alexis Bangor High School	Blue Bangor
Theodore Belfast Area High School	Bluhm Belfast
Peter Bonaparte Monticello Houlton Middle High School	Bonaparte Houlton
Andrew Carroll Raymond School	Carroll Solebury
Greyson Durham Freeport High School	Creamer Freeport
Elaina Gagnon Lebanon High School	Gagnon Noble
Zachary Lattanzi	Lattanzi

See Nominees, page 10

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Welcome Winter Solstice with Creative Explorations in Gorham

**GORHAM, ME** – Creative Explorations is excited to host a Community Solstice Celebration at our Gorham campus, 10 Wentworth Drive on Friday December 19 from 5:30-7:30PM. This evening is designed to be warm, reflective, and celebratory as we honor the return of the light.

Our celebration will include fire dancers, community yoga, sound healing, henna, tarot readings, winter crafts, honestly food, hot cocoa, and the solstice spiral.

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



Celebrate  
*Winter Solstice*  
Community Event  
All ages welcome!  
**12/19/25**  
**5:30-7:30pm**



Fire Dance shows



Walk the spiral with intention



Crafts



Yoga



Food & Drink



Sound baths



Resonance Chamber



Tarot Readings

**FREE ENTRY**

**10 Wentworth Drive  
Gorham, Maine**

## Free Christmas Eve Turkey Dinner open to all

**GORHAM, ME** – all the fixings - Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. There will be a short Christmas Eve service following the dinner.

## Clothes galore at Gorham's Mission of Hope Clothes Closet

**GORHAM, ME** – The FREE Clothes Closet at Cressey Road Church (Mission of Hope Clothes Closet) is open to all who need Fellowship, 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 our local second-hand shops.

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!

## Cookies, movie matinee at Scarborough Public Library

**SCARBOROUGH, ME** – Friday, December 19, 10am-12pm Cookie Decorating at Scarborough Public Library



Drop in to decorate a cookie! For adults and calm, accompanied children. If you can, let us know you're coming so we have enough supplies, but if you're deciding last minute that is okay too! 207-883-4723 option 4

Monday, December 22, 1pm Cookie Swap for Kids, Tweens, & Teens at Scarborough Public Library

Bring a batch of cookies to swap with others so you can have a cookie variety over vacation week! We'll decorate boxes to bring your cookies home with you. Make it a gift or eat them yourself! Please register for each kid by selecting the number of people in your group. 207-883-4723 option 3


Tuesday, December 23, 1pm Free Family Movie Matinee at Scarborough Public Library

We can't tell you the movie, but we can tell it is about a big green ogre who goes on an adventure with his donkey friend and encounters a cast of fairy tale characters. No need to register, just pop on over!



*Holiday*  
**FOOD DRIVE**  
DEC 1, 2025 - DEC 31, 2025

The Gorham Food Pantry is in need of donations of non-perishable food in jars, cans and sealed packets!



Elevate PT will match donations at a rate of \$1 per item!



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**Scarborough Area Caregiver Support Group**

Get the support you need.  
Meet safely with others for supportive, meaningful discussions led by a trained facilitator.  
Support groups are available throughout Maine for caregivers or for people living with early memory loss.

Please join us  
**Tuesday, December 30th**  
**12 to 1 p.m.**

600 Commerce Dr., Scarborough, ME 04074  
RSVP: Angela Cartwright:  
acartwright@terracecommunities.com  
(207) 885-5568

**SCARBOROUGH TERRACE**  
PREMIER ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE



# Maine Creates initiative to strengthen community wellbeing

**PORTLAND, ME** – Side x Side, in partnership with the Maine Arts Commission, is proud to announce the launch of Maine Creates, a new statewide initiative designed to train teaching artists, strengthen community connections, and enhance the well-being of Maine people through the power of the arts.

Launched in spring 2025, Maine Creates invests in local creativity as a meaningful response to community challenges. More than 35 teaching artists have already completed the training program, and five artists were selected to receive grants to implement community-centered arts projects across the state. These projects are now underway in libraries, a correctional re-entry center, community hubs, rural towns, and schools—each tailored to address local needs through collaborative, intergenerational art making.

Beth Wilbur Van Mierlo the Executive Director of Side x Side shared, “Decades of research show measurable outcomes when people engage in meaningful art making. We see gains in cognitive flexibility, emotional regulation, and social connection. These aren’t just abstract benefits; they lead to stronger schools, healthier communities, and individuals who feel a deeper sense of agency and belonging. By training Teaching Artists to embed the arts where people live, learn, and gather, we ignite creativity, foster personal growth, and strengthen the social fabric that helps communities thrive. This is the transformative power of Maine Creates—and why every person should have access to it.”

Building on this vision, the Maine Arts Commission underscores the ripple effect already emerging from the program’s first year.

“Maine Creates shows how artists can transform community life when they are empowered to contribute their creativity, compassion, and expertise,” said Amy Hausmann, Executive Director of the Maine Arts Commission. “This pilot program demonstrates that teaching artists are addressing real needs, easing isolation, strengthening families, and opening doors for people of all ages to feel seen, heard, and connected. Their work embodies the spirit of our mission and the promise of this program. We look forward to nurturing and growing Maine Creates in the years to come.”

In recent years, the Maine Arts Commission traveled across the state to listen to residents describe pressing community challenges. A clear theme emerged: many Maine people, particularly those in under-resourced communities, experience isolation, disconnection, and limited access to meaningful creative opportunities.

Maine Creates was developed directly in response to these findings. Through comprehensive training and ongoing mentorship, the program equips teaching artists to bring arts-based solutions into Maine’s towns and cities. The goal is simple and powerful: ensure that every community has access to the transformative benefits of creativity.

“Maine Creates is rooted in our shared commitment to access and creativity. By advancing the field of teaching artistry, we can move the mystery of creativity into a shared experience—one that makes imagination and boundless possibility accessible to all,” added Beth.

Nationwide research from social science, public health, and neuroscience demonstrates that participation in the arts:

Supports mental and physical health

Strengthens social ties, belonging, and civic engagement

Builds intergenerational connection and cultural continuity

Stimulates neuroplasticity, cognitive resilience, and emotional regulation

Teaching artists put this research into action. By embedding art making into community spaces, they help build the social infrastructure that supports health, equity, and thriving communities.

Meet the 2025–2026 Maine Creates Teaching Artists

Catie Joyce Bulay — Art Play Dates (Winslow, Kennebec County)

Bi-monthly sensory-rich art sessions at the Winslow Library designed to strengthen connections among young children and caregivers, reducing isolation and supporting family wellbeing.

Leah Cook — With Love, From Van Buren: A Mural Stamp Project (Van Buren, Aroostook County)

A collaborative mural project engaging residents of all ages in celebrating local identity, transforming shared spaces, and fostering community pride.

Wendy Lorigan — The Collective Canvas: Where Every Voice Adds Color (Guilford, Piscataquis County)

Multigenerational workshops and at-home Art Kits invite residents to contribute individual works to a growing collective art wall, highlighting shared stories across the region.

Addy Smith Reiman — Spatial Design Academy for Kids (Lewiston, Androscoggin County)

A hands-on design-thinking program where middle school students explore urban planning concepts and create prototypes for improving their city.

Daisy Hutt — Family Pottery Classes (Southern Maine Re-entry Center, Windham, Cumberland County)

Weekly ceramics workshops for incarcerated women, with monthly family sessions that support connection, healing, and successful reentry.

Side x Side mentors each teaching artist throughout the year-long process, with every project culminating in a community celebration that honors both the artwork created and the relationships built. By June 2026, Maine Creates will have engaged hundreds of youth and adults statewide.

Looking Ahead: Funding Needed to Expand Statewide Impact

Side x Side and the Maine Arts Commission aim to build on the strong momentum of this inaugural year. The partners are currently seeking funding to launch a second Maine Creates training cohort in spring 2026. With additional support, the program will train another group of teaching artists and fund five new community projects, bringing creativity, connection, and wellbeing to even more Maine communities.

To follow the work of current Maine Creates artists, visit Side x Side’s Instagram and Facebook page, subscribe to our newsletter, and follow updates on our website. You can also follow updates on the Maine Arts Commission’s communications platforms.

**Best Source for Arts, Music and Theater! Your Hometown Paper.**

# Antiques Roadshow filmed in Maine, returns in January



**BOSTON, MA** – With newly discovered treasures from across the country to a look back at historic items with roots in the American Revolution, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW’s celebratory Season 30 is full of wow-worthy TV! All-new ROADSHOW premieres Monday, January 5, 2026, at 8/7c PM with a six-figure appraisal in Salt Lake City, UT.

This season, PBS’s most-watched ongoing series travels to five cities, stopping at distinctive venues including Red Butte Garden & Arboretum in Salt Lake City, UT; Georgia State Railroad Museum in Savannah, GA; Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, ME; Castle Farms in Charlevoix, MI; and Grant’s Farm in St. Louis, MO.

“I’m often asked how a TV show stays on top over 30 years,” said ANTIQUES ROADSHOW executive producer Marsha Bemko. “The combination of personal stories, serendipitous finds, a little bit of history lesson, and those jaw-dropping values make up the secret sauce that keeps ROADSHOW irresistible to fans!”

A preview of stand-out Season 30 discoveries includes:

– In Salt Lake City, UT, a 1937 copy of The Hobbit was brought to ROADSHOW where a typo on the rear flap of the dust cover revealed it to be a true first printing of the UK first edition and yielded a whopping six-figure

value! (Episodes from Salt Lake City air Jan. 5, 12, and 19)

– In Savannah, GA, ROADSHOW discovered the year’s highest value find with a 1992 Olga de Amaral Lost Image VII tapestry. Inherited by the guest from his mother, a collector of works by women artists, this season-topping treasure is valued at up to \$500,000! (Episodes from Savannah air Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9)

– In Boothbay, ME, a poignant piece of history was uncovered in a 1962 letter written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the ROADSHOW guest’s father-in-law, a Unitarian minister who actively supported the Civil Rights efforts of the time. The letter holds extraordinary value in both its rarity and message. (Episodes from Boothbay air Feb. 16, 23, and Mar. 23)

– In Charlevoix, MI, one ROADSHOW guest, originally in search of a grandfather clock, discovered a John Bailey dwarf clock, ca. 1800 in an online market and purchased it for \$300. Even with some prior restoration the timepiece was revealed to be a rare treasure with a stunning value of \$75,000! (Episodes from Charlevoix air Mar. 30, Apr. 6 and 13)

– In St. Louis, MO, a playful piece of Hollywood history made an appearance at ROADSHOW with a guest’s \$10 estate-sale-purchased backgammon set, ca. 1970 associated with comedy

legend Lucille Ball and purportedly donated by the star for a charity auction. (Episodes from St. Louis air Apr. 27, May 4 and 11).

The milestone 25-episode season includes a new slate of fan-favorite Vintage episodes where ROADSHOW looks back at memorable finds from 15 years ago to discover what they are worth today and how the market and their values have changed. Plus, an all-new special in honor of the country’s semiquincentennial in 2026. Celebrating 250 Years of Americana spotlights 30 years of ROADSHOW discoveries encompassing some of the best American art, artifacts, crafts, and collectibles spanning the country’s entire history.

Airing Mondays at 8/7c PM, 23-time Emmy® Award-nominated ANTIQUES ROADSHOW is produced by GBH for PBS and is seen by around 5.5 million viewers each week. New ROADSHOW episodes are available to stream on YouTube, the ANTIQUES ROADSHOW website and the PBS app.

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

## Maine Made Crafts

### 2025 ARTS & CRAFT SHOWS

**41st Annual Harvest Festival Arts & Craft Show**  
Augusta Armory– 179 Western Ave., Rt 202  
**October 25 & 26**

**22nd Annual Veterans Weekend Arts & Craft show**  
Augusta Armory– 179 Western Ave., Rt 202  
**November 8 & 9**

**Annual Makers Market Christmas Arts & Crafts Show**  
South Portland High School– 637 Highland Ave.  
**November 15 & 16**

**Santas Coming to Town Arts & Craft Show**  
Westbrook National Guard Armory– 120 Stroudwater St., Westbrook  
**November 22 & 23**

**46th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Christmas in New England Arts and Craft Show**  
Augusta Civic Center– 76 Community Drive, Augusta  
**November 29 & 30**

**45th Annual Last Minute Arts & Craft Show**  
Augusta Armory 179 Western Ave., Rt 202, Augusta  
**December 13 & 14 + December 20 & 21**

To join the Arts & Craft Fair season call Lois Taylor 706-843-9188

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We are always looking for quality Artists & Craftsmen!



# Updates on Eastern Trail “Close the Gap” Project

**SCARBOROUGH, ME** – The Eastern Trail is a vital multi-use trail of state-wide significance in Maine. The trail extends 65 miles from South Portland to Kittery, and travels by scenic woods, tidal marshes, and classic Maine villages. Since its Scarborough developments from 2004-2006, the trail has provided millions of people with a recreational and transportation resource that connects them to the beautiful Maine landscape.

A key piece of trail is missing in Scarborough. A 1.6-mile “gap” interrupts off-road travel between South Portland and Saco. The construction of this critical trail segment will close this gap and provide 16 continuous off-road miles reaching from South Portland’s Bug Light to Downtown Saco. The cost to close this gap is \$4.1 million dollars. Funding was sourced from the Town of Scarborough, City of South Portland, Maine Department of Transportation, Eastern Trail Alliance individual and corporate donors, and state and federal funds.

After several years of work to raise the necessary funds, complete the project design, align stakeholders, and acquire the necessary permits and land rights, the project went out to bid in Spring 2025 and construction began in June.

Project Overview  
Shaw Brothers will be conducting trail construction work from June 2025 to an estimated completion date of October 2027.



Phase I: Pleasant Hill Road to Wainwright Sports Complex (South Portland). Estimated completion by October 2026

Phase II: Nonesuch River crossing (off Eastern Road extension) to Pleasant Hill Road. Estimated completion by October 2027

2027

Phase II requires the construction of two bridges, one over the Nonesuch River off Eastern Road in Scarborough and the other crossing the railroad track near Pleasant Hill Road. Additional conditions include working with the railroad company (CSX) and power line company (CMP), as the trail will go over the tracks and along the power lines.

# Gorham: Give blood to give patients time this holiday season

**PORTLAND, ME** – Time is critical for patients this December. The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply steady over the busy holiday season. Types O positive, O negative and B negative blood donors are especially needed now and in the coming weeks.

December is National Month of Giving, and your Red Cross blood or platelets donation can bring hope and healing. Create a new holiday tradition and help spread comfort and support lifesaving care. When the unexpected happens, it’s the blood products already on the shelves that matter.

Redefine the meaning of a gift bag; give something that means something and schedule a blood or platelets donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

For a limited time, those who come to give Dec. 8-18, 2025, will receive a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. Those who come to give Dec. 19, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. For details on December offers, see RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts. If you’re unable to give, consider making a financial donation to support our lifesaving mission at redcross.org.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

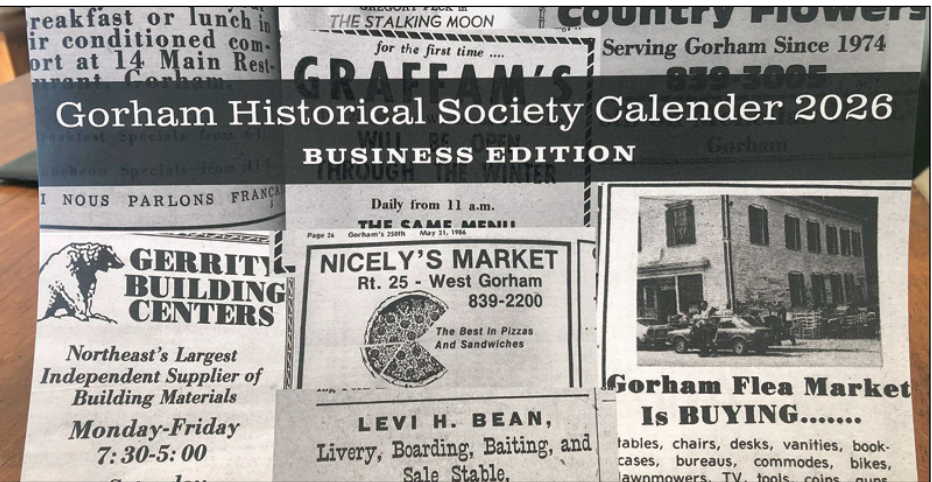
- Cumberland Brunswick 12/24/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 1 Columbus Drive
- 12/26/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., United Masonic Lodge #8, 65 Baribeau Dr Casco
- 12/27/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Casco Village Church, 941 Meadow Road
- Falmouth 12/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., The Episcopal Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Rd
- Freeport 12/22/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn Freeport - Old Town Hall Building, 5 Park Street
- Gorham 12/18/2025: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road
- 12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harmony Lodge #38, 33 Cressey Rd New Gloucester
- 12/10/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Commons, 59 Pineland Drive Portland
- 12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street Scarborough
- 12/30/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Public Safety Building, 275 US-1
- 12/30/2025: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Public Safety Building, 275 US-1 South Portland
- 12/29/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., American Legion Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, 413 Broadway Westbrook
- 12/26/2025: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street Windham
- 12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Route 302 Yarmouth
- 12/19/2025: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Yarmouth Community Center, 20 Mill St

# Gorham Historical Society calendars are in

**GORHAM, ME** – Gorham Historical Society 2026 Calendars are in!

They will also be available at the Town Hall, Baxter Library and North Gorham

Library. Calendars are \$10 and make great Christmas gifts.



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# Special section: National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

## Drive safe & sober on the roads this winter

Winter has fully arrived, bringing longer nights, colder days and the threat of snow and ice on the roads. For those driving in Maine, these tougher conditions require more caution and preparation. Drivers also face a range of winter-related fines, with extra rules designed to keep roads safe during severe weather.

The global car rental comparison site DiscoverCars.com has put together these tips on how to drive safely as the weather changes, to make the experience less stressful.

Watch out for winter fines. In the U.S., you could be fined starting from \$25 for having a vehicle covered in snow, or up to \$1,500 if snow or ice from your car causes damage to someone's property, or if it injures or kills someone. These fines vary by state. For example, in New Jersey, fines for having a snow-covered vehicle are between \$25-75, and if that snow causes damage to property or injures or kills someone, it can be \$200-\$1,000.

It's common to leave your engine idling to warm up the car in winter, but laws vary across the U.S. regarding how long it's acceptable to do this for. States and even cities have their own rules, with fines varying. In many states, the limit is 5 minutes. While in Connecticut the usual limit year round is 3 minutes, drivers can leave their engine running longer than this if it's below 20°F or if the cold is putting their health and safety at risk.

Check your route ahead of time. Before setting off this winter, it's important to check the weather conditions on your route. You don't want to get caught in heavy snow or a storm that can disrupt your journey. Make sure you stay up to date on the latest weather conditions and travel disruptions in your area and where you'll be heading.

Prepare an emergency kit. It's a good idea to put together a breakdown kit of everything you may need should you break down in the winter months. This should include a first aid kit with bandages, band-aids, antiseptic wipes and dressings for wounds and burns to treat any minor injuries. It's also worth keeping an ice scraper and jumper cables in your trunk.

Slow down. One of the most important things to remember when driving in snow or ice is to reduce your speed. Maintain a sturdy grip on your steering wheel and move forward at a slow and steady pace, changing to a higher gear for more control if you drive a manual car. Remember to maintain a safe stopping distance from the car in front of you, too.

Navigate bends carefully. When approaching a bend, it's best to brake before you start turning your wheel. If your car loses grip when doing this, firstly, don't panic. Keep your hands on the steering wheel and take your foot off the accelerator. Turn your wheels in the direction you want to go without taking your hands off the wheel. If you do skid, steer into it gently by moving in the same direction, so if your car slides left, steer that way too. Do this without braking hard and always keep your hands on the steering wheel.

Check your tires. Before you head out, remember to check the tread of your tires. If your tires are worn, this can stop your car from being able to grip the road properly and puts you at risk of aquaplaning. In most U.S. states, the minimum legal tread requirement for steer tires is 2/32 of an inch – regulations vary across different states, so if you're planning a road trip, make sure your vehicle is compliant.

Aleksandrs Buraks, Head of Growth at DiscoverCars.com, comments: "Driving in the winter months can sometimes be stressful, especially for new drivers or when you're driving somewhere abroad. Remember to prep your car before setting off, ensuring your windshield is free of frost and your tires are in good condition. "If you're planning on renting a car for your winter vacation this year, it's important to check the requirements for the state or country you'll be driving in. Some states and countries may require you to have winter tires and snow chains for maximum safety."

Drunk male drivers were involved in fatal crashes at a much higher rate (22%) compared to female drivers (18%) in December 2023.

DRUNK DRIVING – DURING ANY TIME OF YEAR – CAN HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES

30% of drunk drivers were involved in fatal crashes between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. in December 2023.

In December 2023 alone, 1,038 people died in drunk-driving crashes.

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# Maine Ag Trades Show announces 2026 Conference Lineup

**AUGUSTA, ME** – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) has announced the full slate of educational sessions and meetings for the 85th Maine Agricultural Trades Show, taking place January 13–15, 2026, at the Augusta Civic Center.

The three-day event brings together farmers, foresters, food producers, agri-business owners, students, and partners from across the state and region for hands-on training, policy discussions, business development workshops, industry meetings, and networking events focused on building a strong, resilient future for Maine agriculture.

More than 80 sessions are scheduled and offered in partnership with organizations including MOFGA, UMaine Cooperative Extension, USDA Rural Development, Small Business Development Association, Maine Department of Labor, Maine WIC, Maine Farm & Sea to Institution Network, Maine Farm Bureau, Agricultural Council of Maine, Maine Maple Producers Association, Maine Pomological Society, Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers, Maine Cheese Guild, Maine Dairy Industry Association, Maine Sheep Breeders, Maine FFA and 4-H, Maine Woodland Owners, SCORE Maine, CEI, ReVision Energy, Renoster, Maine Mobile Health, and many others.

**2026 Conference Schedule Highlights**

**Energy, Climate, and Resource Resilience**

Sessions help farms reduce operating costs, strengthen long-term infrastructure, and plan for climate adaptation, including:

- Planning for the Next 20 Years: Long-Term Energy Resilience with Solar + Storage – Solar and battery storage strategies for farm growth (Jan. 13).
- Climate Impacts on Your Farm – Farmer-led discussion on real-world climate adaptation and resilience strategies (Jan. 13).
- Maine Farmers Can Reduce Energy Costs with USDA’s REAP Program – Learn how to qualify for grants for energy efficiency and renewable projects (Jan. 13 & 14).
- Forest Carbon Credits Presentation – Opportunities for woodland owners to participate in carbon markets (Jan. 14).
- Business Development, Grants, and Financial Planning

Producers can access tools to grow their operations and navigate available resources:

- Minor Equipment Grant for Specialty Crops – New DACF grant program overview (Jan. 13).
- Planning Major Farm Investments: State Tax Credits – Dirigo Business Incentives program overview (Jan. 13).
- Understanding USDA’s Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG) – Learn how products qualify and how to prepare competitive applications (Jan. 13 & 14).
- How Can SBA Help My Farm? – Business financing and development resources (Jan. 14).
- Succession Planning for Your Farm Business – practical guidance on succession planning, land access, and farm transfer strategies (Jan 14).
- Improve Your Farm’s Financial Performance in 2026 – Goal-setting and benchmarking session with SCORE Maine (Jan. 15).
- Certification, Soil Health & Production Practices
- Hands-on and technical learning continues with: No-Till Tarping Techniques and Biological Control & IPM – MOFGA-led crop production workshops (Jan. 13).
- Demystifying Organic Certification & USDA’s TOPP Program – Transition guidance and mentoring opportunities (Jan. 13).
- Economic Impact of Organic Farming in Maine – Presentation of new statewide study findings (Jan. 13).
- Nutrient Management Trainings – Multiple sessions offering continuing education credits covering cover cropping, crop nutrients, compost tea, and NRCS implementation planning (Jan. 13 & 14).
- Agroforestry for Farms & Woodland Owners – Techniques including silvopasture and forest farming (Jan. 14).
- Maine Natural Resources Disaster Relief Assistance Program – Learn about qualifications for federal funding support specifically for farms impacted by weather-related losses in 2023 and 2024 (Jan. 13).
- Labor, Workforce & Health
- Sessions addressing workforce compliance and farmer well-being:

- Navigating Health Insurance Options for Farmers – Marketplace guidance, tax credits, and cost-sharing education (Jan. 13).
- Health & Wellness in Agriculture and Forestry – Panel on balancing physical and mental health in farm and forestry operations (Jan. 13).
- Understanding Maine’s Paid Family & Medical Leave Law (PFML) – Compliance overview and Q&A (Jan. 13).
- Seeds for Success: Labor Standards Compliance in Agriculture – Wage, safety, and employment requirements (Jan. 14).
- Navigating the H-2A Journey – Step-by-step guidance on seasonal worker programs (Jan. 15).
- Markets, Food Systems & Value Chains
- Connecting Maine producers to buyers and new outlets:

- From Farmstand to Retail Shelf – Navigating wholesale, packaging, and grocery sales (Jan. 14).
- Farm to School 101 – Selling to schools and institutions with support from Maine’s Local Food Fund (Jan. 14).
- Local Food Producer & Buyer Matchmaking Event – In-person connection session (Jan. 15).
- Local Food Switchboard Update Workshop – Preview of Maine’s statewide food system coordination platform (Jan. 15).
- Maine Farm & Sea Cooperative – Fork Food Lab Presentation – Program overview and partnership opportunities (Jan. 15).
- Policy & Advocacy
- Opportunities for producers to shape the future of agriculture:

- Growing Power for Maine Farms – A policy dialogue hosted by Maine Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Council of Maine (Jan. 14).
- Maine Food Policy Workshop – Legislative priorities including hunger solutions, farmland preservation, infrastructure investment, and mental health initiatives (Jan. 14).
- Youth & Leadership
- Youth in Agriculture
- Leadership Day – FFA and 4-H led training workshops, panels, and networking (Jan. 14).
- Industry Meetings
- Member and producer meetings include:

- Maine Christmas Tree Growers’ Meeting (Jan. 13)
- Maine Dairy Industry Association Meeting (Jan. 13)
- Maine Cheese Guild Winter Meeting (Jan. 13)
- Maine Organic Milk Producers Meeting (Jan. 13)
- Maine Eastern States Exposition Trustees Winter Meeting (Jan. 13)
- Maine Maple Producers Association Annual Meeting (Jan. 14)
- Maine Sheep Breeders Association Meeting (Jan.14)
- Maine Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Association Meeting (Jan. 14)
- \*Remember membership dues!
- Maine Pomological Society Annual Meeting (Jan. 14)
- Forestry Forum –

Maine Woodland Owners (Jan. 14)

**Special Features**

**Maine Mobile Health Pop-Up Clinic** – A team including a nurse, community health worker, and behavioral health provider will offer on-site health screenings (including blood pressure, BMI, depression, and anxiety), and health education for agriculture and seafood industry workers and their families, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. PFAS blood serum testing will be available for pre-approved individuals. Attendees can also learn more about Maine Mobile Health’s care model and enroll as patients if eligible. (Jan. 13 to 15).

**Maine Farmcast Live Show** – Returning to the main stage with a surprise DACF guest (Jan. 14).

**Mead! An Engaging Presentation** hosted by Runamok Meadery (Jan. 14).

**2026 Milestones:** International Year of the Woman Farmer – Maine Senior FarmShare Program acknowledges 25 years, special community engagement activities (3-6 p.m. Jan. 14)

**Agritourism Summit** – Training, digital field days, and tourism partnerships (Jan. 15).

**Planning to Attend**

There is no admission fee to attend the show. Please check the conference listings for any pre-registration and course fee requirements. Full session schedules and registration information are available at: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/agtradesshow>.

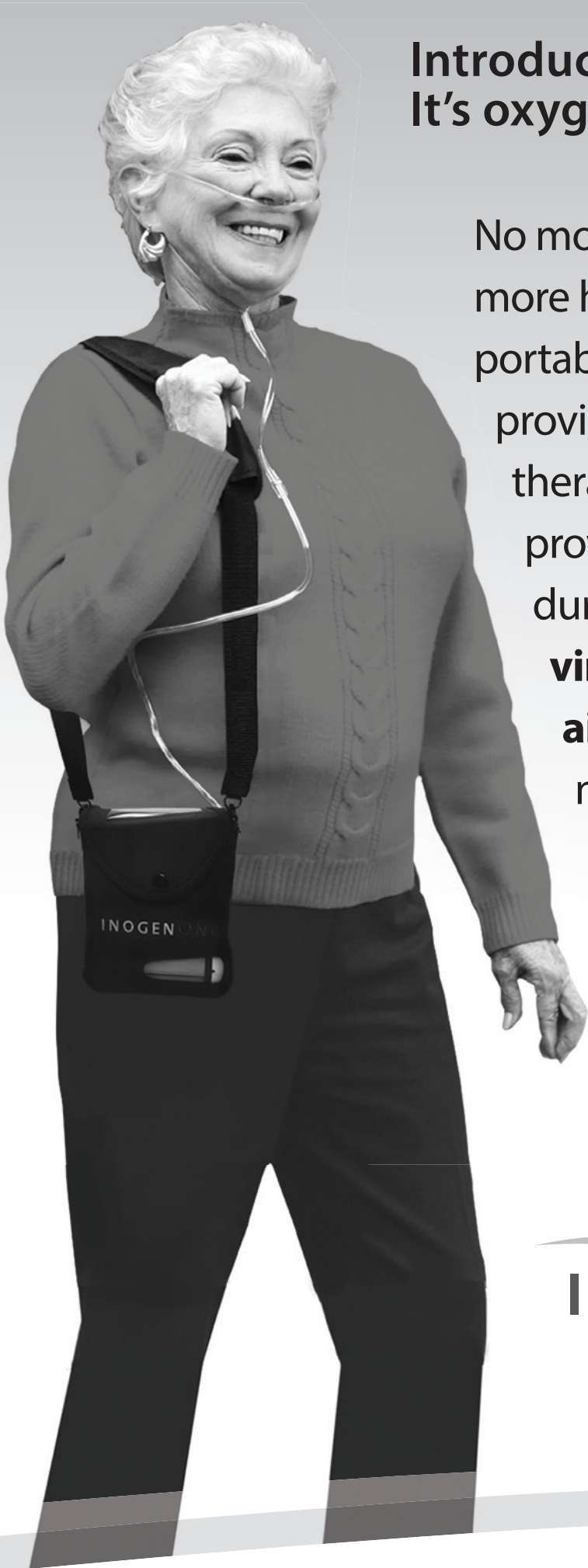
Nominees		Academy – Annapolis		Harlow		O’Leary		Jacob		Biberstein		Old Town		Old		Harlow		O’Leary	
<i>Continued from page 5</i>		N a m e		Saco		Thorn-		Orrington		Bangor		Town High School		Harlow		Saco		Thorn-	
Yarmouth	Yar-	Hometown	High	ton Academy				Ian				Harlow	O’Leary			ton Academy		O’Roak	
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Anika	Manning	Jacob	Biberstein	Hampden	Hamp-			Ararat High School	Mt.			ton Academy				den Academy			
Saco	Thorn-	Orrington	Bangor	den Academy				Kayden	Daviault			Ashton	O’Roak			Wallace		Pooler	
ton Academy		High School		Samuel	Poulin			Cape Elizabeth	Cape			Hampden	Hamp-			South China		The	
Cooper	Manser	Ian	Britt	Scarborough	Ch-			Elizabeth High School				Scarborough	Poulin			Hill School		Poulin	
Berwick	Noble	Topsham	Mt.	everus High School				Patrick	Delaney			everus High School	Ch-			Samuel		Poulin	
High School		Ararat High School		Joshua	Pra			Gorham	Gor-			tt	Rockland			Scarborough		Ch-	
Thomas	McLellan	Alberto	Cutone	Oceanside High School	Rockland			Elaina	Gagnon			Joshua	Pra			everus High School		Wills	
Eliot	Mar-	Kennebunk	Maine	Reed	Proscia			Lebanon	Noble			Oceanside High School	Rockland			Jasper		Gould	
shwood High School		Connections Academy		Freeport	Free-			High School				Seth	Starkey			Bethel		Gould	
Jaden	Mizera	Elaina	Gagnon	port High School				Elliot	Irving			Lebanon	Noble			Academy.			
Palermo	Erskine	Lebanon	Noble	Otto	Schoenthal			Bangor	John			High School							
Academy		High School		Southport	Lincoln			Bapst Memorial	High			United States Mer-							
Isaiah	Morgan	Elliot	Irving	Academy				School				chant Marine Academy -							
Cumberland Center	Gree-	Bangor	John	Aiden	Surran			Cooper	Manser			Kings Point							
ly High School		School	High	Hampden	Hamp-			Berwick	Noble			Name	Home-						
Harlow	O’Leary	Cooper	Manser	den Academy				High School				town	High School						
Saco	Thorn-	Berwick	Noble	Cole	Tomuschat			Aiden	McKenna			Jacob	Biberstein						
ton Academy		High School		Scarborough	Scar-			Skowhegan	Skow-			Orrington	Bangor						
Ashton	O’Roak	Thomas	McLellan	borough High School				hegan High School				High School							
Hampden	Hamp-	Eliot	Mar-	Jasper	Wills			Thomas	McLellan			Kaitlyn	Dostie						
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Samuel	Poulin	Jaden	Mizera	Academy				shwood High School				Hills Regional High School							
Scarborough	Ch-	Palermo	Erskine	United States Air				Leonardo	Mlynski			Elliot	Irving						
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Joshua	Pra	Isaiah	Morgan	Springs				den Academy				Bapst Memorial	High						
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Jasper	Wills	Thomas	Ocampo	Derek	Barbie			ly High School				Cumberland Center	Gree-						
Bethel	Gould	Scarborough	Scar-	Yarmouth	Carra-			Cooper	Neely			ly High School							
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**Dec 24**  
GORHAM – Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 6 pm HOPE SPRINGS CHAPEL at The Old Robie School, 668 Gray Road. Pastor: Bill Foss. FMI <https://www.hs chapel.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/hopespringschapel>

**Dec 24**  
BUXTON – Open to the community at no charge, Christmas Eve Turkey dinner with all the fixings - Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 5:00 pm at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. There will be a short Christmas Eve service following the dinner

**Dec 29**  
LEWISTON – Join the Androscoggin Historical Society, Auburn Public Library, and Lewiston Public Library as we partner to explore fiction with a historical twist. We will be meeting on the last Monday of each month from 5:30 – 6:30pm to discuss

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

a historical fiction novel. Our next meeting will take place on December 29th @ 5:30pm, at the Androscoggin Historical Society, located at 93 Lisbon St., Lewiston, ME 04240. We will be reading The Eastern. Book One: The Early Years by Deborah Gould.

**Jan 5**  
ONLINE – University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a webinar on Monday, January 5, 2026, from 6–7:15 p.m. focused on building financial literacy and management skills for commercial horticulture businesses.

**Jan 5 & Feb 2**  
LEWISTON – The Lewiston Public Library’s monthly crafters’ meet up will continue into the winter. Maker Monday meets every first Monday of the month from 4-6:30pm in the Couture Room.

**Jan 10**  
LEWISTON – From 11am-12pm the Lewiston Public Library Children’s Department will be offering New Year’s Wish Trees, a family keepsake program. Families will be able to decorate a tree of wishes for the new year. Extra paper for wishes will be packaged into envelopes for families so

they can continue to add to their trees after the program. Families with children ages 14 and under are welcome to attend. This program will take place in the IDEA LAB on the second floor of the library.

**Jan 13-15**  
AUGUSTA – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) has announced the full slate of educational sessions and meetings for the 85th Maine Agricultural Trades Show, taking place January 13–15, 2026, at the Augusta Civic Center.

**Jan 16 & 17**  
SOUTH PORTLAND – South Portland High School, 637 Highland Avenue, South Portland on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 7:30pm and Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 3:00pm. This winter, we present a formidable choral program entitled “I Have a Voice.”

**Jan 22**  
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Matt Russ: Moments of Clarity at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME

04260.  
**Feb 26**  
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Ian Trask: Art from the Waste Stream at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

**Apr 9**  
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Ben Potter: Pollen and Gatorade: Materials and Connotations in the Landscape, at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

**May 28**  
NEW GLOUCESTER – Free artist event at Unity Environmental University. Each event highlights a Maine-based artist with a pop-up exhibition, lecture, and catered reception. Edwige Charlot: Artist talk, at 5:00 pm, 70 Farm View Dr, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

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## SENIOR TRIPS

If interested in any of the following trips or upcoming trips, please contact Claire Bilodeau at 784-0302 or Cindy Boyd at 345-9569. If we are not available, please leave a message and we will call you as soon as we can.

**SEPTEMBER 20 - 28, 2026 - DISCOVER PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST** - Trip includes 9 days and 11 meals. Highlights are Colorado National Park, Wine tasting in the midst of Colorado Wine Country. Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef State Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park all in Utah, last day in Vegas. Included in price is round trip air from Logan International Airport and all Hotel Transfers. Deposit is \$698.00 pp plus \$429.00 if you want travel protection.

**May 23-31, 2026 – BILTMORE ESTATE & ASHEVILLE, N.C.** - This trip includes 9 days and 8 nights lodging, 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. You

will have a full day at the Biltmore Estate and experience the Biltmore House and Gardens. You will also visit the Antler Village and Winery. You will have a guided tour of Asheville and the magnificent St. Lawrence Basilica. We will experience a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway (America's Most visited park unit). We also visit the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site. These are the highlights of the trip and there is so much more that we will see. On our way home we stop at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University. Price for this trip is \$1,245.00 per person double occupancy. A \$75.00 deposit per person is due upon signing up. The trip includes the bus driver tip and all tour gratuities. Add \$349.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 3/16/26.

**OCTOBER 18-23, 2026 – SHIPSHAWANA, INDIANA** - This trip includes 6 days and 5 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners. You will have a full day guided tour of Indiana's Amish Country with a tour of an Amish Homestead and an Authentic Amish Dinner. We will experience Cook's Bi-

son Ranch with a scenic Wagon Tour of their majestic ranch while seeing the bison up-close and even feeding them. We will spend time shopping and having lunch at Shipshewana Trading Place which is constantly ranked one of the top five Flea Markets in the Country. We will see the show "Loves Comes Softly" at the Blue Gate Theater. Price for this trip is \$865.00 per person double occupancy. A \$75.00 deposit is due upon signing up. Trip includes bus driver tip and all tour gratuities. Add \$305.00 for single occupancy. Final payment is due 8/11/26.

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