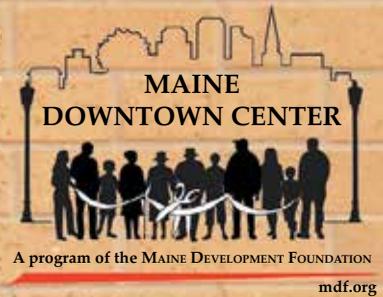


A quarterly publication featuring Main Street Programs and Downtown Alliances in our communities

Downtown Quarterly



Special Supplement to the Kennebec Journal • Morning Sentinel

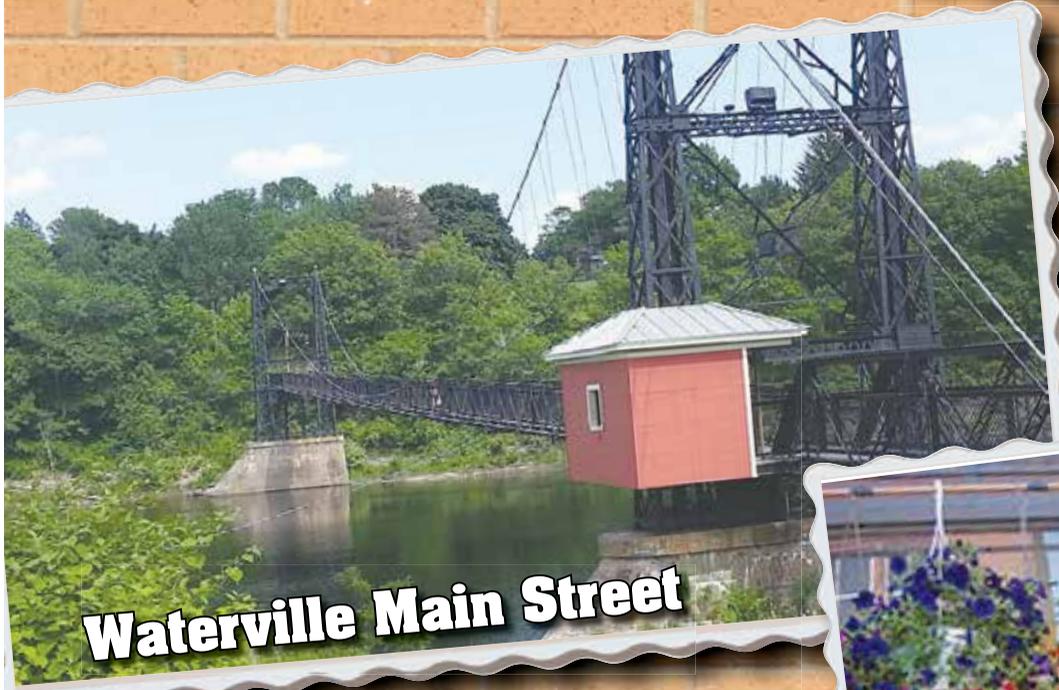
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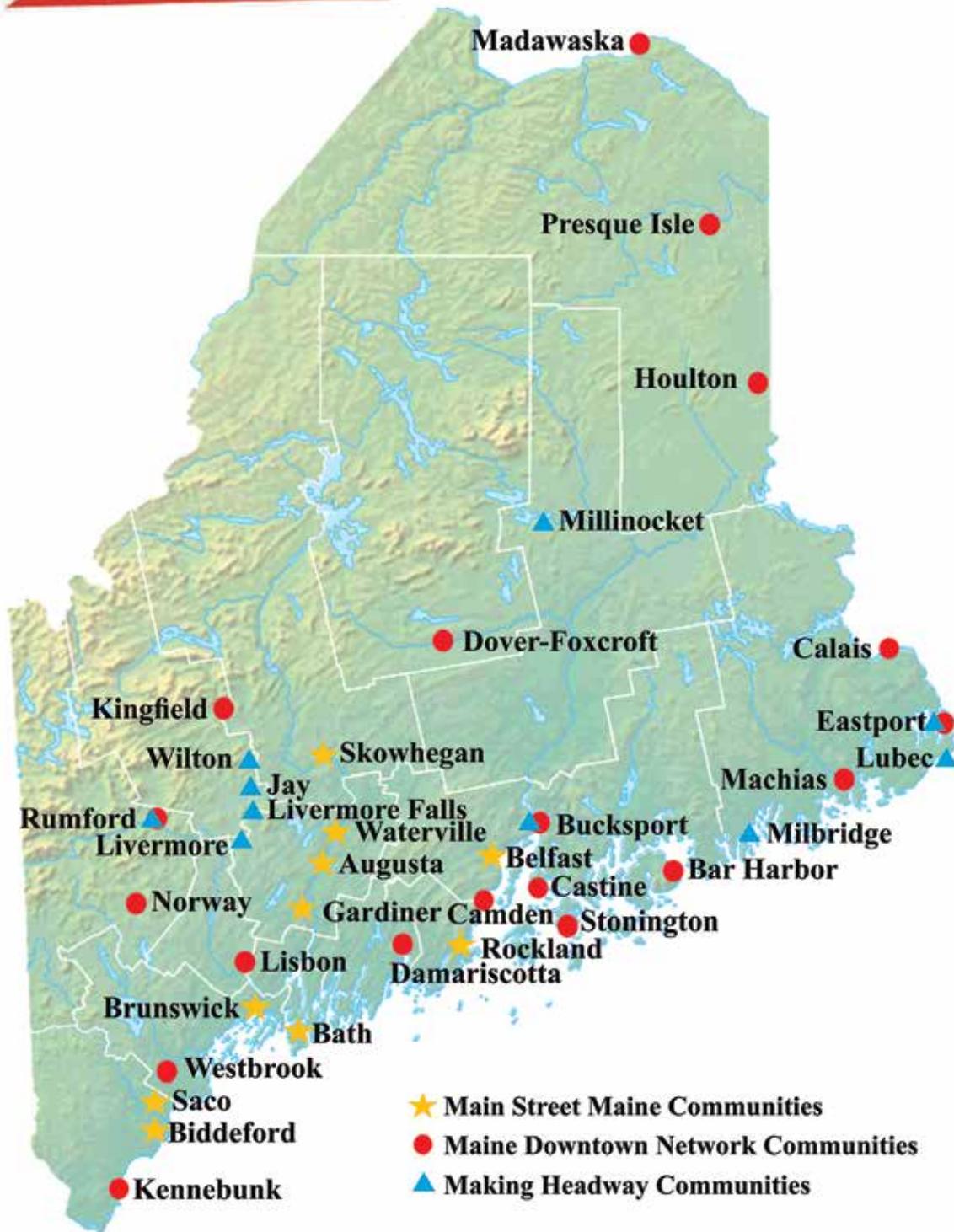


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PARTICIPATING DOWNTOWN COMMUNITIES

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Farmers markets brighten the landscape

BY ANNE G. BALL
 Maine Downtown Center
 Special to Downtown Quarterly

Did you know there are more than 140 farmers markets in Maine and many of them are located in our historic downtowns?

In fact, shoppers could visit a farmers market every day of the week in Maine.

Where else can a person get fresh ramps, fiddleheads, strawberries, and so much more?

Each of our downtown farmers markets provides a great sense of place, such as along the river in Augusta in the newly-renovated Mill Park, or in the historic common in downtown Gardiner. Farmers markets are a great opportunity to pick up fresh food for dinner or your upcoming camping trip, or just socialize and people watch.

Many markets have children's activities and live music so it is a great place to spend a couple hours. Many markets also offer SNAP, Maine Harvest Bucks and WIC, so come get the freshest food around and enjoy your downtown in the summer.

Here are some downtown markets in the Kennebec Valley region:

- Augusta: Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m.
- Gardiner: Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m.
- Skowhegan: Saturdays 9-1 p.m.
- Waterville: Thursdays, 2-6 p.m.

For more information on markets all over Maine please visit www.maine federationoffarmersmarkets.org.

For more information about Main Street Maine communities, visit the Maine Downtown Center at www.mdf.org.





Welcome to Downtown Skowhegan

River Fest honors the past, makes waves for the future

BY MARIA LANDRY

Main Street Skowhegan, Assistant Director
Special to Downtown Quarterly

The Kennebec River has always been Skowhegan's lifblood, and for four days this August the town will celebrate recreation and life on the river with its annual River Fest event.

From Aug. 2 to 5, festivities, food, and fireworks will dominate Skowhegan's historic downtown.

Activities will include raft rides, a glow-stick river run, a local brewery tour, classic cars, a craft fair, kids' activities, the annual Rotary Club lobster bake and Lions Club chicken barbecue.

River Fest showcases the Kennebec River Gorge as the future home of the Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area. Run of River will include a whitewater park with enhanced rapids and waves; terraced seating; an expanded, non-motorized four-season trail system; a riverfront promenade; pristine fishing waters with improved fish habitat and a boathouse/events center. The park will serve as a venue for river festivals and events, attracting significant regional and national whitewater paddling competitions and drawing recreation aficionados, spectators, sightseers and adventure travelers. For more information, see RunofRiver.org.

River Fest also looks to the past, honoring its roots in the old Skowhegan Log Days with several Log Days events, including the popular Moonlight Madness, when Water Street closes to vehicular traffic and teams race beds on wheels.

Sponsored by Skowhegan Savings Bank, River Fest is organized by the Run of River Committee, the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce, Skowhegan Parks & Recreation, and Main Street Skowhegan.

For a full schedule or for information on becoming a sponsor or vendor, visit SkowheganRiverFest.com or contact Main Street Skowhegan at 612-2571 or info@mainstreet-skowhegan.org.

Main Street Skowhegan kicks off second Entrepreneur Challenge

Main Street Skowhegan is gearing up for its second Entrepreneur Challenge, slated to kick off in September.

In 2015, Main Street and Skowhegan Savings Bank developed the Main Street Skowhegan Savings Entrepreneur Challenge to spur economic development.

The winner—Amanda Clark, owner of the Maine Barkery — received a \$20,000 incentive package that included a \$10,000 forgivable loan from Skowhegan Savings Bank and numerous services, including bookkeeping, legal consultation and marketing assistance.

Winning the first Entrepreneur Challenge allowed Clark to increase production of her all-natural dog treats and open a storefront in April 2016. Since then, she has increased her wholesale accounts from 12 to 41 and is now working with a distributor to expand outside of Maine.

The second Entrepreneur Challenge will also include a \$10,000 forgivable loan from Skowhegan Savings along with other



Contributed photo

Last year's winner Amanda Clark, owner of the Maine Barkery.

incentives. More details will be released this summer.



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Second Skowhegan Craft Brew Fest features 27 Maine brewers

BY MARIA LANDRY

Main Street Skowhegan, Assistant Director
Special to Downtown Quarterly

An entire block in the heart of downtown will close to vehicular traffic on Saturday, Sept. 2, when 27 purveyors of Maine craft beer, wine, cider and spirits take to the streets at the second annual Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival.

The event will kick off with a VIP hour featuring specialty brews not available during the general session. Doors will open for VIP hour at 1:30 p.m., with VIP food options served from 1:30 to 3 and brews poured from 2 to 3 p.m.

From 3 to 7 p.m. an array of Maine-crafted libations will be on tap for attendees to sample while local merchants will sell fare ranging from organic tacos to wood-fired pizza. Free local food samples will be available to all attendees throughout the day.

Live music will enhance the festival ambiance, with performances by the Youngerbloods—a Norway, Maine-based band that writes original music rooted in

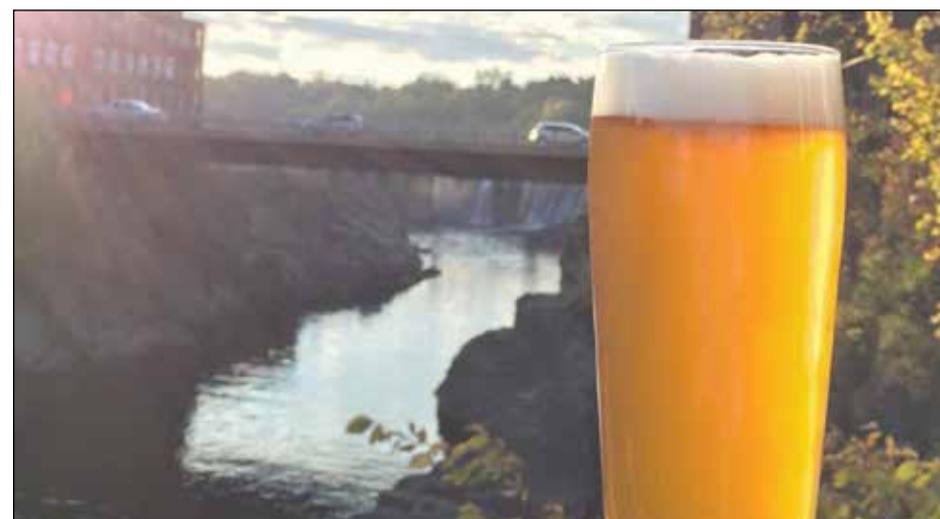
jazz and blues and also reinvents '60s-era hits — and the Dave Mello Blues Band, a local group that covers Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimmy Reed and other great blues classics.

Skowhegan's brew fest is one of the only festivals in the state featuring all Maine producers of beer, wine, cider and spirits. Tours of Maine Grains, exploration of the Langlais Art Trail and Kennebec riverfront and merchant incentives will round out this Labor Day weekend event, making Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival an unforgettable close to summer.

Leading sponsors include Skowhegan Savings Bank, Kennebec Valley Tourism Council, Maine Grains, Bigelow Brewing Co., Franklin Printing, Franklin Savings Bank, Hight Family of Dealerships and the Maine Brew Guide.

Tickets are on sale now at Skowhegan-CraftBrewFest.com at a discounted rate from at-the-door prices.

To learn about sponsoring, vending, or volunteering, see the website or contact Main Street Skowhegan at 612-2571 or info@mainstreetskowhegan.org.



Skowhegan celebrates local grains

Kneading Conference pairs with Artisan Bread Fair

BY MARIA LANDRY

Main Street Skowhegan, Assistant Director
Special to Downtown Quarterly

The Maine Grain Alliance will celebrate bread, pastries, tortillas, pretzels, and more with its annual Kneading Conference and Artisan Bread Fair at the end of July.

The bread fair is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, at the historic Skowhegan Fairgrounds. With more than 60 vendors, the fair offers an array of Maine-made breads and pastries, wood-fired pizza, pottery, wooden utensils, kitchen linens and bread-related foods including herbs, cheese, honey, oil and vinegar and much more.

The fair also promises demonstrations ranging from scything to bread baking, plus live music, professional bakers to answer questions, and a children's area.

Slated for July 27-28, the Kneading Conference is an annual gathering of bakers, farmers, millers, scientists, food writers, entrepreneurs and anyone interested in craft breads and local food networks. Preregistration is required.

This year's conference features keynote speakers Francis Percival, an award-winning London-based food and wine writer, and Stephanie Swane, publisher and editorial director of Modernist Cuisine's in-house publishing department.

To register, or for more information on both the conference and bread fair, visit KneadingConference.com.

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VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

“They Are Us”: Developmentally Disabled at SKILLS thrive on working, giving, helping

The following is the most recent in Main Street Skowhegan's monthly profile series of Skowhegan businesses and organizations. Additional profiles can be found online at MainStreetSkowhegan.org/Business-Profiles.

BY MARIA LANDRY

Main Street Skowhegan, Assistant Director
Special to Downtown Quarterly

Walk into the L.C. Dill Center in downtown Skowhegan on any given weekday and you'll find a hubbub of activity as workers sort piles of donations, cut old clothes into rags to sell, prepare for volunteer work with Meals on Wheels and return from cleaning locally-owned businesses.

What sets the Dill Center apart from most workplaces is that 25 of its employees are developmentally disabled adults who attend the center's day program through SKILLS Inc.

"It's pretty amazing to see a lot of people who have come from a life that none of us would want, who have gone through all kinds of challenges... to see them lift themselves up and be productive," said Cary Kelly, program manager for the Dill Center and for another SKILLS day program, Pittsfield Community and Senior Supports (PCS).

The SKILLS Thrift Store on Water Street in Skowhegan runs on Dill Center donations.

"The people with intellectual disabilities sort them," Tammy Worth, team leader at the Dill Center and thrift shop, said recently from her office at the back of the center. "They decide if it can be sold at the store. Things that can't be sold, if they're at least 50 percent cotton, we cut them into rags."

They sell those rags to customers including Huhtamaki, the Hight dealerships and local garages and paint shops. Items that can't be sold at the thrift store or turned into rags are made into thousand-pound bales and sold to a company that ships them overseas to third-world countries.

"Ninety percent of the stuff we receive gets reused," Worth said. She said that donations are up and of better quality than in recent years, but sales at the thrift shop are lagging.

"We need to get our sales up and make the store more profitable," she said. "We need our store to at least break even. We are a nonprofit, but we still have to pay bills."

Her biggest concern is the 25 people employed by SKILLS at the Dill Center and thrift store. "Unfortunately, people with developmental disabilities — there aren't many jobs for them," she said. "We're struggling and fighting every day to keep these people employed because it's the most important thing to them."

Worth said that the majority of people with developmental disabilities are unable to experience rites of passage that most adults take for granted, such as driving a car or getting married.

"The most normal thing that these people have is their job," she said. "(It gives them) worth, a purpose. ... If we ran programs seven days a week, they would be here seven days a week. They hate snow days. If they're sick, I really have to say, 'You've got to stay home.' Best employees you could ever have."

Their jobs also provide a little bit of spending money for those on tight budgets. According to Worth, funding for the developmentally disabled is limited and can be difficult to obtain in Maine. For most of the Dill Center workers, their SKILLS earnings constitute their extra income beyond what they need to survive.

"What they earn here is what they get for extra, so they can go out to eat every other Friday on payday and — we just had a semi-formal dance — so they could buy their corsages," Worth said. "Work is very important."

So, too, is the impact SKILLS has on the community.

"If we know somebody needs help, we help them," Worth said. "Somebody called me yesterday saying their granddaughter got dropped off on their door-



Contributed photo

SKILLS workers sort piles of donations, cut old clothes into rags to sell, prepare for volunteer work with Meals on Wheels and return from cleaning locally-owned businesses.

step and they didn't have any clothes for her. I had a young man walk in last week who just got out of jail and had only the clothes he was wearing. He had sneakers on and no socks. He said, 'I can't get a job unless I have work boots.' We found him work boots, we put a box together. He was in tears when he carried that box out of here. And for everybody here, for them to feel like they're helping people — they just love that."

Kelly, the Dill Center and PCS program manager, says there is a misconception in society "that the people we support are just takers." He said he wishes society could understand how much they give, too.

"They need the opportunity to give," Worth added. She gestured beyond her office door to the workers cleaning donations, vacuuming and sorting clothes. "The people who are out there — the biggest thing that people don't think about is that they are people. They are people, just like us. They are us. They want everything that we have — they want to love, they want to help, they want to work. They want everything that everybody wants."

The SKILLS Thrift Store is located at 78 Water Street in Skowhegan. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information see the SKILLS website or visit them on Facebook.

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What's happening in Gardiner this summer?

JUNE-OCTOBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June 16: FREE Waterfront Summer Concert Series kickoff

(EVERY FRIDAY), 7-8:30 p.m.

June 17: Greater Gardiner River Festival, 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.,

Waterfront Park & Downtown Gardiner

August 4: Gardiner Artwalk, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.,

Downtown Gardiner, Water Street

Sept. 9: Barks in the Park,

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Waterfront Park

Oct. 7: Swine & Stein Oktoberfest, 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Water Street.

Oct. 27: Children's Halloween Trick or Treat, 3-5 p.m.,

Downtown Gardiner, Water Street

ON-GOING SUMMER EVENTS:

May-September: Classic Car

Cruise-In, Thursdays, Waterfront Park, 5-7 p.m.

June-October: Gardiner Farmers Market, Wednesdays, Gardiner Commons, 3-6:30 p.m.

Story Hour: Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Gardiner Public Library, 152 Water Street

ON-GOING

Facetime Social Networking Nights:

first Wednesday of every month at different Gardiner businesses, 5-7 p.m.

Open Mic Night: Tuesdays at Niche, Inc., 5-8 p.m.

For more info regarding Gardiner events, contact Gardiner Main Street at 582-3100 or email: info@gardinermainstreet.org.

Welcome to Downtown Gardiner

Gardiner's Historic Pathway is mapped by panels

BY ROBERT ABBEY

Gardiner Main Street Volunteer
Special to Downtown Quarterly

Gardiner's storied past as a river city, its industrial prowess and vitality as a center for commerce was committed to a series of historic panels a decade ago.

These large, fully illustrated creations have lived in the old "Pool Hall" on Water Street for many years.

Originally conceived by a group of interested town folk, they were fully defined by Earle Shettleworth and Danny Smith, both noted Maine historians. The plan was to mount the panels on a remodeled pump station that sits on a knoll above the Kennebec, but another idea emerged from Gardiner Main Street.

Members proposed creating a walking trail that would begin in Waterfront Park and map a loop from the river to Water Street and back to the park. In a series of nine stations, the trail traces the city's history from early settlement through founding and later industrial growth.

Each panel is situated in its natural setting — for example, the settlement panels are located at the confluence of the Cobbossee Stream and the Kennebec. The Water Street panels reflect the historic vista of the downtown with most of the buildings still gracing the street.

Residents, visitors, school groups — all are invited to begin in Waterfront Park at the



Kennebec-Chaudiere monument and walk the Pathway.

Gardiner's entire history is retold on the panels, reminding the walkers of days long ago. Topics include settlement and founding, logging, floods, Water Street, poetry and music (Edwin Arlington Robinson and Laura E. Richards), as well as river transportation and the ice industry. This project, approved by City Council and sponsored by Gardiner Main Street, has been years in the making and is now ready for visitors.

Young and old will find the photographs, advertisements and text that define a vivid

story of one river town and its past. The Pathway heralds what is next in Gardiner as new businesses appear, young families move to town and people discover the quintessential Maine community.

Gardiner Main Street invites visitors to follow the painted sturgeons on the pavement and a world of yesterday will lead them to today.

The panels were funded by a grant through the "Preserve America" program of the National Parks service, and the sign frames were funded by a grant through the Riverfront Communities bond.

Johnson Hall presents free Waterfront concerts

BY MICHAEL R. MICLON

Executive/Artist Director, Johnson Hall
mike@johnsonhall.org

Johnson Hall will once again present its annual Free Waterfront Concert Series this summer, presenting 11 concerts at the Gardiner Waterfront Park every Friday night from June 16 to Aug. 25.

Most concerts begin at 6 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Each concert will have a variety of food vendors, as well as children's activities that will include juggling lessons and face painting.

Audiences are encouraged to come early and enjoy great music food and fun. This concert series is made possible through the generous support of Event Sponsor-Central Maine Pyrotechnics & Pyro City, Community Sponsor-Gardiner Federal Credit Union, Friend Sponsor-J&S Oil and Foundation Support from Renys and Procter & Gamble. If anyone would like to volunteer for these concerts, contact Pam Rideout at info@johnsonhall.org. For more information visit www.johnsonhall.org.

Johnson Hall Mission: to promote, create and inspire artistic excellence through the presentation of world-class entertainment and professional performing arts education and to drive cultural and economic growth for our community.

Free Waterfront Concert Series

June 16: 7 to 8:30 p.m. (Fireworks to follow)

The Bob JRs, Classis Rock Featuring the Coffin Brothers

June 23: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Half Moon Jug Band, Folk Music the Rocks

June 30: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Gawler Family, Fun-loving, Folk-singing,

Fiddle-playing, Family of Five

July 7: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Skosh, A four-piece Funk/Classic Rock/Blues Band

July 14: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Zulu Leprechaun, Eclectic Folk-Rock

July 21: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Nick Perry's Brass Tax, Refreshing Rock & Roll Quartet

July 28: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Mike Van Summern Band, Blues-Rock

Aug. 4: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Max Ater, Pop/Soul Singer-Song-Writer

Aug. 11: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Lexi James, New Country-Pop

Aug. 18: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Shakes, Funk/Rock/Reggae

Aug. 25: 7 to 8:30 p.m. (Fireworks to follow)

The Soul Sensations, Motown/Memphis Soul



Welcome to Downtown Augusta



Apartments developed in downtown Augusta

FROM AUGUSTA DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE
Special to Downtown Quarterly

As many people know, new market rate housing in formerly unoccupied space along Water Street in Augusta has had a HUGE impact on the vitality of the downtown. One such development has been occurring on the second floor of the D.W. Adams building at 190 Water St.

Laura Gall, one of the owners of the properties, answered questions about a few of the units just completed:

How many apartments do you have?

We have a total of two apartments with one bedroom and one bath, two apartments with two bedrooms and two baths, and two apartments with two bedrooms and one bath. We put in a total of six apartments, three on each of the two upper floors, and varying in size from 900 square feet to 1,700 square feet.

Why did you choose to place units in this building?

With deep Augusta roots, it was really important to us to be a part of the concerted effort to help bring downtown Augusta back to life. We have owned this building since the 1980s and

it was the perfect building to revive, as its architectural detail, location and beautiful views made it a great platform for residential usage.

What did you find most challenging?

The most challenging aspect of a project this size is the numbers. Bringing a 12,000-square-foot building that has essentially been untouched since 1909 and didn't meet any of today's building codes is an enormous financial undertaking that will take years to recoup.

What did you find most rewarding?

As for my favorite part of the process, it was a combination of working with my husband and having a great team of people to help bring my vision to life. A huge thank you to Bubba Emery and his crew of Emery Construction, as well as Coffin Engineering, Kaplan Electric, CO Beck & Sons Roofing & Sheet Metal, Knowles Mechanical, Augusta Fuel, O&P Glass, Marbled Oak Flooring, Mattson's and Kevin Boucher Painting.

Are there any units currently available?

Currently, we have two apartments available on the second floor (a one bedroom/one bath and a two bedroom/one bath). They are available for rent through J&R Associates 622-3219.

Murals everywhere

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, members of the Augusta Downtown Alliance made it their 2017 goal to bring more focus to art Downtown and give it more vibrancy. They are now delivering on that promise.

Through partnerships with the Art Department at University of Maine Augusta, Kennebec Leadership Institute, Portland Mural Initiative and the City of Augusta, the Alliance is working on a series of five murals to go on the sides of different buildings and locations downtown. The murals promise to be bold and colorful, with a mix of traditional and modern designs.

The first mural, designed by art students at UMA under Peter Precourt's guidance, is expected to go up within the next two weeks on the side of the old Cosmic Charlie's at the corner of Bridge and Water Streets.

The second mural, will go on the retaining wall recently primed by KLI with a concept done by local artist Clint Pettengill. Alliance members are very excited to see these projects take shape on the blank canvas of the downtown.





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New businesses open on Water Street

Summer traditionally brings an array of new business openings to Water Street in Augusta and this year is certainly no different.

Capital Coins and Currency will be opening its flagship store on Water Street this June. Formerly known as China Lakes Coin and Currency, the owners decided to relocate to Water Street due to heavier traffic and the increasing revitalization they've been witnessing in the area.

With historically-inspired signage, a re-designed interior and an updated, polished look, Capital Coins promises to be a Water

Street favorite. Check them out at 225 Water St. for their grand opening June 3.

Also coming to Water Street is a new wine and tapas bar; **Circa 1885**. This new bar will be located in the old Charlamagne's space and will provide a new twist to the traditional wine bar by providing wines on tap.

Katie Geerlings, the wife of Chris Geerlings, the head brewer for **Cushnoc Brewing Co.** found inspiration in her name from the giant mosaic "C" pattern in the front of the bar. She is currently updating and prepping the interior for a mid-July opening. Stay tuned!

Call for imaginative seating

The Public Art Committee for the City of Augusta is seeking unique outdoor seating with a design concept related to the Kennebec River to be installed along the new Rail Trail extension in Waterfront Park.

Several \$500 commissions will be given to those individuals whose proposals best fit the following:

- A 2-seater bench that's constructed to be:
 - durable and safe,
 - easy to clean and to remove during winter months,
 - with a form that's exciting, with a Kennebec River theme.

All are invited to submit one or more ideas by sending: a brief description of the concept(s) with a sketch; please include size and materials proposed by July 1, 2017. Submissions may include photos of past work.

Please send submissions to: augustadowntownalliance@gmail.com with the subject line: Downtown Seating Proposal, or mail to Public Art Committee c/o Michael G. Hall, Executive Director, Augusta Downtown Alliance, 295 Water St., PO Box 2066 Augusta, ME. 04338. Questions: 626-0738.

Old Fort Western Summer Youth Programs

BY LINDA J. NOVAK

Old Fort Western, Special to Downtown Quarterly

Old Fort Western, the 1754 National Historic Landmark fort, store and house museum on the Kennebec River in downtown Augusta recently announced its Summer Youth Programs.

Open for children of all ages who are interested in local history and stewardship, applicants are invited to register for the Apprenticeship Program (ages 8-12) or the Junior Interpreter Program (ages 13 and up). These one-week sessions start Monday, July 10 and continue through Friday, Sept. 1.

Children in the Apprenticeship Program will experience what life was like in the 18th century by exploring and learning about daily life at home, the varied world of work (blacksmithing, midwifery and storekeeping), the life of a French and Indian War soldier and what children and adults did for entertainment.

Graduates are eligible to participate in the Junior Interpreter Program. Junior Interpreters will assist with the Apprenticeship Program, learn about collections management and how to interpret the history of the Fort, develop necessary skills to demonstrate 18th century hands-on activities to the public, and will learn about how to conduct research through reading and deciphering original documents.

All program participants will learn what is involved in taking care of this historic site to ensure continued enjoyment of the Fort for themselves and future generations.

By learning proper maintenance and interpretation of the museum, the objects and archaeological collections, the staff ensures the continued enjoyment of the Fort by future generations. Junior Interpreter graduates are eligible for volunteering at open visitations and special events held at the Fort.

Registration forms can be obtained on line at www.oldfortwestern.org or from the Old Fort Western Administrative Office in Augusta City Center. Space is limited, so people should register as soon as possible to insure they get the week they desire.

Payment must be received in full by 4 p.m. Friday the week prior to the registered program session. A maximum of 12 participants may register for any given week. Discounts are available for Augusta residents and siblings attending programs during the same week. For more information, call Old Fort Western at 626-2385 or email oldfort@oldfortwestern.org.

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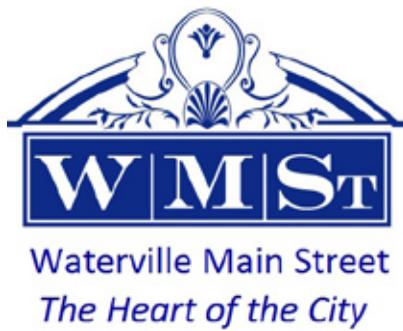


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Andrew Silsby,
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Welcome to Downtown Waterville

Waterville unveils a season of movies, arts, fun and food

BY NATE TOWNE

Marketing Manager, Waterville Creates!
Special to Downtown Quarterly

It's officially summer in Waterville and things are heating up downtown as the schools let out, the water warms up and the fun begins in earnest. But oh dear — summer gets so busy, who has time to do and see it all?

Fear not, there's no need to get frazzled or frazzle the family for plans on what to do in downtown Waterville this summer. You'll stay cool as a cucumber if you read this guide of what to do and see, and you won't miss a minute of the entertainment coming your way.

MIFF movie plans

Summer in Maine means it's time for the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF), now celebrating its 20th year. This year's MIFF, to be held July 14- 23, looks to be one of the best ones yet as organizers plan some pretty incredible films and parties surrounding this 10-day festival that brings Hollywood— and Bollywood— to Waterville.

One of the highlights of this year's MIFF is the screening of Disney's "Bambi" at the Waterville Opera House, a film that has been lovingly restored for its 75th anniversary.

Not only is it a remarkable animated film that has captured the heart of generations, it also has significant ties to Maine. Rumford native Frank Churchill, who won an Academy Award for the music in "Dumbo," and wrote the score for the movie, while Maurice Day from Damariscotta photographed the natural beauty of Mount Katahdin and the North Woods in all seasons and conditions to provide visual context for Disney animators. The 2017 MIFF program will be unveiled on June 26 online at www.MIFF.org.

Waterville Opera House

Film isn't the only art form gracing downtown Waterville this summer. The Waterville Opera House has a wide-range of entertainment coming to town this summer, including internationally-renowned comedian Paula Poundstone, Aug. 19; "One Way Trip to Mars," an original rock opera by Bath residents featuring 24 songs by Maine musicians, Aug. 24-27 and a concert with the Grammy-winning group Blues Traveler, Aug. 31.

In addition to hosting these fantastic performances, the Waterville Opera House is holding a number of auditions this summer for its upcoming programs, including



Contributed photos

The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's annual smorgasbord of summer fun, the Taste of Waterville, is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Right, Paula Poundstone comes to the Waterville Opera House on August 19.



"Calendar Girls," a hilarious comedic play based on the hit British film. If you've always wanted to try out for a performance, this summer you'll have your chance, so don't miss it. For details visit the Waterville Opera House website at www.operahouse.org.

Concert series

Waterville Rocks!, a free outdoor summer concert series hosted by the Waterville Opera House and held in Castonguay Square, is coming back for its second year — bigger and better than ever.

This year's concerts will feature a new beer garden, expanded food offerings and

will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on four Friday evenings, July through September.

Headliners for this year's Waterville Rocks! concerts include Pete Kilpatrick Band and Armies, July 28; Spencer Albee and The Boneheads, Aug. 18; Adam Ezra Group and Chris Ross and The North, Sept. 1 and Bella's Bartok, Sept. 29.

More bands will be announced soon but save those dates; this is a fabulous opportunity to enjoy downtown Waterville with your fellow music aficionados and taste-makers. To stay up to date on the latest Waterville

Rocks! announcements, follow the concert series on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/watervillerocks.

Taste of Waterville

Did someone say taste? This summer downtown Waterville welcomes back the

More WATERVILLE, PAGE 11

Waterville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's annual smorgasbord of summer fun — Taste of Waterville — which is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Delighting foodies and fair food fanatics alike, this year's event will feature live entertainment, children's events, food from local restaurants, a beer garden with live bands, gymnastics and dance demonstrations and vendors galore.

Every year the Taste of Waterville closes down Main Street to host this family-friendly event that promises something for everyone. More information on this annual event can be found at www.tasteofwaterville.com

Common Street Arts gallery

The Common Street Arts gallery on the corner of Main Street and Castonguay Square is a fantastic artistic destination during the hot summer months in Waterville. The free community gallery exhibits local and international artworks year-round, and is a popular destination for tourists who shop and dine in historic downtown Waterville.

The current gallery exhibition, showing through July 1, is Picturing Waterville: Photographs by Gary Green, and Images from the Waterville Historical Society, an arrangement of contemporary and historical photographs of the City of Waterville as it relates to architecture, the landscape, revitalization, construction and urban renewal.

On July 14, the gallery will open again in conjunction with the Maine International Film Festival to host MIFFONEDGE Volume 5, a multi-media exhibition that explores the intersection of film and art.

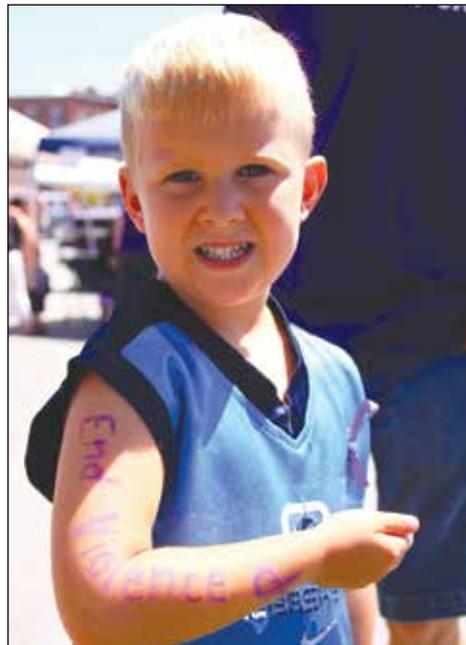
Each year, MIFFONEDGE features exciting and innovative work spanning decades of moving image history. This year's exhibition, up through Aug. 26, promises to be unique. To learn more about upcoming exhibitions, classes and free community workshops at Common Street Arts, visit www.CommonStreetArts.org

PechaKucha Night

This summer will bring another first to downtown Waterville. For the first time ever, PechaKucha Night Waterville will be held under the stars in Castonguay Square on July 13. Volume 25 will feature a number of film-focused presentations in conjunction with MIFF.

For people who have never attended a PechaKucha, they are in for a treat: these evening events are informal and fun gatherings where creative and curious members of the community gather for an evening of storytelling and camaraderie.

PechaKucha Night planners are hard at work reviewing proposals and have plans to offer food and libations in collaboration with the downtown Waterville Farmers Market. To learn more, go to www.Facebook.com/PKNWaterville.



Contributed photos

There are lots of things for kids to do at the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's annual Taste of Waterville on Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Farmers Market

Speaking of the downtown Waterville Farmers Market, it's getting better than ever this summer. Located off Castonguay Square on Common Street, the market is open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Thursday this summer. This year, Common Street Arts is launching a new, free kid's art program to coincide with the market called Art in the Park.

Each Thursday, area youth can join Common Street Arts for a few hours of artful fun. These free workshops include making wearable art, printmaking, mask creation, a fun "mud mobile" ceramics event and more.

Colby College joins the fun

In addition to all of the exciting arts and entertainment coming to downtown Waterville this summer, there's another amazing show happening each and every day in the form of the ongoing revitalization efforts driven by Colby College and the City of Waterville.

While it's exciting to see new buildings going up and to hear about new retailers opening up shops downtown, this progress does not come without changes to traffic patterns, parking and sidewalks.

To keep in the know about all of the changes and how they might affect downtown plans, visit www.colby.edu/downtown/. This highly informative website is updated on a regular basis and provides a look at the changes happening now as well as those to come.

People who have enjoyed learning about these exciting summer events, programs and happenings are invited to visit the Waterville Creates! online event calendar at www.WatervilleCreates.org and sign up for the weekly Arts Spotlight — summer will be gone before you know it, so don't miss a minute of the fun!



Contributed photos
Pony rides for the kids at the Taste of Waterville.

Below, Bella's Bartok is just one of the awesome musical acts performing at Waterville Rocks! this summer.



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