

Summertime in the Belgrades



... Serving the Central Maine Lakes & Kennebec River Corridor

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4

Wonderful Waterside Celebrations!

by Esther J. Perne



The 4th of July weekend...a long weekend...the height of summer...so much to do.

There are parks and picnic sites to visit; parades and fireworks to watch; quiet traditions and crowded festivities to celebrate; everywhere wonderful outdoor recreation; and this year, in observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, there are some unique additional events - a touch of important local history - to attend. How can a holiday-goer possibly have it all?

The answer is easy. Celebrate near a lake or a river or a pond where water is all part of the

party - or at best forms a big part of the background scenery along with the hills, mountains, fields, woods, and unending greenery.

Enjoy time on the water, too, via a public boat launch or a rental boat. Or, just kick back and watch a boat parade go by, perhaps sponsored on one of the region's many lakes by a lake association or perhaps the popular boat parade seen from Belgrade Lakes Village at noon on Saturday.

For other planned activities seek out a community center, a flag-lined downtown - promising good old-fashioned family fun - children's activities, music, sales, sidewalk strolling, a parade that starts the day or a parade that ends

the day, and always food.

Take a break for some super summer fare - chicken BBQ, hot dogs over an open fire, fresh fruits and veggies, ice cream or a chilling drink.

Don't overlook the many free outdoor concerts almost every town has to offer and on the 4th, for those who prefer quieter outings, there are two very unique free concert events on Saturday: the Augusta Symphony Orchestra at the Augusta Civic Center and New England Music Camp at the Bowl in the Pines on Lake Messalonskee.

This whole region is rich in settlement and

Continued on page 2

Mid-Maine Marine Inc.
885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, ME 04963
1/2 Mile West of Exit 127 off I-95 • 1-800-649-2628
www.midmainmarine.com

HARRIS
POWERED BY MERCURY

CATCH YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Protect and Preserve

EST. **B.L.A.** 1908

Belgrade Lakes Association
— Maine's Oldest Lake Association —

★ PROUD SPONSOR OF THE ★

**4TH OF JULY
BOAT PARADE**
BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

SATURDAY, JULY 4
★ 12:00 NOON ★

MAINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

MIFF
JULY 10-19, 2026
WATERVILLE, MAINE

29

MIFF.ORG

A Project of
MAINE FILM CENTER

Presenting Sponsors
WATERVILLE CREATES
LawryFamilyFoundation
Harold Allard



Continued from page 1



Revolutionary history; the most outstanding opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July and the founding of the United States is the rare showing on Saturday of Maine’s original (one of 26) copy of the Declaration of Independence, delivered to Old Fort Western in Hallowell (now Augusta) in July 1776 and rediscovered framed on the wall of the Hallowell library in 1976.

Holiday-goers are invited to check celebration specifics on page 6 of Summertime in the Belgrades and also check out the less formal pursuits on this celebration weekend - or any summer day - including yard saling, antiquing, boating, paddling, swimming, biking, hiking, fishing, golfing, and much more.

Festivities or relaxation, the 4th of July weekend and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States are the best time of year to do it all. Have a wonderful waterside celebration.



Day's

FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1958
Serving the Heart of Belgrade Lakes
Reach us by boat or car!  

STORE

Serving All Your Lakeside Needs

- ✓ Local goods & provisions
- ✓ Deli sandwiches & pizzas
- ✓ Gas, ice, firewood & propane
- ✓ Sporting goods & fishing gear
- ✓ Beer, wine & craft beverages
- ✓ Lakeside merchandise & apparel
- ✓ Meggie O's Fudge & Fresh Donuts

1958 CAFÉ

Lakeside Dining

- ✓ Dine-in for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- ✓ Cocktails & shareables
- ✓ Iced coffee, lemonade & cozy corner seating
- ✓ Relax, recharge & refuel with a lakeside view — plus a few tabletop board games for fun

 207-495-2205
 www.daysstore.com

 /daysstorebelgradelakes
 @daysstore



Home insurance, made to measure.

Belgrade Lakes Region families trust us for a personal approach bringing peace of mind. Our experienced professionals create customized insurance plans designed around your needs, not what's worked for someone else.

Call today to find out how we can help you protect your home & auto, boat, RV and more. Insurance for your business, too, as well as health & life insurance, including Medicare.

Allen 
Insurance | Financial
100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED

51 Main Street, Waterville, Maine 04901
800-439-4311 | AllenIF.com



Table of Contents

Happy Summer Holiday Celebration!.....1-2

Table of Contents: So Many Ways To A Good Day.....3

Adult Ed Classes Explore Lake Messalonskee.....3

Mid-Maine Global Forum’s Summer Event.....3

7 Lakes Alliance: How Land Affects Lakes.....4

Belgrade Historical Society: Revolutionary War Veteran Settlers.....4

Take It Outside with Pete Kallin: Grandkids Must Catch and Release.....5

Calendar of Events: Celebrating the 4th and the Week.....6

Kennebec Corridor Map: Vibrant Towns and Vital Activities.....7

MIFF Confirms Full Film Program July 10-19.....7

The Belgrades and Beyond Map8-9

Winthrop Schedule Of Outdoor Concerts10

Trek Up Katahdin: Maine’s Highest Peak.....10

Map of Winthrop Area Lakes and Watersheds.....10

Notebook: Noteworthy and Newsworthy.....11

Business Directory: Great Goods and Local Services.....12-13

Call of the Loon: First Chick Learns About Lake Life13

Martha Barkley on Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson.....14

Real Estate Update: Golden Timeless Moments15

The Dams Keeper Report: Levels Where They Need To Be.....15

Explore Messalonskee Lake by Kayak:
An Education Collaboration

In a unique collaboration Regional School Unit (RSU) 18 Messalonskee Office of Mid-Maine Regional Adult and Community Education is partnering with the lake association Friends of Messalonskee to offer 2 summer classes in kayaking and exploring the lake’s ecology on Messalonskee Lake. Scheduled in July and August, the courses are presented by RSU 18 as wonderful environment news:

Messalonskee Lake is a wonderful natural resource of the mid-Maine region and offers numerous recreational and conservation activities. If you have always wanted to learn to kayak and explore the lake’s ecology, this class will offer a low cost kayak lesson and will provide all equipment needed. You will also learn about the flora and fauna of the lake followed by a kayak paddle near shore to find various specimens. Prerequisite: know the basics of how to swim, but we will be staying close to shore. Please wear water shoes; a bathing suit or shorts, sunglasses or polarized glasses, sunscreen, and hat are also helpful and appropriate. Do be prepared with extra clothers just in case you get wet. Must be 17 to register. If needed, a Rain Date will be announced. Limit 8 students.

Class dates are Monday, July 13 and Monday, August 10. Each class will be held 10 am-noon and will meet at the Maine State boat Launch on Route 27 in Belgrade across from Loon Ridge Cottages and near Hammond Lumber. Class instructor is Danielle Boutin, Friends of Messalonskee Lake Community Educator. The self-supporting registration fee is \$7.

People are welcome to register at www.mmrace.org or contact Joyce Anderson at 465-9134 or janderson@rsu18.org. It’s even more fun to register with a friend.



The Mid-Maine Global Forum’s Annual
Linda Cotter Summer Event

The Mid-Maine Global Forum is thrilled to announce details about our annual Linda Cotter Summer Event. This year, we will be sponsoring a film at the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) for our members and for the community to enjoy free of charge.

“Ikawa”

The film tells the story of the connection between Maine and Rwanda through coffee, and is the creative outcome of a collaboration between film makers, students, and locals in both places.

You can learn more about the film by checking out coverage from Maine Public Radio and WABI, exploring how the film was made and the story behind it.

Following the premiere of the short film, there will be a Q&A with the student filmmakers, Mike Perreault (Director of MIFF and the Maine Film Center), and David Boardman (Mass Media Communications instructor for the Mid-Maine Technical Center), and a reception featuring Rwandan food for all to enjoy.

The film and reception are free and open to the public. Please share this information far and wide and plan to join us! We will be sharing more information over the summer about the film and how to reserve your seat for the premiere.



Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • sumbelnews@gmail.com

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

www.belgradelakesnews.com

This publication is copyrighted ©MMXXVI, Cider Mill Press Publications, All Rights Reserved.

McGRATH POND
- SALMON LAKE
❖ A S S O C I A T I O N ❖

Annual Meeting July 9th 6:00-7:30 pm
North Belgrad Community Center

7 LAKES
BELGRADE LAKES
MAINE

Protect what makes the
Belgrade Lakes extraordinary.

7 Lakes Alliance conserves the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes for all.

Subscribe to the 7 Lakes Alliance email list to get the latest on land conservation, water quality, and community events directly to your inbox.

Scan to Subscribe

Sign up today: 7lakesalliance.org/newsletters
7 Lakes Alliance • 137 Main St., Belgrade Lakes, ME





What We Do on Land Affects the Lake

by Lynne Geiger, 7 Lakes Alliance Erosion Control Policy Manager

Runoff (rainwater that doesn't soak into the ground) carries pollutants with it, from pet waste to road salt to dirt. Soil, aka dirt, contains nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, which cause algal blooms when there's too much. Protecting our lakes requires reducing the amount of runoff and sediment that enters waterbodies.

The further runoff travels, the more momentum and energy it picks up (like the proverbial snowball rolling down a hill), increasing its erosive potential. To reduce erosion and nutrients entering the lake, we need to reduce runoff. The easiest and most efficient way to reduce runoff is to keep it from forming. **The runoff management mantra is: Slow it down, Spread it out, Soak it In.**

Landowners can use a variety of strategies to reduce runoff and erosion, even if the property is not on the shoreline.

- **Intercept rain drops:** An uninterrupted raindrop hits the ground at 20mph. Tree canopies and shrubs impede raindrops and reduce their impact on soil.

- **Manage roof runoff:** Place a rain barrel or drywell at the downspout. No gutters, no problem - add crushed stone or an infiltration trench along the dripline. This method is good for the environment and stops dirt from splattering on the side of your camp.

- **Interrupt the flow:** Catchment basins, like rain gardens, intercept flowing runoff and prevent the area downhill from eroding. Swales and berms (lumpy terrain) also break up the flow of runoff and dissipate energy.

- **Minimize impervious surfaces:** Install permeable pathways. They give rain more places to soak into the ground. Gravel driveways and parking areas are also considered impervious, don't install more than you need.



Erosion control mulch path and buffer. Erosion control mulch path and buffer.

- **Plant vegetative buffers:** Shoreline buffers act as the last line of defense to slow and capture runoff. Buffer root systems hold the dirt in place, strengthen the shoreline, and decrease erosion. Native plants have more extensive root systems than ornamental plants. For example, little bluestem roots can grow over 5 feet deep.

Landowners seeking to protect their properties from erosion and reduce the amount of pollution entering our lakes are encouraged to contact 7 Lakes Alliance to learn more about watershed management strategies that will work on their properties.



Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

In 1776 at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, the Belgrade Lakes area was part of a vast wilderness owned by the Kennebec Proprietors of Boston, Massachusetts. The land was basically uninhabited except for a handful of settlers. There was no town to muster soldiers to fight the British. Yet, the Revolutionary War has great importance to this area for when the war was over and our freedom secured, veterans of the war were among the first settlers to establish our town. In preparing for the 250th Anniversary of America, fellow Belgrade Historical Society member, Bob Lewis and I spent the winter researching Belgrade's Revolutionary War veterans. We were able to identify roughly two dozen soldiers that came north and settled here. We found that these brave soldiers fought in large and small battles throughout the northeast. They served under General George Washington, General Henry Knox, General John Sullivan, and General John Starks. They came from Massachusetts, Knox, and Cumberland Counties to the south and from New Hampshire. We found each of our veterans has a unique history of service, but a couple of the stories were truly inspiring.

Sergeant John Rankins served in the Army of the Revolution for eight years and four months, just about the entire length of the war. He served at the Battle of Lexington and Concord, the Battle of Bunker Hill, Battles of White Plains and Stillwater, NY, Battles of Monmouth and Trenton, NJ. He was present at Valley Forge during the brutal winter of 1777-78 and was



Old Town Meeting House

taken prisoner during the Sullivan Expedition to Canada in 1779. After the war, he settled in Dearborn which later became North Belgrade. He is buried in the Ellis Pond Cemetery. Also buried at Ellis Pond is Private Benjamin Bickford.

When Silas Burbank of Scarbough enlisted in the Massachusetts Militia, he brought his 2 sons, 13-year-old David and 11-year-old Eleazer with him. David played the drum and Eleazer played the fife. The Burbank family served together at the siege of Boston, the bat-

tles of Bennington, VT, Saratoga, NY, and Monmouth, NJ. They also spent the winter at Valley Forge under General Washington. After the war, Eleazer settled on the hill overlooking Messalonskee Lake. He is buried in the small Quaker Cemetery on Route 11 across from the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Most of our Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Woodside Cemetery behind the Old Town Meeting House including Private Paul Yeaton who at age 19 enlisted in 1781 for 3 years. He later settled on a farm on the West Road and when he passed away at the age of 94 in 1856, he was Belgrade's last living Revolutionary War veteran. The Belgrade Historical Society has dedicated a wall at the Belgrade Old Town Meeting House to all of the Revolutionary War veterans, and we invite everyone to visit during our open houses, July 9th from 9-12 and July 23 from 1-4. Cemetery tours in Woodside Cemetery of the Revolutionary soldier's gravesites will be available.





— Take It Outside — Grandkids Can Catch Them But Shouldn't Eat Them

By Peter Kallin

Hard to believe this is already the 4th column of the summer! As I write this column approaching July 4th, there are a lot of kids and grandkids in town and getting out on the lake. The generally warm weather has spurred a lot of swimming, tubing, and general cooling off in and near the water. I am encouraged to see a lot of youngsters out fishing with their families. Last week's pictures of my friend Don's grandkids and this week's



Emily and Aly Hasenfus with nice smallmouth.

pictures of my neighbor, Eric Hasenfus' grandkids, Emily and Aly with a nice Tracy Cove Smallmouth that Emily caught remind me that while it's a lot of fun to watch them catch fish but eating them could be a problem. Regular readers of this column will recognize my grandson, Bayard (AKA Bub) who has appeared regularly in this column over the years. Last winter, Bub and his parents moved into their own lake front property on West Harbor Pond in Boothbay. Bub has made friends with classmates and neighbors and recently celebrated one of his neighbor's fishing birthday party in the rain where they caught a nice brookie. The



Bub with Booth Bay Buddies and brookie.

nice largemouth was caught by Bub while fishing with the next-door neighbor and his 6-year old grandson. Bub is actually wearing his 7-Lakes T-shirt under his life jacket. Every grandfather who teaches his grandkids to fish feels pride when they actually start to go out on their own and do it. At the same time, I realize that these two pictures are the



Bub with nice largemouth from West Harbor Pond.

first ones I've published where neither my daughter nor I were present or taking the picture. I have to admit to a twinge of jealousy to go with the pride. It's also pretty depressing warning grandkids they shouldn't eat the fish they are catching!

I still remember the pride I felt when I first brought home fish the family would eat for dinner. I looked forward to sharing the bounty and learned to clean, cook, and eat fish. My Scandinavian family ate fish at least three or four

times a week, especially during the summer. Fresh fish is still one of my favorite meals. Unfortunately, our grandchildren won't have that option, at least not until they are over the age of 8. Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife (IFW) and Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) have issued safe consumption guidelines (<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/consumption-advisory.html>) for Maine's freshwater fish, which are contaminated with mercury. Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant, and children under age 8 are advised to eat NO freshwater fish from Maine's inland waters, except that they may safely consume one meal per month of brook trout or landlocked salmon. All others are advised to eat no more than two freshwater fish meals per month, except for brook trout and landlocked salmon, which can be safely con-



Maine Conservation Corps Team working on the Sanders Hill Trail this summer.

sumed once a week. The primary source of the mercury in Maine's lakes and rivers is air pollution from coal-fired power plants in the Midwest. These plants are being phased out but WAY too slowly. Maine is particularly susceptible to mercury pollution because of our acidic precipitation and thin soils with little or no carbonates that can provide buffering. There are other site-specific restrictions for other contaminants, such as PFAS, PCBs, DIOXINS, and DDT. Recently, Maine CDC issued a consumption advisory for PFAS/PFOS for fish caught in Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond. The general population should consume no more than one fish meal a month from these waters (children under 8 and pregnant females should consume no fish). In the Messalonskee Stream between Rice Rips and the

Continued on page 15 ...

MESSALONSKEE LAKE



MESSALONSKEE LAKE - Experience the best of Maine lakefront living with this charming 2-bedroom home on sought-after Messalonskee Lake in Oakland, Maine. Offering stunning water views, a sandy beach, and direct lake access, this year-round home is the perfect retreat for relaxing, entertaining, and enjoying all that lake life has to offer. Conveniently located just minutes from downtown Oakland and close to I-95, this property allows convenient easy access to everything Central Maine has to offer. Whether you enjoy fishing, swimming, sunbathing or water sports, this can be your year-round home or seasonal retreat. Just minutes from the Waterville Country Club and fine restaurants, enjoy a round of golf, dinner and still make it home in time to watch the breathtaking sunsets from your deck. Come see why the Belgrade Lakes Region is one of the most desirable after regions in Maine. **\$775,000**



COLDWELL BANKER
PLOURDE
REAL ESTATE

207-872-7650
www.cbplourde.com

143 Silver Street, Waterville ME 04901

Each office is independently owned & operated.



Calendar

Augusta

Saturday 7/4 - Parade, 10 am, State House, along Water Street, across the Calumet Bridge and ending at Old Fort Western.

Saturday 7/4 - Old Fort Western Annual Festivities, 11:30 am, reading of the Declaration of Independence by Augusta’s Mayor O’Brien, followed by a “feu de joie” (musket salute); “Old Time 4th Celebration” - games, pie-eating contest, wagon rides and a performance by the Down East Brass; BBQ Chicken and Strawberry Shortcake luncheon by Club Calumet. New this year - shuttle between Old Fort Western and Mill Park.

Saturday 7/4 - Family Fun at Mill Park, 1:30 pm, bounce houses, storywalk, games, bubbles, food trucks and more!

Saturday 7/4 - Augusta Symphony Orchestra presents A Maine Capital Fourth at the Civic Center with a patriotic musical celebration, 2-4 pm, instrument petting zoo, small ensembles including wind quartet and fiddlers, ASO Concert and CODA Chorus, 3 pm, free parking, free admission (donations appreciated), air-conditioned.

Saturday 7/4 - Mill Park Celebration, 4:30 pm, live music and food trucks.

Saturday 7/4 - Fireworks, 9:05 pm, Mill Park, Northern Avenue, Augusta.

Belgrade

Friday 7/3 - Fireworks over Long Pond, at dusk, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 7/4 - Celebrate the 4th in Belgrade Lakes, music, games, specials, children’s activities, fun events and food scheduled 8 am-9 pm, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

Saturday 7/4 - Belgrade Public Library Book Sale and Bake Sale, 9 am-1 pm, Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 7/4 - Puppet Making Workshop, 11 am-2 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, meet in the 7 Lakes Alliance building, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 7/4 - Boat Parade on Mill Stream, sponsored by Belgrade Lakes Association, 12 pm, from Great Pond to the bridge in Belgrade Lakes

Saturday 7/4 - Street Parade through Belgrade Lakes Village, line-up 3:30 pm, south end of village, parade starts 4 pm,

Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Farmington

Saturday 7/4 - 4th of July Parade, theme “1776 America,” line-up and judging 9 am, Olsen Student Center parking lot, parade starts 10 am, downtown

Gardiner

Friday 7/3 - The Laura Hudson Project, eclectic song list from the 80s to today, Waterfront Concert, 6-8 pm; Pre-Concert Mini Celebration 6 pm, Waterfront Park, on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Sunday 7/5 - Celebratory Strawberry Shortcake Social, 2-4 pm, on The Common, Brunswick Avenue, Gardiner.

Tuesday 7/7 - “Ripples Up North: Slavery Along the Kennebec in Pre- and Post-Revolutionary Times,” talk by Scott Klinger and Philip Johnston, 6:30 pm, Christ Church, Dresden Avenue, Gardiner.

Hallowell

Saturday 7/4 - Rare Showing of Original 1776 Declaration of Independence, a Dunlap Broadside printed on the night of July 4, 1776, by John Dunlap, the official printer for the Continental Congress and delivered on July 5 to Fort Western, 10 am-2 pm; live reading by Citizen of the Year Maureen AuCoin 11 am; admission free and open to the public, City Hall, Winthrop Street, Hallowell.

Winthrop

Friday 7/3 - Fireworks at Norcross Point, Lake Maranacook, 9 pm, Winthrop.

Saturday 7/4 - Annual “Friends on the 4th” 5K Run/Jog/Walk, sponsored by Lake Maranacook Association and Watershed Friends, route goes down Main Street and along Lake Maranacook, check-in 7 am, 8 am start time, Norcross Point, Bowdoin Street, Winthrop.

Sidney

Saturday 7/4 - Weekend Concert, New England Music Camp, free, 3-5 pm, Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Road, Route 23, Sidney.

Thursday 7/2 through Saturday 7/11 - Clue, 474-7176, Lakewood Summer Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Sunday 7/5 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers’ Market, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

★ BELGRADE LAKES REGION BUSINESS GROUP ★

CELEBRATE THE 4TH IN BELGRADE LAKES

★ — 2026 — ★

BOAT PARADE

12:00 PM

Sponsored by
Belgrade Lakes Association

STREET PARADE

4:00 PM

Contact Kristin at
recreation@belgrademaine.gov
to join

Sunday 7/5 - Brian Richmond, Concert in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Water Street, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/6 - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from big band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/7 - The Dunnwells Jazz Quintet, 6 pm, free and open to the public, 6 pm, Lithgow Public Library, Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Tuesday 7/7 - New England Music Camp Student Honor Recital, soloists and ensembles, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, New England Music Camp, Route 23, Sidney.

Tuesday 7/7 - The Fiasco Brothers New Band, Rock on the River Concert, 7-8:30 pm, Bandstand, Hallowell.

Wednesday 7/8 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification, 1-2 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/8 - Cruel Intentions, Waterfront Wednesday Concert, 6 pm, Waterfront Park, Augusta.

Thursday 7/9 - Owls of Maine, Chewonki Animal Presentation, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/9 - Creation Station, Art in the Park, story read-aloud and hands-on activity, free, 3-5 pm, Castonguay Square, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 7/9 - New England Music Camp Concert Group, 3-5 pm, free, Bowl in the Pines, Route 23, Sidney.

Thursday 7/9 - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Thursday 7/9 - Fossils, Oakland Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm, public boat launch and park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/9 - The Dani Tribesmen, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, Village Green, downtown Belgrade Lakes.



Buy your \$20 ticket NOW for a chance to win our \$5,000 SUMMER GIVEAWAY

Entering is simple!
Just scan the QR Code to support Messalonskee Lake conservation

SCAN TO BUY NOW!

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!
WINNER WILL BE DRAWN ON AUGUST 30TH!
In partnership with Maine Raffle by TechResolv

To purchase tickets and see full a list of rules, visit
<https://dash.maineraffle.com/raffle/friends-of-messalonskee-lake-friends-of-messalonskee-summer-giveaway>
STATE LAW REQUIRES DEBIT CARDS ONLY FOR ONLINE PURCHASES

Daily through August 31 –
– self-paced Story Stroll
on the walking trail around
the Belgrade Regional Health Center,
4 Clement Way, Belgrade (off Rt 27).
“Animal Hide and Seek” by
Dahlov Ipcar. Sponsored
by the
Belgrade Library Trustees.
Free.

Kevin Couture Photography
HS Seniors - Weddings - Families
Aerial images via drone
www.kevincouturephotography.com
Also find me on Facebook
207.474.0754 207.858.5382
keve1999@yahoo.com

GENERATORS of MAINE INC.

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

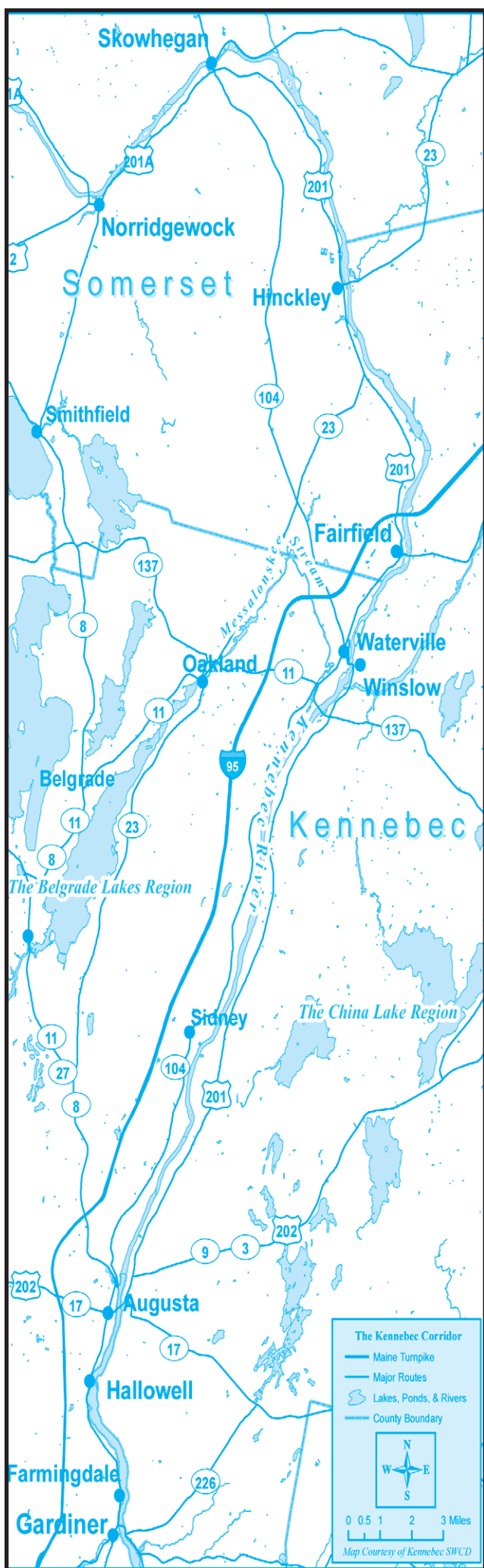
www.generatorsofmaine.com 207-495-2285
dan@generatorsofmaine.com

Professional Service At Fair Prices

KOHLER
IN POWER. SINCE 1920.



—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



Maine International Film Festival Announces Complete 29th Program



Photo by John Meader for Waterville Creates.

The Maine Film Center has confirmed the full program for the 29th edition of the Maine International Film Festival, held in Waterville, Maine July 10–19, 2026. In what festival director Mike Perreault describes as the “broadest MIFF program yet,” this year’s festival will screen 112 movies, including new American indie, classic rediscoveries, international premieres from over 40 countries, and 21 made-in-Maine productions.

The festival will open on July 10 at the Waterville Opera House with Katie Aselton and Mark Duplass’ touching new coming-of-age film *Their Town*, about two high school students who run in different circles unexpectedly brought together in a production of *Our Town*. The festival will conclude on July 19 with an Opera House screening of the new ESPN documentary *Give Me the Ball!*, about trailblazing tennis star Billie Jean King.

Among the international highlights is a curated program of Québécois films, including two features and seven shorts, presented in partnership with Québec’s Festival du Film de Knowlton.

Knowlton’s Executive and Artistic Director Julie Bradet will, alongside Maine Playweek founder and publisher Julia Dunlavy and Mashariki African Film Festival founder and CEO Trésor Senga, jury MIFF29’s annual Tourmaline competition. The two Tourmaline Prizes honor the best feature-length and short Maine-made films of the year. Nineteen films—three features and 16 shorts—will compete for this year’s Tourmalines.

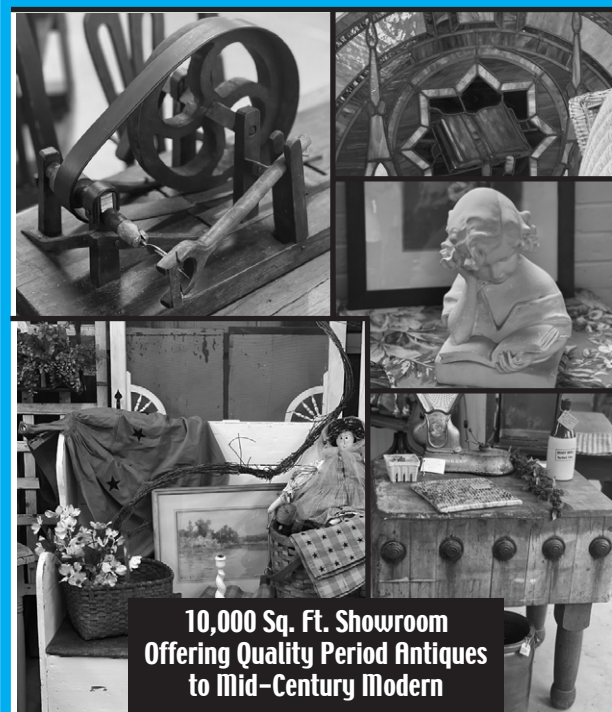
As previously announced, the Maine Film Center will present three MIFF Moose Awards this year, honoring prolific Oscar-nominated producer Christine Vachon, writer/director Alan Rudolph, and producer and longtime MIFF supporter Mike Kaplan. The full lineup includes five of Vachon’s films (*Late Fame*, *Past Lives*, *I’m Not There*, *Far from Heaven*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*), four of Rudolph’s (*The Moderns*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Choose Me*, and *Remember My Name*), and two of Kaplan’s (*The Whales of August* and *Luck, Trust & Ketchup: Robert Altman in Carver Country*).

The Maine Film Center is also excited to screen the world premiere of *Ikawa: Coffee That Connects* for free at the Waterville Opera House Sunday, July 12, at 1pm. *Ikawa* is a student-made Maine-Rwanda documentary coproduction illustrating how something as simple as a cup of coffee orchestrates surprising and unlikely connections between Waterville and Kigali. Student filmmakers from the Mid-Maine Technical Center will be present for a Q+A. The film is the latest chapter in a years-long collaboration between MIFF and Rwanda’s Mashariki African Film Festival.

Visit MIFF.org for the full festival lineup and to reserve passes. Those who have already purchased their passes can now enjoy a full week of advance access to ticket reservations for individual screenings before individual tickets become publicly available June 12.



HATHAWAY MILL ANTIQUES



10,000 Sq. Ft. Showroom
Offering Quality Period Antiques
to Mid-Century Modern

Open Wed. - Sun. 10am-5pm Closed Mon. & Tues.

HATHAWAY MILL
ANTIQUES

hathawaymillantiques.com
10 Water Street, Waterville
207-877-0250

Like & Follow
us on
Facebook &
Instagram!

Banking solutions that fit your life.

Helping Mainers reach
their personal and business
financial goals for over 150 years.

92 Main Street | Fairfield, Maine



Lynn Andrews
AVP Community Banker



Chris DeMerchant
VP Commercial Lender

Skowhegan
SAVINGS

800.303.9511 • Skowhegan.com FDIC



WHITE WILLOW
RETREAT FOR DOGS



BOARDING • DAYCARE

A safe and healthy home away from home.

WhiteWillowRetreat.com

1761 AUGUSTA ROAD BELGRADE, ME
207-495-3596



Ellen Wells

Certified Luxury Property Specialist



COLDWELL BANKER

PLOURDE
REAL ESTATE

143 Silver St Waterville cbplourde.com

207-649-1471 ewells@cbplourde.com





Lynch

LANDSCAPING INC
FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE QUALITY

(207)474-2420

Design - Install - Maintain

Designing landscapes to beautify your property and protect our natural resources - **Installing** these landscapes in a manner that promotes sustainability and prevents erosion - **Maintaining** these landscape so your investment lasts a lifetime!



Licensed, Certified & Accredited
For All Of Your Landscaping Needs

www.lynchlandscaping.com

BELGRADE LAKES MARINE & STORAGE, INC.

Winter Storage for Summer Boats and Vehicles



Secure, newer storage facilities accommodate boats on trailers, autos, and the largest RVs in 3 buildings totaling over 21,000 sq. ft. Electrical charging outlets are available. Reasonable rates for real protection from extreme winter storms and sun damage.

207-495-2378 • www.belgradelakesmarine.com
366 Augusta Road, Route 27, Belgrade, ME



Trisha Cheney (207) 716-6494
trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Stephanie Gardner (207) 592-5577
stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com



558 Castle Island Road, Mount Vernon | MLS# 1663835

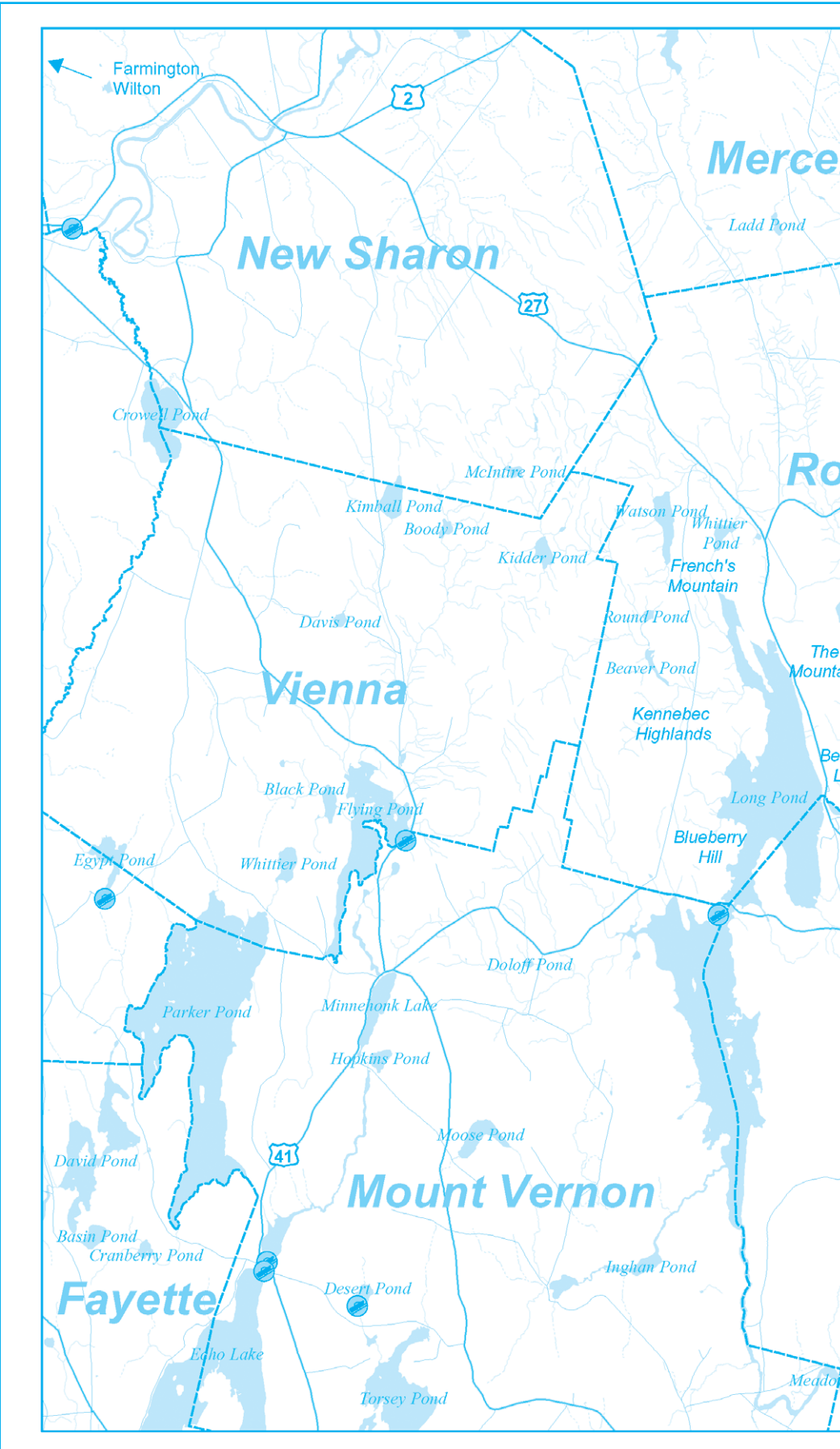
- Long Pond Access • Private Dock • 5 Bedrooms • 3 Bathrooms • 3,159 SQFT • Sunroom • Deck • Patio • Game Room • Hot Tub • Fire Pit • 1st FL Ensuite • Great Rental History | **\$895,000**



THE VILLAGE INN, 157 Main Street, Belgrade | MLS# 1656478

- Great Pond (150ft) AND Long Pond (100ft) • Private Docks | Private Parking | Lawn on both lakes • 2 Bedroom Apartment • 8 Guest Room Suites | Commercial Kitchen • Restaurant & Tavern • Fully Furnished | **\$2,695,000**

PORTSIDE LAKEPOINT | 221 MAIN STREET | BELGRADE LAKES | 207-495-5700

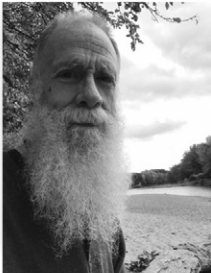




MICHAEL BREAUULT

Creative solutions for all your Mac needs

Macintosh and iOS support, based in Western Maine, working onsite throughout Maine



If you have Macs, iOS devices, software or network problems, or any ideas you would like to implement using Macintosh computers, give me a call and we can discuss if I can help...

207-578-0226 • www.michaelbreault.net



Sunrise Bagel

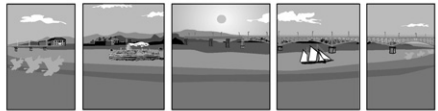
NEW LOCATION
50 MAIN ST. OAKLAND, ME
(207) 716-1014

ARTISAN SOURDOUGH BAGELS AND SWEETS MADE FRESH DAILY!

WE ALSO DELIVER WITH DOORDASH!!

@SUNRISEBAGELME WWW.SUNRISEBAGELME.COM





RIVERFRONT
BARBEQUE & GRILLE

WORLD CLASS BARBEQUE

SEAFOOD, PASTA, & VEGETARIAN ENTREES

207.622.8899

300 WATER STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE

WWW.RIVERFRONTBBQ.COM

FULL SERVICE DINING * CATERING * BULK TAKE OUT

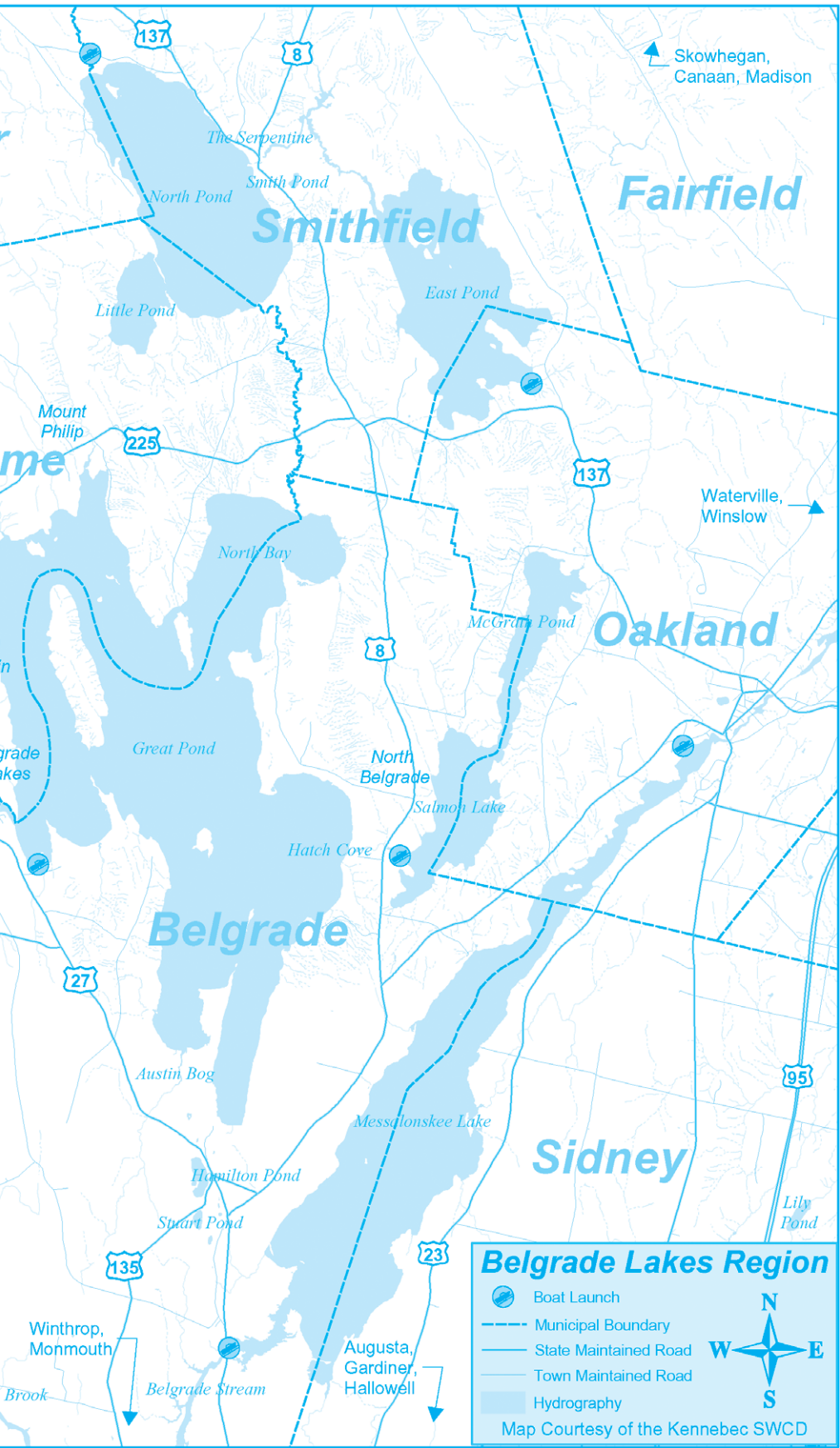


The
Gin Mill

Augusta, Maine

Augusta's finest upscale lounge featuring
fine wine, martinis, and over 100 brands
of beer from Germany to Japan

Thursday thru Saturday 3:00pm until Midnight,
Above the Riverfront Barbeque & Grille
at 300 Water Street
207.620.9200



GAGNE & SON
CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Everyone Notices
A Great Patio Setup

The best room in
your house doesn't
have a roof.

Patio, fire pits, furniture, walkways,
outdoor kitchens, and more.

Everything you need to create a
space your friends will talk about
and your neighbors will envy.

Shop Online
GagneAndSon.com

Auburn Belgrade Holden Kittery Saco Topsham Westbrook

Visit the Businesses
on Marina Drive

Great Pond Marina, Inc.

Fuel Dock Open Daily 9-4
Non-Ethanol 90 Octane
Mooring Chain & Supplies

**SADIE'S
RESTAURANT**

sadiesboathouse@hotmail.com
• 207-495-4045 •
Like us on Facebook!
Friday-Saturday 5-9 PM

G & L CONTRACTING
Camp Jacking
207-495-9009
www.gandlcontractingmaine.com

**MID-MAINE
FISH-OFF**
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce

JULY 18-25,
— 2026 —

Register on the
Fish Donkey App

Fish Any Mid-Maine
Waterway

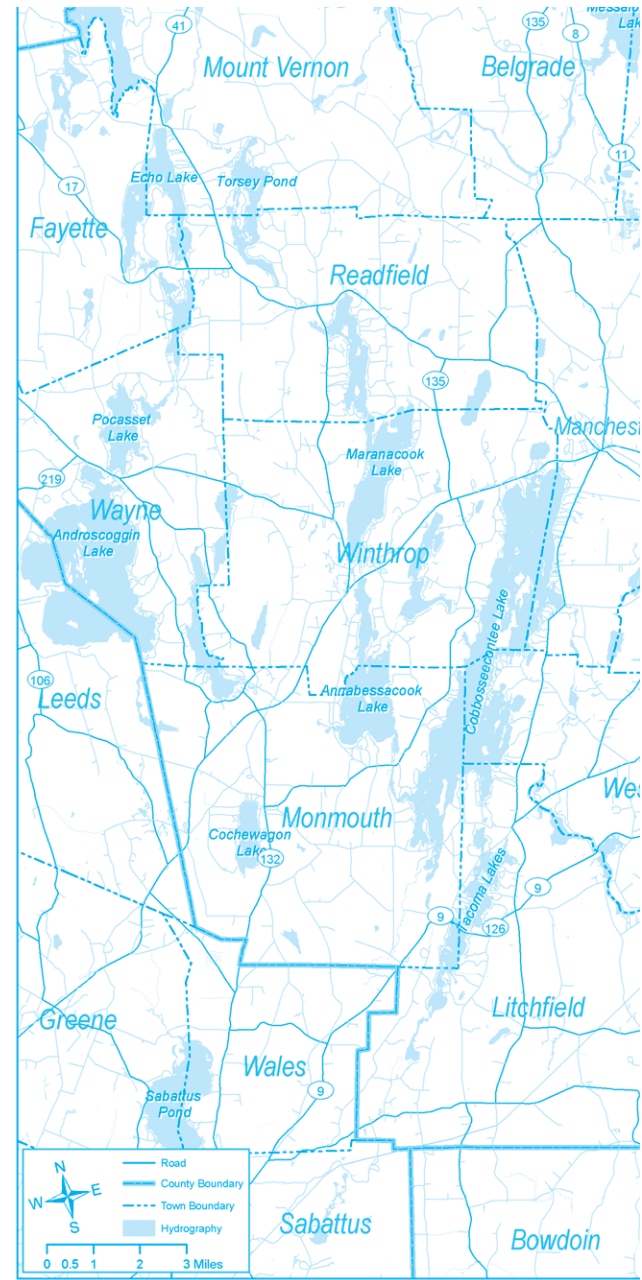
Catch • Photo •
Release

Climb the Live
Leaderboard

Win Prizes
All Week Long



Winthrop Area Watershed



Free Sunday Concerts at Winthrop’s Norcross Point

Every Sunday from 2-4 pm free concerts will be performed at Norcross Point on Lake Maranacook in downtown Winthrop. The 2026 schedule includes:

- July 12: Lynn Deeves Trio - Best way to start off the series!
- July 19: Jim Sharkey - let’s reel to some Irish music!
- July 26: Bella Ann - young songwriter; great repertoire.
- August 2: Calypso Soldiers - Dance to the jams!
- August 9: The DE-experience - blues, country, rock, pop...
- August 16: LQH - local band, funk and jazzy jams.
- August 23: Katie Daggett and Ed Desjardins - inspiring duo!
- August 30: Kelyana Marie Trinidad - pop and original music.



Mount Katahdin ...
A Good Stretch of the Legs

by Kay Overfield

This year, Belgrade’s community read is Heartwood, by Amity Gaige, a mystery that takes place on the Appalachian Trail in Maine. As I read the book, I recalled our trek up Katahdin, the highest peak in Maine. It is the end of the Appalachian Trail, a hike of almost 2200 miles that begins in Springer, Georgia. Katahdin has been revered as a sacred place by many cultures over the centuries. When you reach the summit, you experience its magnificence and feel the awe. Make the trek if you can. Put it on your bucket list.

In 2002 when my husband and I were younger, in our sixties, we drove to Baxter State Park and decided to hike Mt. Katahdin. It seemed like a good idea. We liked hiking and had recently done a ten-mile hike at Gulf Hagas, a side trail off the Appalachian Trail, a beautiful ridge walk by brooks and waterfalls. Katahdin would be about 10 miles.

We knew nothing about Katahdin, how rugged and strenuous it was. At Baxter State Park, we set up our tent. While we roasted hot dogs, my husband made a walking stick for me. That gift would be so helpful on the trail.

The next morning we began the trek to the summit on a nice trail, a gradual slope upwards through the woods. How lovely I thought, but the path started getting rocky. Then the rocks turned into large boulders and the trail was even steeper. Steadily upwards like a staircase. Placing our feet carefully and looking for firm hand-holds. Now it was even a little scary. Miles to go.

The last two miles we were on loose rocks, interspersed with boulders. We were sweaty, had raw hands, blackfly bites and we swatted mosquitos continually. Along the way another hiker advised us to linger at a stream and soak our feet. “Your feet will thank you,” he said. And they did. We reached the top and marveled at the exquisite, expansive view. Mountains all around. So worth the effort. Then a man approached me and gave me a hug. He was a through-walker ending his trip, a trip that he claims saved his life. When he returned from military service he could not live in society. Now he was placing a little stone here on Katahdin, a pebble he had picked up at Springer Mountain in Georgia and had carried all the way to Maine. He said that reaching the end of the Appalachian Trail was a very emotional experience for him. He likened it to visiting the Viet Nam Wall in Washington DC. He had hiked the last leg of the trail with a man from Sydney, Australia who was just beginning his trek, Katahdin to Georgia. All the hikers had stories.

Reaching the top was not the end of the challenge. Knife’s Edge, a narrow walk, sometimes three

feet wide, with 2000 ft drops on both sides, presented yet another adventure. And the miles heading down the trail were almost as difficult as the trip up. Our hands got scraped holding the sharp edges of rocks. We ran out of water before we reached bottom. So tired and sweaty. Knees sore. But very happy. There was water in the car and between us I think we drank the better part of a gallon. We left the park, drove to the nearest town and the closest motel. Took a wonderful shower, Ibuprofin, and ordered pizza – to be delivered. We thought we were starved, but ate little, then fell asleep watching an old movie. When you come to the end of a perfect day ...

Now, in our 80’s, we are content to hike Mt. Phillip



Quality Used Books
THE Peoples BOOK SHOP
USED BOOKS
8,000 Gently Used, Hand Picked, Eclectic and Popular Books
605 Wings Mill Road
Mount Vernon - 620-2392
hosehead51@roadrunner.com
Open by Appointment

John Blouin
207.446.7708
jblouin@laerrealty.com
JohnBlouinRealtor@gmail.com

LAER REALTY PARTNERS

Peru ME \$575,000 MLS# 1667662
Motivated Seller ! Year-round Worthley Pond cottage with 60' owned waterfront and private dock. 2BR, 2BA with finished walkout basement, open-concept living, and sun porch dining. Turnkey and fully furnished, sleeps 8. Landscaped 0.5-acre lot with deck, patio, firepit, detached 2-story garage, and storage shed -ideal for personal use or rental income.

Litchfield, ME \$499,000 MLS# 1654573 Motivated Seller !
Year-round waterfront chalet with 95 feet of owned frontage on beautiful Woodbury Pond, plus 330 feet of shared sandy beach frontage and access to the Tacoma Lakes chain. This turnkey, furnished 2-bedroom, 1-bath home offers 1,064 sq. ft. of open-concept living with cathedral wood ceilings, skylights, loft, and stunning water views.

103 Water St., Ste. 202 | Hallowell, ME 04347 | 207.622.2220

UNION COFFEEHOUSE

Featuring Singer/Songwriter Stan Davis
Followed by Open Mic Hour
Saturday, July 11 – 7:00 PM
Union Church - Route 27 in Downtown Belgrade Lakes
Refreshments \$10.00 Donation at the Door



Notebook

Waterville: MIFF Presents New Quebecois Cinema

• Good news for Maine's many Francophones - films from Quebec will be a feature of the Maine International Film Festival, July 10-19. Titled "A Celebration of New Quebecois Cinema," the selection of films will shine a spotlight on Maine's neighbors to the north. Many of the filmmakers will be in attendance and participate in Q&As after screenings. Visit Quebecois Films at miff.org

Augusta: Scuba Diving Course

• Learn to scuba dive at the Kennebec Valley YMCA. Black Mask Diving Company from Turner will be teaching classroom and pool lessons during July 11, 12 and 18. For more information contact 576-2456 or blackmaskdivingcompany@gmail.com. Kennebec Valley YMCA is located at 31 Union Street, Augusta.

Winthrop: Accepting Applications from Artists

• The 38th Annual Winthrop Arts Festival in downtown Winthrop will take place on Saturday, August 15, 2026 from 9 am to 3 pm. Local artists and artisans will showcase their works in a variety of mediums including painting, watercolors, drawing, prints, notecards, photography, wood, metal and fabric arts. Applications from artists are currently being accepted online or by mail. For more information visit info@winthropchamber.org

Farmington: Poetry Reading by Local Artists

• An evening of original poetry by local writers will be held at Twice Told Tales on Tuesday, July 14. Sign-up begins at 6 pm. Come to read or to listen or to meet other writers. 778-4411, Main Street, downtown Farmington.

Kingfield: First Friday ArtWalk July 3

• Kingfield's First Friday Artwalk is a free, village-wide evening of local art, live music, poetry and refreshments throughout downtown from 5-7:30 pm. Artwalkers can tour art exhibits hosted at shops, meet artists, enjoy live entertainment and follow a self-guided trail of murals and hand-painted utility boxes. Everyone is welcome. Organized by the Kingfield Friday Artwalk, Route 27, downtown Kingfield.

Vienna: 41st Annual Historical Society Play

• Turn back time and visit the restored 1880 Vienna Union Hall located at 5 Vienna Mountain Road in Vienna for the 41st annual Vienna Historical Society play, "A Miracle for Mickey" (playwright Beverly Wight Smith) set in the 1920s and "Too Hot to Hustle" (sketch writer Annette Smith). Whether you come for the laughter, the history, or simply a delightful afternoon or evening out, we would be truly happy to have you join us. The proceeds go towards the restoration of the Waite House, home of Milton Bradley. Showings July 23 through 25, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7 pm, matinee Saturday at 2 pm. Admission adults \$12, children and students free.

Chesterville: Magical Adventures

• Dreamcatcher, with story keeper Lealand Faulkner, will be presented on Saturday, July 11, at 7 pm at the Chesterville Center Union Meeting House. The presentation will include tales of Native America. 779-0660, www.chestervillemeetinghouse.org

Madison: Art School Lecture Series

• Art School Lecture Series: free and open to the public. The Skowhegan School of Art on Lake Wesserunsett in Madison since 1946, a residency program for emerging visual artists, is offering the 2026 Barbara Lee Lecture Series of visiting and resident artists. The campus is at 1 Art School Road in Madison. For days, dates, times and topics call 474-9345 or visit www.showheganart.org.

Heather Jorge
Serving Central Maine

RADIANT CLEANING SERVICES

207-480-0855
Heather.jorge89@gmail.com

ACME LAND SURVEYING, LLC
Professional Land Surveyors - Professional Foresters
Property Surveys, Subdivisions, Topographic Surveys, MLIs,
Elevation Certificates/LOMAS, ALTA/ACS Surveys,
Deed Research, Wetland Delineation, Forest Management

108 Fairbanks Rd., Suite 5
Farmington, ME 04938
Website: www.acmelandsurveying.com

Tel. (207) 778-4081
Toll Free (800) 778-4081
Email: info@acmelandsurveying.com

For your jacking and leveling needs, including sill repair, call Eric Lancaster

"Over 25 years experience."

207-634-2821

Insured

ALDEN CAMPS
SWIM-FISH-FUN
OAKLAND-MAINE

- Lakeside Cottages • Boats & Motors
- Full American Plan
- Dining on the porch by reservation

3 Alden Camps Cove
Oakland, Me 04963
(207-465-7703)

E-mail: info@aldencamps.com • Website: www.aldencamps.com

NB EARTHWORK & FORESTRY

(207)-458-3193
nbeearthwork@gmail.com

Camp Road Grading and Repair

- Camp Road Grading
- Gravel Driveway Repair
- Camp Road Maintenance Programs

Fully Insured & D.E.P Certified in shoreland zone work

"Come work with us"

A welcoming coworking space in downtown Winthrop.
Fast Wi-Fi. Conference room.
Sit/Stand desks.
Day Pass, 5-Day, 10-Day & Unlimited Plans
Downtown Winthrop
117 Main St, Suite 1D
www.winthropworkspace.com
linda@winthropworkspace.com

WINTHROP WORKSPACE

(207) 395-5019

Advertise with

Summertime in the Belgrades!

207-495-3777;

sumbelnews@gmail.com

Book Sale

& Bake Sale

Saturday July 4th

9 am - 1 pm

Gently used books!

Center for All Seasons
1 Center Drive, Belgrade Lakes

Sponsored by:

The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library



For information, call 649-4238.



THIS BAKERY IS SO DIFFERENT

Main Street Bake Shop

HOMEMADE 3 GENERATION RECIPES • DYE FREE INGREDIENTS

ORDER ONLINE
www.balloonssweetsandmore.com
OR
Call (207) 495-3864

Ray Linck

TRIM
SHOE

FARMINGTON, MAINE
207-446-3758
WWW.FARRIERMAINE.COM

Oliver & Friends BOOKSHOP

Tuesday: 11 am - 4 pm
Wednesday - Friday:
10 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 12 pm - 5 pm

207-707-2123

www.oliverandfriendsbookshop.com
150 Main Street, Unit 101, Waterville



-Business Directory-

ANTIQUES

Hathaway Mill Antiques, Multi-Dealer Emporium, 10 Water Street, Waterville, 877-0250, www.hathawaymillantiques.com

APPLE ORCHARDS

The Apple Farm, 104 Back Road, Fairfield, 453-7656, www.applefarm.us

ARCHITECTS

Bench & Field Architecture, LLC, Andrew Hankermeyer, Maine Licensed Architect, residential homes, cottages and light commercial, 649-2561, ahankermeyer@gmail.com

ARTS

Designing Women, bridging art and community, www.designingwomen.org
High Peaks Artisan Guild, art gallery open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am-5 pm, other times by chance or appointment, 245 Main Street, Kingfield, 340-1045, highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com
Waterville Creates, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville, 616-0292, www.watervillecreates.org

AUTOMOBILE STORAGE

Belgrade Lakes Marine & Storage, Inc., 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com

BAKERIES

Main Street Bake Shop, located at Balloons & Things, 174 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3864
Sunrise Bagel, 50 Main Street, Oakland, 716-1014, sunrisebagelme.com

BANKING

Skowhegan Savings, Augusta, Waterville, Farmington, Skowhegan and 7 more central Maine Branches, 1-800-303-9511, www.skowhegan.com

BOAT COVERS

Covers It All Upholstery & Canvas, 1042 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, 465-7847, www.watervilleupholstery.com

BOAT LIFTS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 1-866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

BOAT MOORINGS

Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive (off Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

BOAT RENTALS

Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive (off Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

BOAT SALES AND SERVICES

Mid-Maine Marine, Inc., 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, 465-2146 or 800 649-2628, www.midmainemarine.com

BOAT STORAGE

Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc., 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com
Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive (off Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

Mid-Maine Marine Inc., 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, 465-2146 or 800-649-2628, www.midmainemarine.com

BOOKS

Oliver and Friends Bookshop, 150 Main Street, Waterville, 707-2123, oliverandfriendsbookshop.com
Peoples Book Shop, used books, 605 Wings Mill Road, Mount Vernon, 620-2392, hosehead51@roadrunner.com

BUILDERS

G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com

BUILDING MATERIALS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

CAMP JACKING AND LEVELING

Eric Lancaster, Norridgewock, 634-2821, ejlancaster77@gmail.com

CAMP ROAD GRADING AND REPAIR

NB Earthwork & Forestry, D.E.P. certified in shoreland zone work, Sidney, 458-3193, nbeearthwork@gmail.com

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, 50 Elm Street, Waterville, 873-3315, www.midmainechamber.com

COMPUTER CONSULTANTS

Macintosh Solutions Consultant Michael Breault, 24 Welch Road, Wilton, 578-0226, www.michaelbreault.net

CLEANING SERVICES

Radiant Cleaning Services, serving central Maine, 480-0855, Heatherjorge89@gmail.com

DINING

1958 Cafe @ Day's Store, dine-in lakeside breakfast, lunch, dinner, 182 Main Street. Belgrade Lakes, 495-2205, www.daysstore.com
Alden Camps, dinner by reservation 7 days a week, 5:30-7, Friday night lobster bake, 5:30-7, 3 Alden Camps Cove, Oakland, 465-7703, www.aldencamps.com
H.J. Blake's for Goodness Sake's, fresh, homemade, tasty take-out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 465-2280
Riverfront Barbecue & Grille and Gin Mill Lounge, world class barbecue, seafood, pasta and vegetarian entrees, full service dining, catering, bulk take-out, 300 Water Street, Augusta, 622-8899, www.riverfrontbbq.com
Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant at Great Pond Marina, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273
Sunrise Bagel, 50 Main Street, Oakland, 716-1014, sunrisebagelme.com

DOCKS

G&L Contracting, installation only, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-9009, 215-7951, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com
Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

DOG CARE AND TRAINING

White Willow Retreat for Dogs, daycare and boarding, 24/7 services year round, 495-3596, www.whitewillowretreat.com

FARRIER SERVICE

Ray Linck Farrier Service, Farmington, 446-3758, www.farriermaine.com

FILMS

Maine Film Center, Maine International Film Festival, 861-8138, miff.org, miff@mainefilmcenter.org

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Golden Pond Wealth Management, 129 Silver Street, Waterville, 873-2200, www.goldenpondwealth.com

FLOORING

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

GENERATORS

Generators of Maine, 262 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2285, www.generatorsofmaine.com

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS

Day's Store, 8 am-8 pm, 182 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes Village, 495-2205, www.daysstore.com

INSURANCE

Allen Insurance and Financial, 51 Main Street, Waterville, 1-800-244-9046, AllenIF.com/Waterville

KITCHENS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 512-5150, www.belgradelakesassociation.org
Friends of Messalonskee, Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake, PO Box 532, Oakland, ME 04963, 618-8723, www.friendsofmessalonskee.com
McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association, Stewards of Our Belgrade Lakes, <https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, (207) 495-6039, www.7lakesalliance.org

LANDSCAPING

Gagne & Son Concrete Products, patio setups, stone, masonry products, complimentary outdoor heating, lighting, furniture, 1583 Augusta Road, Belgrade, 495-3313, gagneandson.com
G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-9009, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com
Lynch Landscaping, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock, 474-2420, 405-0880, www.lynchlandscaping.com



LODGING

Alden Camps, American Plan cottages, boat rentals, 3 Alden Camps Cove, Oakland, 465-7703, www.aldencamps.com

MAILBOAT RIDES

Great Pond Mailboat Rides, calm days are the best, maximum number of riders is 4 small adults, \$20 each, 2-hour ride, leave 9:20-9:40 am Belgrade Lakes Post Office, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, to reserve text 592-1537

PATIO SETUPS

Gagne & Son Concrete Products, stone, masonry, outdoor lighting, furniture, 1583 Augusta Road, Belgrade, 495-3313, gagneandson.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Kevin Couture Photography, HS Seniors, Weddings, Families, Aerial drone images, 474-0754, 858-5382, www.kevincouturephotography.com

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Dockside Physical Therapy, 212 Depot Road, Belgrade, 660-2546,

PIANO LESSONS

Dianne Gorman, 191B Bartlett Road, Belgrade, 495-3222, Gorman3366@roadrunner.com

REALTORS

Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 660-4001, 872-7650, cbplourde.com

Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-147, cbplourde.com

John Blouin, Laer Realty Maine, 103 Water Street, Suite 202, Hallowell, 446-7708, <https://www.laerrealty.com/agents/118618-john-blouin>

Liz Fontaine, Lakehome Group Real Estate, 75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2500, lakehomegroup.com

Dan McCarron, Portside/Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, 888-495-3711, www.belgradelakepoint.com

Trisha Cheney, Portside/Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Stephanie Yeaton, Portside/Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND TRAILER STORAGE

Belgrade Lakes Marine & Storage, 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com

ROAD REPAIRS

NB Earthworks & Forestry, gravel roads and driveways, DEP certified, Sidney, 458-3193, nbeearthwork@gmail.com

SURVEYING

Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-4081, 800-778-408, www.acmelandsurveying.com

WINDOWS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 1-800-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

WORKSPACE/TECH COACH

Winthrop Workspace, shared office space, classes, workshops, support, 117 Main Street, Suite 10, Winthrop, 395-5019, www.winthropworkspace.com

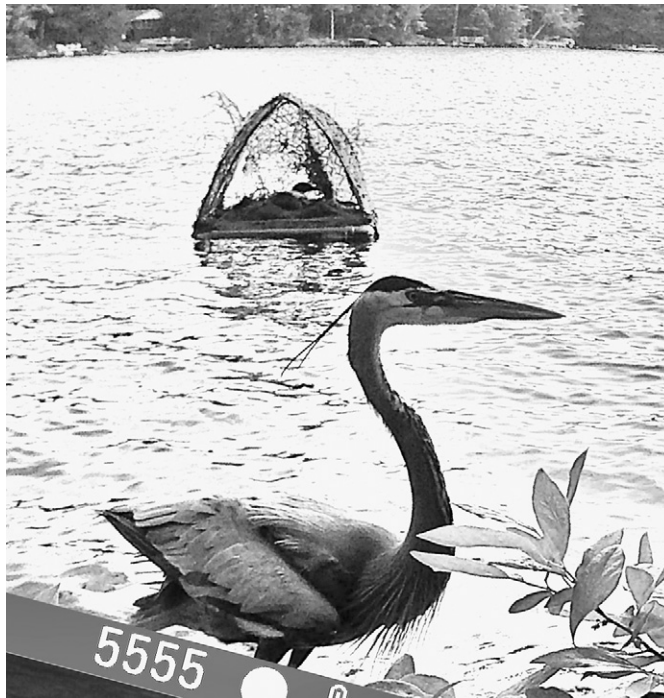


Call of the Loon

First Baby



As of this writing in the second week of June, we are right in the middle of our Loon Breeding Season. Long Pond should be able to lay claim to this year's first chick within the next day or two. Yeah!! We actually had two nests on Long Pond that nested early, on or about May 12th. That's great news for two reasons. One, the chicks are guaranteed to be large and mature enough to make the Great Fly-off around October. Two, if the nest does fail, there may be still time for a second nesting.



Long Pond's Lynch Cove nest with a Great Blue Heron getting in on the action. Photo taken with a wildlife camera.

These eggs, like all abandoned eggs, will end up going down to BioDiversity Research Institute in Portland for heavy metals, embryonic development, etc. testing this fall. Until then, they go into Sue's freezer!

Please keep your eyes open for chicks during the final three weeks of June and the first week in July as this is prime time for chicks to first see the first light of day! Last summer, both Great and Long Ponds each produced eight chicks but of course only one chick from Long Pond made it to the Great Fly-off. The rest all succumbed to a myriad of reasons from siblicide, territorial disputes, snapping turtles, eagles, etc.

So, along with this great news, we also had our first abandoned eggs in Long Pond's Tracy Cove. Our pair laid two eggs but abandoned both just two weeks later. Why? The nest was washed out due to residential boat traffic exceeding the 200' no wake zone. In this case, the cove itself is only maybe 200' wide meaning the entire cove and its "entrance" is "strictly headway speed only"! And is not acceptable to come screaming in and then at the no wake zone, immediately slow down leaving a tsunami in your wake! This nest, which has since been refurbished, will be abandoned as well if this unlawful activity continues.



Long Pond's Tracy Cove nest with its two abandoned mud-covered eggs.



Great Pond's very protective 2025 First Family!



Looks like eating crawfish is an acquired taste!

Our two Colby interns, Alie and Katie, along with our other valued volunteers visit all twenty-six or so loon territories on Great and Long Ponds every two or three days so we are keeping our fingers crossed for a successful chick productivity year.

If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blaine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great Summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"! We are so fortunate to summer here in the Belgrades!





Democracy Awakening

by Martha F. Barkley

This all encompassing history is by Heather Cox Richardson, mid-coast Maine resident and professor of history at Boston College. You may already know her by the popular daily blog followed by multitudes. Richardson's daily newsletter is "Letters From An American." She has been widely followed on C-SPAN Book TV and scheduled recently for a lecture/panel at The Washington Cathedral.

This book was published in 2023 and her dedication is "To the people who have joined me in exploring the complex relationship between history, humanity, and modern politics—this book is yours as much as it is mine."

With our 250th celebrations all summer long, I found both Ken Burns back cover praise and Joanne Freeman, Yale professor of history, recommendations helpful.

Reading only a few pages, I discovered another Maine woman of note, Frances Perkins. Her family and colonial ancestors spent years in "small town...Maine." Her education as a social worker made New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory historic fire in 1911 central in her work. "146 workers, mostly young women, leaped to their death from a burning building after their bosses had locked the doors to keep them from sneaking breaks on the fire escapes. The catastrophe inspired Perkins to bring the idea of old-fashioned community responsibility to the government...with their immigrant populations and their unregulated industries."

Perkins became FDR's secretary of labor, serving from 1933-1945. Not only the longest serving labor secretary in American history, but she was the first woman appointed to a president's cabinet.

My Menlo Park, CA book group just read The First Ladies, a terrific novel about Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McCloud Bethune, the first black woman to serve on a president's cabinet. Eleanor's influence on FDR and her friendship with Mary were beautifully portrayed in this novel.

The Perkins Social Security Act was "for women and children and workers out of a job from unemployment or retirement...Finally, the government invested heavily in infrastructure, bringing to ordinary Americans new opportunities available only to the wealthy."

Jane Addams Hull House work in Chicago was instructive to Frances Perkins, not only her Maine experience in small town life. Even before women had the right to vote, Perkins was changing fire codes in factories, "but also at long hours, low wages, child labor, overwork, and 'almost everything you could think of that had been in agitation for years,' as Perkins later recalled."

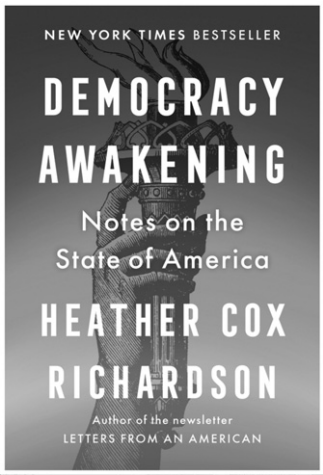
Our American history is complex and this 250th gives readers a chance to learn more and gain a love of our country in all its phases.

"Notes on the State of America" begins with Heather Cox Richardson selecting an 1871 Walt Whitman quote from Democratic Vistas.

"We have frequently printed the word Democracy. Yet I cannot too often repeat that it is a word the real gist of which still sleeps, quite unawaken'd."

Both Whitman and Mary Lincoln spent days and weeks visiting Civil War victims in the many D.C. hospitals. Whitman even watched Lincoln as he rode his horse alone from the White House along Vermont Avenue towards the Soldiers' Home Cottage in D.C., near the Maryland border, for cooler rest from the heat of the city. Lincoln alone wearing his top hat and Whitman in silence showing respect during a time of division and death.

Frances Perkins has a historic site to visit in Maine. This New Castle area National Monument has 57 acres for hiking and a renovated barn with the Perkins Homestead to explore. I understand one of the book groups at Belgrade Library has been planning a trip there. Wish I could go along with these history buffs, readers of enlightening books.



Annual Beanhole Bean Supper
at
Belgrade Community Center
The Center for All Seasons
Saturday, August 1
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Baked Beans, Rolls, Hotdogs, Homemade pies, Coleslaw, and Brown Bread.
\$12.00 Adults
\$8.00 Children - AGE 5 thru 12
UNDER AGE 5 - FREE
Music by the Gawlet family
Sponsored by Belgrade Firefighters Association



MLS# 1660177 342 Smithfield Rd, Norridgewock \$277K-A truly turnkey opportunity with exceptional flexibility. The current owner is offering the property complete with the professional equipment and contents of a successful dog grooming business--making it ready for immediate operation from day one. This is a fantastic opportunity for owner-users or investors. Beyond its current use, this versatile mixed-use property offers a wide range of possibilities.



MLS# 1663883 862 Baie Creuse Road, Sinclair, ME \$300K --Nestled on a stunning and private .87-acre level lot, this charming 2-bedroom, 1-bath getaway on Long Lake offers beautiful water views and the perfect escape for every season. Enjoy easy lake access with your included dock, ideal for boating, fishing, swimming, and relaxing summer days on the water. Property comes fully furnished, making it move-in ready so you can start enjoying lake life immediately.



MLS# 1659465 29 Gables End, Belgrade \$756K Located on the highly desirable Great Pond in Belgrade, this 2017-built home combines rustic charm with modern amenities. It features five bedrooms and two bathrooms. The deck provides stunning views of Great Pond and glorious sunsets. This 1.3-acre property includes 280 feet of waterfront, making it ideal for numerous lake activities. The private dock and sandy lake bottom provide ready access to this magnificent body of water.



MLS# 1641654 0 Crie Hill Road, Liberty \$515K This private 89 acre parcel sits atop Cox Hill Road, offering unbelievably expansive views to the west. On a clear day you can enjoy views of the Western Mountains of Maine and the NH White Mountains. With a mixture of field and woodland, this would be an ideal spot for your future home. Both Lake St. George State Park and Sheepscot Lake are only minutes away.



For more information call or visit
Lakehomegroup.com
info@lakehomegroup.com

75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918



— Real Estate Update —

The splash, muffled underwater giggles, and the triumphant shout of whoever managed to stay on top. King of the float!

Owning a piece of the Belgrade Lakes region is an investment in magic. It is a commitment to a slower pace of life, where time is not measured by a clock or an iPhone. Instead, it is measured by the angle of the sun over the pines and the shifting color of the water. When you think of a camp here, you aren't calculating square footage or property taxes; you are anticipating a soundtrack that defines summer.

The day starts in the early morning stillness with the echoes of the loons across the water's surface. It is the unforgettable voice of the Belgrade Lakes, a sound that instantly grounds you, clears your mind, and signals that you have truly arrived.

As the sun climbs higher, the morning quiet gives way to sun-drenched

An Investment in Magic

energy. You hear the smack of a screen door slamming, a nostalgic punctuation mark that happens fifty times a day as kids sprint inside for a snack and race right back out to the dock. Soon after comes the low-pitched rumble of a distant outboard motor, a comforting hum that means someone is teaching a grandchild to waterski or heading for the ultimate smallmouth bass fishing spot.

When evening settles in, the melody slows. The day winds down to the crackle and pop of a lakeside fire pit, accompanied by conversations and shared laughter. Throughout it all, the call of the loons continues as a background track throughout the evening. These are the golden, timeless moments that stay with you long after the summer fades.

Dan McCarron



...Continued from page 5

Kennebec, adults should consume no more than three fish meals a YEAR. Please check the IFW website (pg. 5) before consuming your fish. And please contact your federal legislators and ask them to support stricter air pollution standards so we can safely eat the fish we catch!

The 7-Lakes Stewardship Team works hard to keep our trails safe for hikers. This summer we are hosting a Maine Conservation Corps Crew of Americorps Volunteers (They do get a small stipend but not much) sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF). This group of college students and recent college graduates is working to rejuvenate portions of the Sanders Hill Trail in the Kennebec Highlands that are showing their age (about 3 decades). This year's crew is from PA, ME, NJ, MI, and NY. Rain or shine, they are camping out in tents at 7-Lakes Castle Island Property on RT 27 near the Belgrade Health Center from now through August. Those who hike Sanders Hill this summer will likely see them working on all of our behalf. Please thank them for their

service on your behalf that will keep our trails safe for the next few decades.

Check the 7LA Website (<https://7lakesalliance.org/events>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Our Thursday afternoon (3 to 4 PM) Chewonki presentations begin on June 24th (Predators). We have a guided birding paddle on June 26th with Maine Master Naturalist Julia Hanauer-Milne (Lower Long Pond 10 AM-noon). We will also be offering Invasive Plant Workshops and Junior Ranger training on Sunday mornings during the Farmers' Market beginning on Father's Day. Check with Sally (495-6039) in the gallery if you are interested in signing up. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of recreational opportunities this area offers. Do like they used to in "the good old days" and take a kid fishing, or on a hike, or paddling in a canoe. It's how memories are made. Or take a parent, so they can become a kid again.



The Dams Keeper Report

We're starting the unofficial beginning of Summer this week with our pond water levels right where they need to be. As I pen this week's column, according to our daily data logger reports, the Village spillway dam is 2.52" above full pond with Long Pond, at least at the Wings Mill Dam, 3.12" above full with all gates still closed. At my dock, 9 miles north of the Wings Mill dam, we are 2" above full which is still in the ballpark. Our neighbors on Snow Pond are 3.84" below full, due to their electricity generation needs. Salmon and McGrath are also in good shape at 3.84" above full pond with the mandated 1 cfs calibrated valve opened its 15 turns.

If you recall, due to the extended forecast of another drought with an average 26% less precipitation, the Dams Committee has opted once again to maintain all of the pond levels at 3" above full pond which saves some water, gives us a bit of breathing room yet should not float anyone's dock nor wash out any native hummock loon nests.

We received a paltry .29" of precipitation for the past ten days, and if all comes to fruition, 1.12" for the next ten days. The gardeners and farmers amongst us are not quite dancing in the streets (OK. fields) but this week's forecast is an improvement and of some help. My mother used to say, "when you're dealt lemons, make lemonade"! A very bright and astute woman! And believe me, we had our weeks of rain growing up on Winnepesaukee. If the forecast holds true, this week is not going to be a washout where we're all stuck inside playing Scrabble or cribbage! Which I guess isn't all that bad especially if there's some popcorn!

If you have particular questions regarding our Dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: dickgreenan@outlook.com and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email.

Welcome back, enjoy the Holidays and keep the GoreTex handy!



What you build today
deserves a strong tomorrow.
Plan for it.

Forbes

2026

BEST-IN-STATE
WEALTH
MANAGEMENT TEAMS

SHOOK RESEARCH

207-873-2200

goldenpondwealth.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor.
Member FINRA/SIPC.





SHOREMASTER

**Hammond
Lumber Company**

34 LOCATIONS ACROSS
MAINE & NEW HAMPSHIRE

**THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR
WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES**

Whether you fish, swim, or boat, your lake dock is the foundation of your waterfront activities. This year, take your waterfront experience to the next level—with a ShoreMaster dock system from Hammond Lumber Company. ShoreMaster's Infinity Dock System features superior modern craftsmanship and an exclusive assembly system to give you exceptional stability and a dock system that will grow and adjust with you, so you can start with one set-up and make changes and additions as needed.

Your Hammond sales representative will walk you through ShoreMaster's many options and accessories and match you with the right equipment for your waterfront. ShoreMaster aluminum dock systems are lightweight, durable, and easy to install yourself. But if you prefer, Hammond Lumber Company will set you up with an experienced local installer and deliver your new ShoreMaster dock system statewide.

Enjoy life on the water to the fullest, with a ShoreMaster dock system from Hammond Lumber Company.



[WWW.HAMMONDLUMBER.COM](http://www.hammondlumber.com)



EMILY
THERIAULT
207-716-6335



STEPHANIE
GARDNER
207-592-5577



www.belgradelakepoint.com



FOR SALE

Waterfront Mixed-Use Investment Opportunity
157 Main Street, Belgrade

PROPERTY
HIGHLIGHTS

☐ 13,179 SF
Waterfront Property

☐ Ten Unit Investment
Property:

☐ 1 Restaurant
[Dock & Dine]

☐ 8 Lodging Rooms

☐ 2 Bed / 1 Bath
Apartment

☐ Docks on Great Pond
& Long Pond

☐ Onsite Parking



Join us for the
**Belgrade Lakes
Fireworks Show!**

★ FRIDAY, JULY 3RD ★

Fireworks will light up the sky
at dusk over beautiful Long Pond.

★ ★ Enjoy the best views
by boat or from shore
near Day's Store. ★ ★

Presented by the Belgrade Lakes Region
Business Group and generous local sponsors.