Working together local groups are making Skowhegan area a place for family fun in 2016

By Chris Homburger
Executive Director
Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce
Special to Greater Skowhegan

This past 2015 was a landmark year in the Skowhegan region with dozens of successful events, activities and business start-ups and organizations. Many local businesses had leading years and much of the success of the region can be attributed to the sense of community and cross-community collaboration that has led to many organizational partnerships and cooperation on events and activities. This cooperation allows us to do more, from promotion to the execution of activities — and that spirit has carried over into planning stages of 2016.

The following is a list of events planned or already held in the Skowhegan area in 2016. Not all dates are specific at this point, so for more information, contact the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce at 474-2625 or visit skowheganarea chamber.com.

Maple Festival & Maine Maple Sunday: March 25-27: A little known fact is that Somerset County produces the most maple syrup in the United States. Main Street Skowhegan recently held its Maple Festival leading up to Maine Maple Sunday, making this the weekend of a three-day event of family activities. Popular events include the Saturday morning maple breakfast, a talent show Saturday night and, of course, sugar shack tours on Maine Maple Sunday.

Skowhegan: From a Fireman’s demonstration at Riverfest, to Antique cars on parade and the Farmers Market, there’s always something happening in Skowhegan.

The following is a list of special events throughout the year in Skowhegan.

April/May 2016:
www.mainstreet-sunday.com
skowhegan.org
Checkout the SACC Awards Dinner of the most successful business leader and their companies from around the state. Ex- panding in 2015 is to include up to 15, though May 21 and 22 is a guess at this time is May 14. The following is a list of events planned for the Skowhegan area in 2016. Not all dates are specific at this point, so for more information, contact the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce at 474-2625 or visit skowheganarea chamber.com.

The SACC Awards Dinner April/May 2016: The Skowhegan Area Chamber awards dinner will be held at the Skowhegan Elks, honoring seven honorees, the night has expanded in 2015 to include up to 15, though May 21 and 22 is a guess at this time is May 14 and 15, though May 21 and 22 is a possibility. There are four main categories to participate in:

- Most Successful Business
- Outstanding Community Service
- Most Successful Non-Profit
- Entrepreneur of the Year

May 8: Memorial Day: This day is as special for the Skowhegan citizen as it is for the veterans who live in the area. Hundreds of families line the streets at 10 a.m. and attend the ceremony that follows at the Skowhegan Memorial Park in Skowhegan. Similar parades have happened in Norridgewock and Madison in years past.

Memorial Day Parade, May 30: This day is as special for the Skowhegan citizen as it is for the veterans who live in the area. Hundreds of families line the streets at 10 a.m. and attend the ceremony that follows at the Skowhegan Memorial Park in Skowhegan. Similar parades have happened in Norridgewock and Madison in years past.

Lakewood Theater: May – September: Entering its 116th season, the oldest summer theater in the country presents an 18-week, mini-show season beginning on opening night May 20. The season is full of musicals, comedies and dramas with repertoires of shows including “Into the Woods,” “Of Mice & Men,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” “A Christmas Carol,” “Guys and Dolls” and more. In addition to these mainstage shows, there will be a “Jazz Me Bizzy” summer music series and Extensive Live Concerts & Shows Series. The theater in the country presents an 18-week, mini-show season beginning on opening night May 20. The season is full of musicals, comedies and dramas with repertoires of shows including “Into the Woods,” “Of Mice & Men,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” “A Christmas Carol,” “Guys and Dolls” and more. In addition to these mainstage shows, there will be a “Jazz Me Bizzy” summer music series and Extensive Live Concerts & Shows Series.

10th Riveting Conference & Beer Day: July 28-30: This ever-growing fair for bakers, bread artisans and millers is extremely popular for all types of bread enthusiasts, as well as organic food lovers. The bread festival is held at Riverrun Park in Skowhegan.

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River Run Glow Stick Paddle: August 6: The longest glow stick paddle race in the world.

Free raft rides during RiverFest Duffers & Drivers: Rotary Club Lobster Bake, the Skowhegan Parks and Recreation Department; the Skowhegan American Legion; the Skowhegan Elks with the Skowhegan Lion’s Club; the RiverFest Pub Crawl, Memorial Park in Skowhegan, will open on Aug. 6 with a live concert.

Golf Classic: The Main Street Skowhegan Craft Fair, and the River Run Glow Stick Paddle presented by the Run of River Committee.

Free raft rides during RiverFest Saturday are presented by Skowhegan Parks & Rec. and annually More Outdoor Adventures, The New Balance.

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Amanda Clark, owner of The Maine Barkery, is the winner of the $20,000 entrepreneur challenge. Clark will receive a $20,000 incentive package to expand her business to her new downtown home this spring.

The Maine Barkery makes all-natural dog treats from locally-sourced ingredients and sells them wholesale to more than a dozen distributors throughout the state. The grant will enable her to increase production and add retail space to sell her treats to dog owners in the local community and online.

The Entrepreneur Challenge, developed by Main Street’s Business Enhancement Committee, is a $20,000 entrepreneur challenge to spur economic development in Skowhegan. Clark will expand her business to her new downtown home this spring.

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The Maine Barkery wins $20,000 entrepreneur challenge

Runners up also reap rewards

Showcase Skowhegan’s Maple Festival is a rite of spring, spanning six months and offering fun and educational activities for all ages.

The popular pancake breakfast, featuring locally-sourced foods and Somerset County maple syrup, will be held from 7 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, at Tewksbury Hall. The Main Street talent show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday will feature live music, comedy, dance, and other performances.

The festival also features the historic Skowhegan Opera House, the show features local entertainment from stand-up comedy routines to musical acts.

The festival celebrates the arrival of Main Street, a day when Sugar House around the state open their doors to the public and offer free samples and demonstrations.

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Running up Virginia Jewell, is planning to expand her health foods business over the next few years. Consistent with Main Street’s work to create a vibrant, healthy community, including cooking classes to show families how to prepare healthier meals and local farmers markets.

Jewell also plans to expand sales to the region, spanned six months and included several educational seminars. The Entrepreneur Challenge, developed by Main Street’s Business Enhancement Committee, is a $20,000 entrepreneur challenge to spur economic development in Skowhegan. Clark will expand her business to her new downtown home this spring.

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Runner up, Nancy Blandell Bastian, has started Meek Earth, an environmental company that celebrates and promotes the region’s high-quality, natural products. Meek Earth is a hub for teachings. Bastian is passionate about promoting Maine and wants to use her films to engage local people and attract visitors to the Skowhegan region.

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TNT Glass continues to offer top-of-the-line glass service
New owners add auto accessories to the inventory

BY VALERIE TUCKER

Correspondent

TNT Glass can make any vehicle or home more comfortable, energy efficient and fun to be in, according to owners, Marc and Angel Paradis.

When the Rines decided to retire, Marc and Angel Paradis saw an opportunity to expand their business and their services.

"We do sell almost anything you want for auto accessories," said Angel Paradis. "People might come in looking for windows or windshield replacements and they're sometimes surprised by the huge inventory of automotive accessories we carry."

The Rines' previous glass technician, Craig Coro, agreed to stay with the new business, bringing 22 years of experience to the team.

"The combination of the two businesses brought all services under one roof," Marc Paradis said.

"We sell and install Harvey Windows, which are made in New England for our cold winters," Angel Paradis said. "We sell and install the windows with a lifetime warranty on the glass and a 20-year warranty on the frame."

TNT Glass also orders and installs replacement glass for other manufacturers' windows. Homeowners also want glass that keeps out the cold, and the glass technicians can install either the rim-well glass, which is easier to install, or the custom-cut glass.

"Many customers prefer custom-cut glass," Angel Paradis said. "The linier material offers a rigid core for strength and surface friction, but the surface is very comfortable underfoot."

Curved carry water, mud and debris to a reservoir, away from shoes and clothing without friction, but the surface is very comfortable underfoot."

"Channels carry water, mud and debris to a reservoir, away from shoes and clothing without friction, but the surface is very comfortable underfoot."

"The liners cover the interior car - side of the vehicle's footwell," Angel Paradis said. "Laser measurements of interior surfaces allow for an exact fit in any vehicle to completely line the existing interior carpet, according to Paradis."

"The liners are waterproof and provide a solution for a lot of older vehicles," she said. "It also provides glare from the sun and lights, which is a problem for a lot of older people," she said. "It also provides protection from ultraviolet rays, which are bad for both the drivers and their automobile interiors."

From the automotive accesso-

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Maine Center for Dental Medicine provides a holistic approach

Connection between oral health, body is part of the philosophy

BY VALERIE TUCKER

The holistic concept at Maine Center for Dental Medicine involves an awareness of dental care as it relates to the whole person. Today’s medical advancements recognize the critical connections between dental health and overall health. For 25 years, the Center has shared with its patients the philosophy of holistic holistic dentistry.

“We don’t practice a separate specialty of dentistry,” said Dr. Mohammed Imam, DDS. “This is a thought process, an attitude, or holistic philosophy. Holistic dentistry seeks to a newborn’s start in the world.”

The Center’s holistic approach emphasizes those individual connections, and patient safety is a thought process, an attitude, or holistic philosophy. Holistic dentistry seeks to a newborn’s start in the world.”

The relationship between the two conditions goes both ways,” he said. From children to adults and seniors, the Center for Dental Medicine provides a holistic approach to dental care. Special services include pre-orthodontic care, periodontal therapy, functional orthodontic treatments, and reconstructive treatments with natural teeth or implants. Some sleep studies can be done for diagnoses of sleep apnea (OSA), Continuous Positive Airway Pressure, or CPAP in a treatment that uses a small air pressure to keep the airways open. CPAP is typically used by patients who have obstructive sleep apnea problems. The Center for Dental Medicine also can fabricate alternative equipment for patients and provide a better CPAP treatment. Dentures can be a viable solution when natural teeth are lost or ill-fitting and uncomfortable. Partial dentures can restore comfort and chewing ability, and today, patients have the option of stabilizing dentures with a few dental implants. “Whatever your dental needs, we address them with compassion,” Imam said.

Full and partial dentures and implants are available. Services include prosthodontics, periodontics, orthodontics, and endodontics, cosmetic services, and teeth replacement with dentures and implants.

“The philosophy of holistic dentistry as it relates to the whole person,” said Imam. “We always seek the safest, least toxic way to accomplish the goals of modern dentistry.”

Imam said. “We believe in practicing medicine, not just dentistry.”

Both Dr. Mohammed Imam and Dr. Shafulla Khan with the Maine Center for Dental Medicine in Skowhegan have more than 30 years each in the practice of holistic dentistry. Dr. Imam also served as a assistant professor at WVU College of Dentistry for 15 years and is a member of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine and the International Association of Orthodontics.

The dental practice also does a lot of work for patients not able to provide for Dental Medicine Dental also provides a solution when natural teeth are lost or ill-fitting and uncomfortable. Partial dentures can restore comfort and chewing ability, and today, patients have the option of stabilizing dentures with a few dental implants. “Whatever your dental needs, we address them with compassion,” Imam said.

The Center for Dental Medicine provides personalized care for each patient. Services include periodontal care, functional and reconstructive treatments, cosmetic treatments, and teeth replacement with dentures and implants.

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Griffin’s is committed to selling durable Maine outerwear
Company celebrates 40 years of growth and success

BY VALERIE TUCKER

Griffin’s started its family-owned business in 1976, as like the company is celebrating 40 years of growth and success. “Seven days a week, customers can come to the shop and find a family member behind the counter,” says Paula Griffin, who helps manage the Skowhegan location.

Visitors may also meet Griffin’s dog on the counter, Poco, a year-old Cavachon, a cross between a Cavalier King Charles spaniel and a Cavapoo. “She’s a spiced rotten,” she said with a laugh. “She thinks everyone comes here just to visit her and sometimes they bring her home-baked treats!”

Griffin posts information regularly about new inventory items, including children’s clothing, boots and clothing. Store inventory reflects the company’s commitment to durability and the ability to withstand all kinds of Maine weather challenges. “We have prided ourselves on selling very high-quality merchandise for 40 years,” she said.

Griffin’s carries several work clothing and footwear lines, including Dickies, Muck, Carolina, Lacrosse and Johnson Woolen. Many are brand names that have been around for several generations. The Chipewa boot line started over a century ago, with workers in mind. The American-made Super Logger boot, which is waterproof, insulated, with rugged steel toes, is a popular favorite. Griffin’s also operate two other stores. “The one on Main Street, the store in Guilford, is much like our Skowhegan store,” she said. “The Belmont store on the Auburn Road is much more of a tourist store, and the one downtown is a well-inventoried, including grain and safety,” Griffin said.

The Skowhegan store is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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Visitors may also meet Griffin’s dog on the counter, Poco, a year-old Cavachon, a cross between a Cavalier King Charles spaniel and a Cavapoo. “She’s a spiced rotten,” she said with a laugh. “She thinks everyone comes here just to visit her and sometimes they bring her home-baked treats!”

Griffin posts information regularly about new inventory items, including children’s clothing, boots and clothing. Store inventory reflects the company’s commitment to durability and the ability to withstand all kinds of Maine weather challenges. “We have prided ourselves on selling very high-quality merchandise for 40 years,” she said.

Griffin’s carries several work clothing and footwear lines, including Dickies, Muck, Carolina, Lacrosse and Johnson Woolen. Many are brand names that have been around for several generations. The Chipewa boot line started over a century ago, with workers in mind. The American-made Super Logger boot, which is waterproof, insulated, with rugged steel toes, is a popular favorite. Griffin’s also operate two other stores. “The one on Main Street, the store in Guilford, is much like our Skowhegan store,” she said. “The Belmont store on the Auburn Road is much more of a tourist store, and the one downtown is a well-inventoried, including grain and safety,” Griffin said.

The Skowhegan store is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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Bee Line Cable is a local, family-owned company in central Maine. It offers High Speed Internet, Digital Phone, Digital Cable and provides a connection to the world for communication and entertainment, according to its president, Paul Hannigan.

For more than 30 years, Bee Line Cable has provided cable television service. Its area now has more than 200 miles of fiber-optic cables, connecting customers to high-speed Internet service and digital phone services. It features unlimited long-distance calling throughout the United States.

The company was founded in Madison, serving the Eaton, Hermon, Madison, and Skowhegan communities. It serves the central Maine communities of Anson, Madison, Skowhegan, Farmington, Industry, Wilton, East Millinocket and Millinocket.

Paul Hannigan said his father, Owen Hannigan, began his cable TV career in 1956 in Boston with three other entrepreneurs. He eventually moved to Maine to work with his father in the mid-70s.

Owen Hannigan had a vision and he was persistent, his son recalls. He said one of his earliest challenges was to get customers to ring the cable office and garage at 131 Lakewood Road, Madison.

When Paul Hannigan started his career in 1954 in Houlton with three other entrepreneurs, the company only had a satellite dish. It served three towns: Presque Isle, Houlton and Presque Isle.

The Bee Line Cable office and garage at 131 Lakewood Road, Madison.

Paul Hannigan said his father, Owen Hannigan, began his cable TV career in 1956 in Boston with three other entrepreneurs. He eventually moved to Maine to work with his father in the mid-70s. The Bee Line Cable website states that the company’s “friendly, knowledgeable customer support personnel are ready to help... with any customer service questions.” The company values customer satisfaction, offering residential, commercial and industrial services.

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