

Kennebec Savings Bank celebrates anniversary of headquarters

Joshua Chamberlain history presents leadership lessons

BY ANDREW SILSBY
President and CEO,
Kennebec Savings Bank
Special to Augusta Our Capital

This year, Kennebec Savings Bank is celebrating the 200th anniversary of Augusta's Tappan-Viles Mansion on State Street, where the bank is headquartered. This stately building — designed with a combination of Federal, Italianate, and Colonial Revival architectural styles — was completed at its prominent location in November of 1816 for the Rev. Benjamin Tappan.

Tappan was a graduate of Harvard University and a student of Divinity at Bowdoin College who came to serve as the pastor of the South Parish Congregational Church.

Many notable families have lived in the house over the centuries, but the last family to occupy the residence was the distinguished Viles family, which bought it in 1923. Blaine Viles served as the mayor of Augusta from 1915 to 1916 and also served as the state forest commissioner.

The mansion was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and was bought by Kennebec Savings Bank two years later. At the bank, we take great pride in the history and legacy of our headquarters. There have been many fine families in this building and many of Maine's great leaders have sat within its walls.

My office is in what was the front parlor of the mansion. In it hangs a portrait of Joshua Chamberlain (September 1828 – February 1914), who was a great leader from Maine. He was Maine's governor for four terms and is, of course, best known for leading the 20th Maine Regiment in the Battle of Gettysburg, which was a significant turning point in the Civil War. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery and tenacity during that epic battle. (On a side note, that medal was only recently rediscovered at a church yard sale!)

It was Chamberlain, then Governor of the State of Maine, who signed the bank's charter in 1870, at a time when mutual savings banks were created



Contributed photos
Andrew Silsby, President and CEO, Kennebec Savings Bank, in his office in what was the front parlor of the mansion. Behind him hangs a portrait of Joshua Chamberlain (September 1828 – February 1914), who was a great leader from Maine. Augusta's Tappan-Viles Mansion on State Street, where the bank is headquartered. This stately building — designed with a combination of Federal, Italianate, and Colonial Revival architectural styles — was completed at its prominent location in November of 1816 for the Rev. Benjamin Tappan.

by an act of the Maine Legislature.

When Gov. Angus King was in office (he is now one of Maine's U.S. senators), he had a limited edition print made of Chamberlain because King is a historian and life-long student of the leadership lessons taught by Chamberlain. I wanted to hang one of those prints on the wall in the front parlor as a reminder of the life lessons inspired by Chamberlain and his story ... and because of the historical significance to the Bank.

Chamberlain believed in the battalion of Maine men he led into battle, just as I believe in the young men and women who work in our bank. I started working at Kennebec Savings Bank shortly after college when I was young and learning the skills necessary to succeed. It is due, in part, to Chamberlain's legacy that I have such confidence in these young people. I hold them to the same

high standards and work ethic that I have always held myself to — show up, work hard, honor your workers and learn from everything!

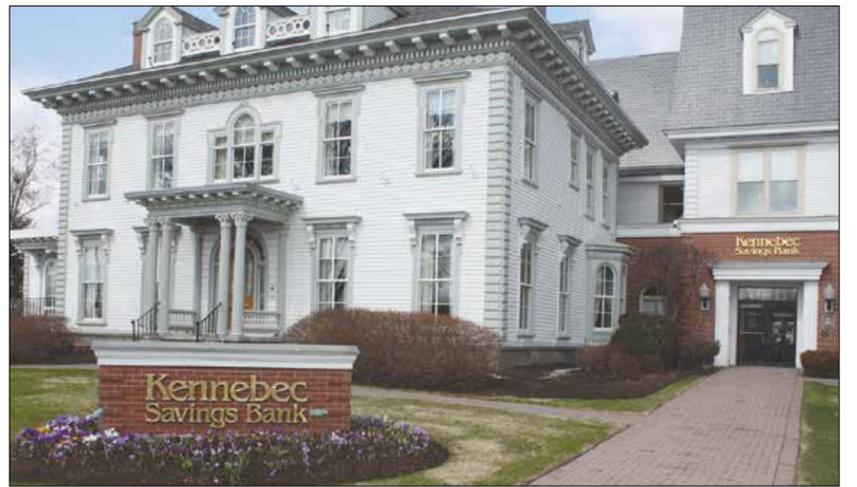
I have always believed that our educational system here in Maine is strong, as is our work ethic and our pride in Yankee ingenuity. Throughout history, Maine has produced some of the country's best leaders because we are natural-born problem solvers; we take on even the toughest challenges as part of our daily work, and we are well educated.

Here at the bank, we do not hold ourselves above any of our customers, rather, we work side by side with them to help them achieve their financial dreams.

In addition to an excellent education, I also believe strongly in youth athletics because it teaches the concept of teamwork, which is critically important on the job. Lessons

"Here at the bank, we do not hold ourselves above any of our customers, rather, we work side by side with them to help them achieve their financial dreams."

ANDREW SILSBY, PRESIDENT, CEO, KENNEBEC SAVINGS BANK



ler, and Craig Garofalo, our senior vice president and chief operations officer, both working here well into their second decade. They are young and smart, and have a refreshing attitude toward their work. So many of those college interns are working their way up the ranks in our organization and I get a lot of energy from them.

I sometimes sit here in my office and look at Chamber-

lain's portrait, thinking about the conversations this parlor has heard or witnessed over the last 200 years. I suspect many of those conversations probably didn't sound all that different from ones we have today. I like to think about how we, as a community, are raising and supporting the people who will be the Chamberlains of their time. And, that this is a very good place to be!

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Fort Western and AEHS to co-host 2017 Winter Lecture Series

Fort Western Living History Museum & the Arnold Expedition Historical Society will co-host a special lecture series: "Battle, Duty, Heroism: Benedict Arnold, His Soldiers and the Northern Revolutionary War Campaign," on Sundays in February & March 2017 in the Council Chambers, 2nd floor, Augusta City Center, 16 Cony Street, Augusta, beginning at 2 p.m.

James Nelson (Harpwell), author of *Benedict Arnold's Navy* (2006), will kick off the series on Sunday, Feb. 5 with a talk on the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and the Battle of Valcour Island, a naval battle on the lake that would ultimately spell victory in the War for Independence; **Kenny Wing** (Eustis), author of *The Lost Villages of Flagstaff Lake* (2010) will speak on Sunday, Feb. 12 about Benedict Arnold's march from the Upper Dead River to the Canadian border; **Steve Clark** (Scarborough), author of *Following Their Footsteps* (2003) and past president of AEHS will revisit the Arnold Trail on Sunday, Feb. 19 to reveal how best to follow the route today; **Tom Desjardins** (Pittston), author of *Through a Howling Wilderness* (2006) and Director of Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands will discuss the life and times of Ruben Colburn (1740-1818) on Sunday, Feb. 26; **Steven Darley** (North Haven, CT), author of *Voices from a Wilderness Expedition* (2011) will reveal new information about the lives and hardships of Benedict Arnold's men on Sunday, March 5 through journals that have never been published. Finally, on Sunday, March 12, **Daniel Soucier** (Orono), Doctoral Candidate, UME, and editor of *Maine History* will turn the previous history of the expedition's suffering in the wilderness on its head by looking at the soldiers' appreciation of the natural world and how they experienced it on a variety of levels.

All lectures are free and open to the public and wheelchair accessible. Authors will be available for book signings after the lectures and refreshments will be provided. Donations are gratefully accepted. In case of inclement weather, **Sunday, March 19** will be reserved as a "snow date." Fort Western (1754) is a National Historic Landmark and living museum in Augusta and America's oldest surviving wooden French and Indian War era garrison in North America illuminating 300 years of Maine and New England History.

For more information, please call 626-2385 or e-mail oldfort@oldfortwestern.org.

Downtown Diner: A success story in revitalization efforts

BY WANDA CURTIS
Correspondent

A steady stream of customers have visited the Downtown Diner since it opened in 2011 at its Water Street location in Augusta.

Homemade breakfast and lunch entice the diners to keep coming, according to owners Mike and Kim Meservey and the people they serve.

The Meserveys previously owned and operated the Bond Brook Pancake House on Mount Vernon Avenue, which also was a busy place for 17 years. Many customers and the employees from that restaurant followed them to the new diner.

The Meserveys decided to open the new eatery at 204 Water Street because they wanted to support the city's revitalization project. They said they also were impressed with the location because it offers a front window view of Old Fort Western and the Kennebec River.

The diner is located in a renovated storefront that used to be part of Lamey Wellehan shoe store. There are entrances on both Commercial and Water streets with public parking on both sides. During the warmer months, customers can eat at outdoor tables on the Water Street side.

Michael Hall, executive director of the Augusta Downtown Alliance, recently described the Downtown Diner as "a huge success story." He said the Diner is an established business that has relocated downtown and done very well.

"We're very proud of the Downtown Diner," Hall said. "Any business that questions whether they can relocate (downtown) and thrive and

"We're very proud of the Downtown Diner. Any business that questions whether they can relocate (downtown) and thrive and do well should look to them as an example."

MICHAEL HALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AUGUSTA DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE

do well should look to them as an example."

The Tipping Point Small Business Development Program, aimed at encouraging continued revitalization of the downtown waterfront, went into effect the first of January.

The program offers incentives to downtown property owners to start up businesses, renovate and/or repair existing properties and convert vacant space into housing. Hall believes that the program and a strong commitment on the part of the Alliance to bring new art into the area will do a lot to attract more new businesses.

Stacey Morrison, board chairperson for the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce, said that after seeing a number of businesses move out of downtown Augusta, it has been great to have new businesses move into that area. She said that she's eaten at the Downtown Diner and was impressed with the food.

"The food and the home-style cooking are very good," Morrison said.

Other customers have commented that both the views and the tasty homemade food were what attracted them to the restaurant.

The basic menu remains the same throughout the week, but the Meserveys present different specials each day.

The breakfast menu offers something for everyone,



Wanda Curtis photo

The Downtown Diner is located in a renovated storefront that used to be part of Lamey Wellehan shoe store. There are entrances on both Commercial and Water streets with public parking on both sides. During the warmer months, customers can eat at outdoor tables on the Water Street side.

from cinnamon buns to breakfast sandwiches to hearty breakfasts with eggs, sausage, hash browns, toast, and/or pancakes.

Recently, they have featured the Super Bowl, with two scrambled eggs, cheddar cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, green peppers, ham, sausage, bacon and home fries. Other favorites have included eggs benedict with home fries and the Hunter's Breakfast. The breakfast menu is available throughout the day.

The lunch menu is also

very accommodating. It has included everything from haddock chowder to chicken caesar salad in a tortilla bowl, to full course meals, such as roast turkey with stuffing, baked stuffed haddock, and homemade shepherd's pie. They also serve a variety of sandwiches. All the breads (except white) are homemade.

Downtown Diner is open from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 623-9656.

Connected Credit Union celebrates 50th Anniversary with a new location and building

BY WARREN WATSON
Correspondent

The new location of Connected Credit Union is more than a story about brick and mortar construction along one of Augusta's major thoroughfares off Interstate 95. It's a testament to the strength of the credit union movement itself in central Maine.

Not that the new location at 85 Civic Center Drive – an airy, two-story building that consolidates two Augusta locations – isn't a statement in itself. The new location features three drive-up lanes, including an ATM, easy access, abundant onsite parking, manicured grounds and masonry, and an expanded lobby to serve its growing

membership, now totaling more than 4,000.

The consolidated headquarters represents one of the key red-letter dates for the organization, chartered in August 1967 as the Maine Teachers Association Credit Union. Today, Connected has assets of more than \$36 million.

"It's been exciting to see the credit union grow over the years. Our focus has always been on the needs of our members and being connected to the communities we serve is the most important piece of our success," says Wendy Brochu, Connected's Marketing Specialist.

Credit unions are member-owned financial cooperatives, democratically controlled by members for

the purpose of thrift and credit at competitive rates. By the end of 2016, the Wisconsin-based World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), reported that there were 57,000 credit unions in 105 countries, with 217 million members served. In the United States, there were more than 92 million members. The formation of credit unions dates back to mid-19th century Germany.

Connected Credit Union thrived in its local history. Undergoing a pair of expansion moves before 2005, services expanded throughout Kennebec and Somerset counties and the name was changed to the Maine Education Credit Union.

In 2005, the organization acquired Chestnut Community Credit Union and in 2014, the name became Connected Credit Union.

Lachance is proud of the new headquarters, which was designed by E.S. Coffin Engineering Inc., with construction by LaJoie Brothers Inc.

"It's great," said Lachance. "We sought a site that was convenient and homey, a traditional-looking building."

Connected Credit Union is

open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with drive-through access open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A branch location on the Cony High School/CATC campus is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during normal school hours. Call 623-3857 or visit connectedcreditunion.org for more information.

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Head of Kennebec Guns teaches responsible ownership

Beales in business for four decades

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Julian Beale, who has owned Kennebec Guns in Augusta for 40 years, said he sort of backed into the business.

Early on, after a stint in the U.S. Navy, the young veteran opted to use his GI Bill education benefits to get training in the gunsmith trade. Meanwhile, he made plans to embark on what he considered his most important mission: to teach young people how to safely handle firearms, to build confidence and even to encourage their interest in competing with others in their age groups.

It was only later that Beale decided to open his own gun shop to give those interested in hunting, firearms and shooting competitions a place to buy quality merchandise.

Although the Kennebec Guns business has provided a living for the past four decades, Beale remained a teacher and mentor for hundreds of young people who have learned the proper way to use a firearm. Some of his students have gone even further.

In Augusta, he serves as the Range Director for the Capitol City Junior Rifle Club, teaching 10 to 19 year olds how to compete successfully in the Olympic sports of small-bore rifle, air rifle and air pistol shooting.

“Each (competitor) learns about personal responsibility, safety, setting goals, concentrating on the task at hand, respect for others and how to win or lose in a mature manner.”

JULIAN BEALE, OWNER OF KENNEBEC GUNS SHOP

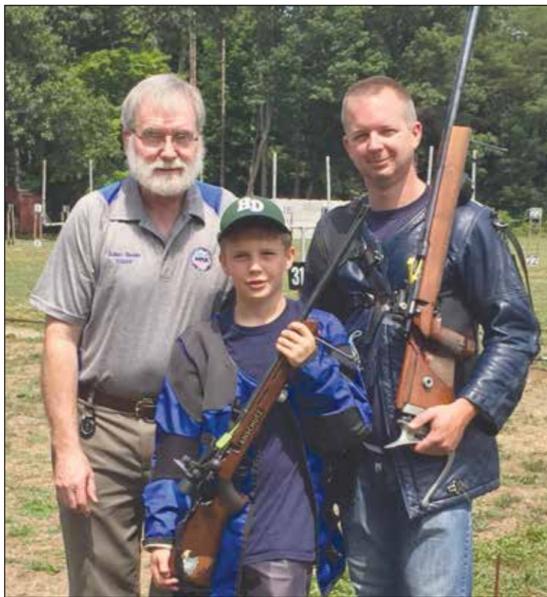


Photo contributed

Julian Beale, owner of the Kennebec Guns shop in Augusta, has been on a personal mission to teach young people how to safely handle firearms, build confidence and even encourage their interest in competing with others in their age groups. As Range Director at a 2016 NRA National Match in Bristol, Indiana, he was joined by his son, Julian Beale IV, and grandson, Aidan, 11, as he received an award for 30 years of service running NRA's national matches.

That training is only part of the story, though.

“Each (competitor) learns about personal responsibility, safety, setting goals, concentrating on the task at hand, respect for others and how to win or lose in a mature manner,” Beale said.

His students have participated in individual and team state championships. Several have qualified for a place at the Invitational National Junior Olympic Championships, which is a stepping stone to the Olympics. One student, Brittany Hubert, placed 13th in her first competition against other national competitors. She placed 9th the next year, missing by tenths of a point, Beale said. Missing by so little was heartbreaking, he said. If she had placed 8th, she could have joined the U.S. Olympic Development Team, which trains young people as future members of the Olympics team. Although not all shooters reach these levels of accomplishment, the real goals are much more achievable, he said.

“Along the way, they become better students, better family members and, eventually, better citizens,” Beale said.

Beale's indoor season starts in late September with a safety class and orientation to competitive shooting. Matches are scheduled from December

to March, with an awards ceremony at the end of the season.

A separate outdoor summer session, including training for those juniors planning to compete in the National Championships in Indiana starts in May and runs to September.

Beale works with a yearly average of 45 young people from several area schools through the program.

The \$105 participation fee partially covers costs for ammunition, targets and guns, but fundraisers help with the rest.

Beale has a wall covered in plaques, certificates and accolades related to his 40 years of involvement in youth shooting activities. He and his wife, Brenda, attended the National Rifle Association's Outstanding Youth Program Volunteer of the Year award in 2009 at their Colorado Springs training center.

“It's been an amazing and humbling experience to receive these national awards,” he said.

The Pine Tree State Rifle and Pistol Association Post-Match .22 rifle competition requires entrants to shoot from prone, kneeling and standing positions. It allows juniors from Maine to compete from their home

ranges and compare scores with others in all 50 states. The top shooters later compete, shoulder-to-shoulder, at regional and national matches. The match is open to all junior programs, including all JROTC, 4-H, Boy Scouts and junior clubs. Participants must be of school age and, while most are from the same school or club, they do allow individuals to participate.

Brenda Beale is treasurer of Capitol City Rifle and Pistol Club, and the couple's son, Julian Beale IV, and grandson, Aidan, 11, are active members and supporters. One of the recent special memories for the family was the dedication of the newly-rebuilt outdoor space to him for the 40 years of support.

“The executive committee decided to do this, and now it's called the Julian Beale Small Bore Range,” his wife said.

For more information, visit their Facebook page or call 622-1157. The shop is located at 51 Cony Street in Augusta.

Winter hours through March are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Tuesday hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Saturday day shop is open from 8:30 a.m. until noon. After April 1 until Nov. 1, Kennebec Guns will be open from 8:30 a.m. until noon on Wednesdays.

New businesses, new residences and a new program promise to see Augusta flourishing in the years ahead

BY MICHAEL HALL, DIRECTOR
Augusta Downtown Alliance
Special to the Sentinel & KJ

While 2016 was a banner year for the Augusta Downtown Alliance (ADA) in terms of new business and housing development, it appears that 2017 is already on track to outshine it. With new businesses celebrating their openings this coming year and the near completion of 12 market-rate residential units in the old Farrell's building, the first few months of winter are looking bright indeed.

New Apartments on Water Street Offer Stunning Views

Experience urban living at its finest at The Lofts at E.C. Allen.

Located at 283 Water St. in Downtown Augusta, The Lofts at E.C. Allen features 12 new two-bedroom units each with individual HVAC systems, washer/dryer hookups, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and elevator service. Eight of the 12 units have direct riverfront views with private balcony or deck access and all come with hardwood floors for the living spaces, and tile floors for the kitchen and bathroom areas.

“The views are what really drives this building,” said developer Richard Parkhurst. “The panoramic views of the Kennebec simply can't be beat.”

To receive a personalized tour of any of the available units, please contact Parkhurst at richard-parkhurst@gmail.com or at 207-57-3930.

2017 Welcomes New Businesses to Downtown Augusta

A new year has brought new businesses to Water Street, as Downtown Augusta recently welcomed three new business openings. These include Downtown Yoga and Healing Arts, Water Street Barbersalon and Fashions Quality Consignment.

Downtown Yoga and Healing Arts located at 287 Water St. is the newest addition to downtown, and the area's first-ever yoga studio. Offering classes for both novices and pros, Downtown Yoga is a wellness studio, as well as education center that provides services to keep the “whole” person healthy and living to the fullest potential, all while taking in tranquil river views in a historic setting.

Also opening recently in Downtown Augusta is Water Street Barbersalon. Located at 321 Water St., this barbersalon is a modern spin off the tried and true barbershop experience. Offering friendly, customized haircuts complete with hot towels and close shaves, Water Street Barbersalon definitely bridges the gap between the traditional and contemporary.

Celebrating their opening this past November, Fashions Quality Consignment, located

at 190 Water Street, is another welcome addition to the downtown. Featuring women's clothing as well as home furnishings and decor, this consignment shop is definitely worth a second look!

Otto's on the River, a restaurant, will also celebrate an opening this coming year. Please be sure to “Like” each of these businesses on Facebook, or just stop in next time you're downtown.

Tipping Point Small Business Development Program

To drive this success home even further, ADA, along with Kennebec Savings Bank and the City of Augusta, is proud to unveil the Tipping Point Small Business Development Program. Inspired by successful economic programs already

in place in similar-sized cities around the country, Tipping Point promises to encourage greater retail and residential development through a two-pronged approach. This approach will include a 0 percent interest loan for one-third of the project cost (not to exceed \$50,000) for new business development, as well as a grant of \$2,000 for every new, quality residential unit developed in the downtown area (not to exceed \$25,000). This pilot program, took effect Jan. 1, and is now primed for applicants, promising more fundamental changes for Downtown Augusta.

For more information, regarding Tipping Point and how you can take advantage, please feel free to contact ADA Director Michael Hall at augustadowntownalliance@gmail.com.



Downtown Yoga and Healing Arts located at 287 Water St. is the newest addition to downtown, and the area's first-ever yoga studio.

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Augusta's East Side boasts a bonanza of businesses

Collision repair, eateries, shops and a travel agency thrive

BY NANCY P. MCGINNIS
Correspondent

Augusta's East Side is home to perhaps a surprising number of local-owned small businesses whose proprietors offer an array of goods and services. They share a common emphasis on customer service and attention to detail.

In some cases these businesses have been serving clients and their families for generations — while some folks have yet to discover these gems and what they've been missing.



CARON'S CAR COLLISION REPAIR CENTER

For example, it was over a half a century ago when Leo Caron opened Caron's Collision Repair Center at 258 Eastern Avenue. As a young man, he launched and ran his body shop business as a one-man operation, having already gained plenty of experience working on vehicles for family and friends, and then at a dealership.

Nowadays, he still oversees the business, noting with justifiable pride that satisfied repeat customers willingly drive 20 miles or more from Mt. Vernon, Waterville, Union and beyond to have Caron's skilled team take care of their cars. They do rust work as well as expert body repair, rebuilding and restoration, dent repair, chip and scratch repair, doors, fenders and fiberglass work.

Excellence awards and appreciation certificates line the office walls, sharing space with vintage photographs of the business as it has grown and thrived.

With a dozen employees, Caron's can handle as many as 20 vehicles at a time in the sprawling shop, which has undergone numerous expansions and renovations over the decades.

Caron's Collision Repair Center also keeps up with state-of-the-art technology and materials, such as environmentally friendly water-based paint, and aluminum and bronze welding capability.

"We're listed as a direct repair shop by most insurance companies," Caron said, "and we're happy to take care of the paperwork and everything, making it easy for our customers."



SALT BOX PRIMITIVES

Just down Eastern Avenue from Caron's is Salt Box Primitives — it's hard to miss with its freshly painted, sunny yellow exterior. The generations of Caldwells behind this family business treat their customers like members of the family, too.

Familiar and new visitors alike find a warm welcome at this inviting, two-story shop filled with a thoughtfully curated selection of primitive home furnishings and décor. Everything from candles, baskets, pottery, wreaths and florals to wall art can be found here in inspiring, ever-changing seasonal arrangements. They often are displayed in and on rustic vin-

tage cabinets, cupboards and shelves that have been lovingly refinished and imaginatively repurposed. Shoppers also can browse at Salt Box Primitives for Old Village paint, rustic hooks and hardware and window treatments.

Appealing gift ideas include distinctive women's handbags, scarves and jewelry. Maine and New England-sourced items are featured here whenever possible, like the trio of beautifully-illustrated, local specialty cookbooks spotlighting dandelions, blueberries and fiddlehead cuisine. Saltbox will host its much-anticipated spring open house April 7 to 10 with goodies, prize drawings and special sales. But the owners say to stop in anytime and often to say hello, browse the shop and drop a name in the jar for a complimentary monthly drawing.



END ZONE PIZZA & DELI

Almost directly across Eastern Avenue, and aptly located at the corner of Cony Road, is End Zone Pizza & Deli. The business is "a dream come true" for Cathy Lucas and her husband, Jim, local school football supporters who opened End Zone last May.

"I worked at (now closed) Al's Pizza for years, and I've always wanted to own my own shop since I was a teenager," Cathy Lucas said. In addition to pizza, the shop offers wings, salads, Italians, Dagwoods, and their "Starting Lineup" of specialty sandwiches named after football plays and in honor of local football folks.

The Coach Lipp (Ramforcer), for instance, features chicken salad, cheese, lettuce, green peppers and onions. While customers are welcome to call in their order to pick up a quick lunch to go, End Zone also offers informal seating at tables surrounded by Cony football memorabilia. The couple already has established a regular following of customers who rave about their fresh dough, homemade sauce and special order cheese from a secret source.

And for those who just can't get enough, the Lucas' are adding a gigantic 30-inch pizza to their impressive lineup.

"We've got big plans for this spring," Cathy Lucas said, as she expertly stretched a round of dough before adding sauce and piling on toppings to order. "With our new grill and deep fryer, our customers can enjoy our expanded menu of specialty burgers and dogs, French fries, and more." End Zone also offers prepared party sandwich platters, finger rolls, veggie platters and salads for parties and gatherings.

SWAIN TRAVEL CENTER

At Swain Travel Center, located at the intersection of Stone Street and Eastern Avenue, world traveler Shari Swain has been helping central Mainers broaden their own horizons since she launched her travel agency business eight years ago.

Why not just do-it-yourself, using the Internet, she was asked. "People quickly discover that searching online for the right arrangements at the best price can be overwhelming and confusing. A travel agent is someone in your



corner, looking out for you," Swain said.

Her clients benefit from Swain's personal experience as a traveler, as well as her connections and established relationships in the travel industry. She is ready to help with every aspect of that dream vacation, family trip, tour or cruise adventure of a lifetime, honeymoon or destination wedding — from exploring the options to booking the trip to troubleshooting during the customer's travel, if the need arises.

Glitches can, and do, sometimes occur, she said, and that's when a savvy and helpful travel agent can save the day. Swain has helped clients stranded at airports with missed flight connections and even successfully intervened on behalf of her travelling clients when they arrived to find lodgings not as promised.

Best of all, other than a modest airline-mandated flight ticketing fee, there is no extra cost for customers to book a trip with a travel agent, and Swain welcomes price match and frequent flyer inquiries.

While recently-featured destinations on the Swain Travel website included Jamaica and the Caribbean, Japan, China, Peru and Australia, she also is ready and willing to help Mainers make the most of their less exotic travels closer to home, such as ski packages right here in New England.



REBECCA'S RESTAURANT

Back in 1976, Nancy Berg and her late husband Leo transformed a former grain store and grocery on outer Eastern Avenue into Rebecca's Place — a family restaurant.

The local landmark has become well-known for offering dishes "like Mom used to make" (or maybe you just wish she had) for breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a weekend breakfast buffet.

Along with daily specials — a recent example: open-faced prime rib sandwich on toast — the menu includes perennial favorites, such as Angus beef burgers, franks and beans, lobster dishes, lasagna, pot pie, and even liver and onions. The newest appetizer features an innovative combination of classic Reuben ingredients — pastrami, kraut, Swiss cheese and Thousand Island dressing — melted to gooey perfection in baked potato shells.

A large glass case tempts arriving visitors with homemade cookies, pies and other sweet and savory baked goods. Over the years, Berg and her large, loyal staff have become friends with many of the veterans and their families who stop in to eat before or after appointments at nearby Togus. Its Route 17 location also makes Rebecca's a popular dining spot for VA employees, Delta Ambulance crews and state troopers, she said, as well as for loyal customers who make the trip from as far away as Rockland, Cushing, Waterville and Lewiston to enjoy the home cooked food and friendly ambiance.

"Families have grown up with us," she said, beaming. "And no one leaves here hungry."

While you can learn more on their websites, and/or connect with these businesses on Facebook, you can visit in person, discover for yourself what they have to offer and support these small local enterprises.

Caron's Collision Repair Center caronscollision.com
258 Eastern Avenue, 622-4191

End Zone Pizza & Deli facebook.com/endzonepizzadeli
315 Eastern Avenue, 621-2669

Salt Box Primitives saltboxprimitivesmaine.com
290 Eastern Avenue, 623-4711

Swain Travel Center swaintravel.net
66 Eastern Avenue, 622-0788

Rebecca's Restaurant, Take Out & Catering
rebeccasrestaurant.net
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Community Connections

Local, nonprofit organizations helping the people of Augusta

Disability Rights Maine collaborates with people with disabilities and their supporters to enforce and advance disability rights through training, systemic advocacy, public policy reform, and legal intervention.

DRM - Main Office
24 Stone St., Suite 204
Augusta, ME 04330
207.626.2774
800.452.1948
www.drme.org
advocate@drme.org

DRM - Deaf Services
68 Bishop St., Suite 3
Portland, ME 04103
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