SAFE AND SOUND
Home Security brings peace of mind

YOUR HOME’S PERSONALITY
Windows and doors help create style

BRING SUMMER TO YOUR BACKYARD
Local pool and spa companies can show you how
A teen’s imagination has become a landscaping bonanza

MacKenzie offers help with projects of all sizes, styles

BY SUSAN VARNEY
Correspondent

Spring is in the air and many Mainers want to get out into the yard and garden — they just wish it would warm up a bit.

All those projects that have been put on hold for the winter are pushing at their imaginations — retaining walls, garden plots, patios with fire pits, garden benches and birdbaths... so many projects, so many possibilities.

Ken MacKenzie is no exception. He started as a teen with a lawn service, working out of a shed at his parents’ place in Waterville. That was 34 years ago and things have changed and expanded many times since then.

“I saw a need for a place where people could go to get landscaping needs met, get as much or as little loam, stone, mulch as needed,” he said.

That philosophy has evolved over the years into a mixture of fun and business that today can be found at MacKenzie Landscaping in Winslow.

At a recent visit to the company, a relaxed and easygoing MacKenzie talked about what his business now offers as he strolled around the display yard at the corner of the Augusta Road and the Carter Memorial Bridge Road.

Bins of mulches, soil mixes, compost, stones, sand, and piles of natural stone for paving and walls, granite, retaining wall blocks, benches and birdbaths were in abundance.

Also available in season are sod, grass seed and fertilizer; fabrics for erosion control and concrete products.

Twelve years in this location and the yard is filled with stones of every size and quality, including stones etchings by Renee MacKenzie. Designs and etchings are available or people can bring in their own design.

A stepping stone or a granite bench can be etched with names or designs. Boom delivery is supplied for pallets of stones and for placing of granite steps and boulders. MacKenzie is a Certified SRW Installer, ICPI certified paver installer and member of the Maine Landscape & Nursery Association.

Products can be picked up or delivered by both homeowner and contractors.

What began as a lawn-mowing business in 1983, quickly moved on to landscape design and installation.

MacKenzie dropped the lawn mowing and added more equipment, moving locations until finally opening in 2005 at the current location, providing a convenient location for the pickup of materials for do-it-yourself homeowners and contractors.

The business expanded many times since then.

• In 1983 MacKenzie started mowing lawns with one pick-up truck and a push mower. Later that summer, he added a rider to the fleet. At the time Ken worked out of a shed at his parents’ house in Waterville.

• In 1984 the MacKenzie fleet continued to grow with the purchase of the first dump truck.

• In 1985 he dropped the lawn mowing and began concentrating on design and installation of landscape plantings. Those changes brought on the need for more equipment and a Bobcat was soon added. The business moved locations in Waterville and a few years later moved again to Winslow, where a shop was built to house the equipment.

• In July of 1992 the company opened a retail location on the China Road in Winslow. Each year, the company tried to add a little more to the inventory until there was no more room to expand.

• In 2005, MacKenzie’s opened its new location on the corner of the Augusta Road and Carter Memorial Drive in Winslow. The 10 acres provides room to grow and add to the product line. The plan is to concentrate more on the retail and wholesale by providing a convenient location to pick up a variety of materials for the do-it-yourselfer or contractor to complete their outside projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Security provides peace of mind

BY SUSAN VARNEY
Correspondent

Cayer Security has been in the business of helping others keep a watchful eye on their surroundings for nearly two decades. “It’s our twentieth next year,” Jenny King said with a generous smile. She is the office security manager whose parents, Bob and Cindy Cayer started the family business in Waterville. Jenny’s husband, Dean, is in charge of technology and installation, her father is president and handles on-the-road sales and promotion, and her mother is vice-president. Her father’s brother, Mike Cayer, handles sales and maintenance. Cayer is a family business that continues to grow.

Customers include banks and credit unions, where Cayer Security installs and maintains drive-ups, tube systems, vaults and locks, as well as alarm systems and monitoring cameras. All monitoring is UL Certified through Central Alarm Company in Manchester, N.H.

“It’s about safety,” said Jenny King, who believes strongly in child protection. She recalled when a young child was missing in Waterville several years ago and her child was the same age; she and her husband installed a security system.

King said the simplicity or complexity of home systems is amazing. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors can be tied in, systems can be armed from a cell phone and garage doors have remote control — even furnaces can be tied in when people are away for the winter.

The alarm systems have safety measures and can be tied into local support and police.

The owner is called first, and if there is no problem, such as an alarm that was set off by mistake, the owner is given a code to reset system, King explained. If the code isn’t given, the police show up.

There is a protocol call list, King said.

Many schools have a safety protocol now since the many school shootings: there are video cameras in the schools, locked doors, sign-in, sign-out systems, she said.

Today, Cayer Security has many commercial and retail customers, as well as schools and residential clients. The company even offers panic buttons for older people in case of medical emergencies or break-ins.

Cayer Security uses Honeywell’s control system, featuring a color touch screen with graphic icons and prompts for easy operation that can be accessed from a smartphone. It can be used to arm and disarm alarms; keep an eye on children, workers or pets; or enable lighting, thermostats, and shades, King said. The options are very sophisticated.

Cayer technicians train around the country in order to learn how to apply the latest technology and equipment.

“We have won the Best Security Company in the Waterville Area for three years running — 2013, 2014, and 2015 — by Market Surveys of America,” Jenny King, Office Security Manager, Cayer Security

“We have won the Best Security Company in the Waterville Area for three years running — 2013, 2014, and 2015 — by Market Surveys of America,” King said.

Some people may wonder if video surveillance is an invasion of privacy or a necessary protection. But in a society where security is emphasized more and more, and the expense has been lowered, it has become more attractive to many.

Meanwhile, video coverage can help cut losses from theft and public vandalism, providing proof of wrongdoing to police and authorities.

To many it provides peace of mind for child safety and home protection, a very different concept for older people who grew up never locking their homes or cars.

In this time of not knowing the neighbors as people come and go frequently — moving with the tide of jobs ebbing and flowing with the economy or families fractured by divorce, unemployment or illness — security systems can provide a needed peace of mind, according to security providers such as Cayer Security.

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When designing or remodeling a home, two features that greatly influence its appearance are windows and doors. Even though people look at windows and walk through doors every day, they often see only function, not the aesthetics.

The authors of the homemakersonline article “Doors and Windows-Important Considerations” suggested that windows and doors are actually a home’s connection to the outside world. They wrote that windows and doors can “show off a home’s personality” and reflect a homeowner’s style just as any décor feature in the home does.

The front door is the first thing people see when visiting a home, they wrote. “The front of your home is its face; it is what is presented to the world, so don’t overlook the importance of doors and windows when renovating or decorating.”

At Lapointe Lumber Co. Inc. in Augusta, co-owner Dick Tarr expressed similar sentiments.

Windows and doors are important, not just to provide ventilation, light and security, but they also add character to a home, he said.

Tarr said today’s homeowners and business owners have more options than ever when selecting windows and doors. Buyers can now choose from a large variety of colors and materials depending upon their budget and taste.

“Doors can range in price from several hundred to a few thousand dollars,” he said. “You can get a wooden door made of pine, fir, hickory, maple or many other types of wood. You can also get a steel-coated door, which is made with a metal skin over a foam core.”

Tarr said that another very popular door is made with a skin of fiberglass over a foam core. He said that type of door comes with either a smooth finish that can be painted, or a textured finish that can be stained to look like wood.

Other major factors to consider when selecting a door are location and the amount of exposure to the weather that the door will receive, he said.

Outside wooden doors that require painting are more practical to use on a porch with an extended roof because those would be better protected from water overflow from the roof.

Tarr said that while steel doors are very energy efficient, many people who have been in the industry for a long time prefer a nice wood door.

Regardless of the type of door selected, Tarr recommended also purchasing a storm door. He said that will protect the main door from storms and the weather.

Customers can find interior doors, exterior doors, combination storm doors, door trims and accessories, bi-fold, bypass, mirror, pocket doors, interior ‘barn’ doors, and even garage doors at Lapointe’s, according to Tarr. He said that each exterior door comes with weather stripping and a sill. A variety of doors can be viewed in their second floor showroom.

When it comes to windows, there are even more choices, Tarr said. Lapointe’s carries or can supply vinyl windows, composite windows, clad windows, wood windows, replacement windows, window trims and accessories, as well as skylights.

One of the brand names carried by Lapointe’s is the popular Andersen window, which is available in multiple colors and styles.

In addition to the traditional windows, more exotic designs are also available, including the oval window that contains art glass. They have many options on display in their showroom, seen below right.

“Doors can range in price from several hundred to a few thousand dollars.”

CO-OWNER DICK TARR, LAPOINTE LUMBER
Bed bugs don’t discriminate

By Wanda Curtis

When U.S. Army veteran Matthew Allen returned home after being deployed overseas in Iraq for a year, he had difficulty finding work.

Eventually, he accepted a job for a pest control company and got his Master’s license in that field.

Allen had found his niche. He opened Bug Busterzzz Pest Control and Wildlife Services based in China, Maine and began his own war on bugs about five years ago.

“I was working for a large pest control company and I thought that I could do it better, so I started my own company,” he said.

Allen said he and his staff really enjoy helping people rid their properties of all kinds of pests, not the least of which is the elusive bed bug.

There’s a huge problem with bed bugs in Maine and throughout the nation, according to Allen.

Contrary to what some people may think, the problem is not limited to low-income inner city areas, he said. All social strata are affected by this pest.

“Bed bugs don’t discriminate,” said Allen. “They bite you and they bite me and they bite anyone. I get at least 10-15 calls per week to treat bed bugs. I got four one. I get at least 10-15 calls per week.”

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Decades of designing ‘the heart of the home’

One project by Gilbert Miller of Maine Custom Kitchens was featured in Better Homes and Gardens’ top 50 kitchens in the nation

BY LORI DOUGLAS CLARK
Special to MaineToday Media

Many people consider the kitchen to be the heart of their home. With more than 1,000 kitchen projects under his belt, Gilbert Miller of Maine Custom Kitchens in Wilton understands that sentiment.

“I enjoy the interactions with customers and helping them realize their vision for their kitchen,” Miller said.

Over the course of 30 years of custom work, Miller has found a niche in communities along the mid-coast, the Greater Portland area, and points south.

He designs and builds custom kitchen cabinetry or works with a client’s designer. Some customers have come back for second, third and fourth kitchen renovations, and others turn to Maine Custom Kitchens for their vacation homes.

“I’ve done a lot of work up at Sugarloaf,” Miller said in his low-key manner.

Miller may be modest, but the quality of his work speaks for itself. One kitchen project he worked on several years ago — a home in Portland’s Back Cove neighborhood — was featured in Better Homes and Gardens magazine as one of the top 50 kitchens in the country.

The path to Maine Custom Kitchens’ success wasn’t without some challenges. Born legally blind, in his youth Miller cast about for a purpose in life. He lacked confidence in his abilities. At 16, he took a job working for a local carpenter.

“At the time, I was just a teenager wanting to earn some money,” he said. “But by the time I was 18 I realized I wanted to do this for a living. I took satisfaction from building useful things from scratch. The more I pursued it, the better I got, and that built up my confidence.”

By age 20, Miller was building homes. People noticed the quality of his cabinets, and he started filling orders. It wasn’t too long before Maine Custom Kitchens got its start.

“After building houses in all kinds of weather, it was nice to find a niche market doing kitchen cabinetry,” he said. “And I can’t complain about working inside in the winter.”

As for what’s currently popular among homeowners, Miller said that simple white Shaker-inspired cabinetry has dominated the industry for some time.

“It’s a timeless look that lends itself well to many styles, from traditional to contemporary to cottage. It’s clean and bright, and doesn’t immediately date a kitchen to a particular decade.”

He added that full overlay cabinets — in which the doors and drawer fronts cover the face frame completely — are growing in popularity. This European style maximizes space and can be customized with details that reflect the owners’ taste.

Another kitchen trend, Miller noted, is varying the types and colors of wood in the cabinetry. For example, white painted kitchen cabinets can be complemented with mahogany or walnut cabinetry on the island. He is currently working on a kitch-

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Kitchens
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en that features dark walnut base cabinets contrasted with white upper cupboards.
Natural stone continues to be favored for countertops, Miller said, with granite the No. 1 stone choice. “People still want granite, although nowadays they prefer a honed or antiqued finish rather than a highly polished look,” he said. “Manmade quartz is still desirable, and I’m seeing more wood countertops – I’m working right now on a walnut countertop for an island.
Popular looks come and go in the housing industry, and kitchens are no exception. “I’m glad to see the red oak raised-panel cabinets go away,” Miller said. “They were a huge trend in the 80s and early 90s, where just about every kitchen had that cookie-cutter sameness.
"The microwave oven, that staple of the modern kitchen, has a trendy new sibling – the drawer microwave.
With flexible installation options in an island or below the wall oven, the drawer microwave features a convenient height just below the countertop. The kitchen is less cluttered with more available work space, Miller said.
Appliances with stainless steel finishes continue to be the top choice for Maine homeowners, he added. Miller uses patience and ingenuity to work within his vision limitations. He can see to work if objects are close to his face.
“I’ve come to terms with how I need to work, and I don’t consider it a handicap,” he said. “Having to look at things very closely, I can concentrate on the quality of each piece.”
Taking the time to work with precision seems to be the key to Miller’s success.

“... by the time I was 18 I realized I wanted to do this for a living. I took satisfaction from building useful things from scratch. The more I pursued it, the better I got, and that built up my confidence.”

GILBERT MILLER, MAINE CUSTOM KITCHENS

Gilbert Miller, owner of Maine Custom Kitchens, on the job at a home in Scarborough.
As winter slowly winds down, many gardeners cannot wait to soak up the springtime sun and get their hands dirty in the garden. Such excitement is not just good for gardeners, but can benefit the garden in the months to come as well.

Late winter or early spring is a great time to get a head start on the gardening season. Even if gardening season is still around the corner, completing the following projects can ensure your garden gets off on the right foot.

Clear debris
One of the best things you can do for your garden as winter winds down is to clear it of debris. Winter can be especially harsh on a landscape, and gardens left to the elements are often filled with debris once spring arrives. Dead leaves, fallen branches, rocks that surfaced during the winter frost, and even garbage that might have blown about in winter winds can all pile up in a garden over a typical winter. Clearing such debris likely won’t take long, but it’s a great first step toward restoring the garden before the time comes to plant and grow the garden once again.

Examine the soil
Soil plays a significant role in whether a garden thrives or struggles. Examining the soil before the season starts can help gardeners address any issues before they plant. Ignoring the soil until a problem arises can turn the upcoming gardening season into a lost opportunity, so test the soil to determine if it has any nutrient or mineral deficiencies. This may require the help of a professional, but if a problem arises, you might be able to adjust the acidity or alkalinity of the soil and still enjoy a successful gardening season.

Another way to examine the soil is less complex but can shed light on when would be a good time to get back to work. Reach into the soil and dig out a handful.

If the soil quickly crumbles, you can start preparing for gardening seasoning. But if the soil is still clumped together, it needs more time to dry out before you can begin your prep work.

Initiate edging
Edging is another task gardeners can begin as they get ready for the season. Edge plant and flower beds, but be sure to use a spade with a flat blade or an edger designed to edge flower beds. Such tools will cut deep enough so grass roots that may eventually grow into the flower bed are severed. Depending on how large a garden is, edging can be a time-consuming task, so getting a head start allows homeowners to spend more time planting and tending to their gardens once the season hits full swing.

Fight weeds
Though weeds likely have not survived the winter, that does not mean they won’t return once the weather starts to heat up. But as inevitable as weeds may seem, homeowners can take steps to prevent them from turning beautiful gardens into battlegrounds where plants, flowers and vegetables are pitted against unsightly and potentially harmful weeds. Spring is a good time to apply a pre-emergent weed preventer, which can stop weeds before they grow.

Though such solutions are not always foolproof, they can drastically reduce the likelihood of weed growth. Though gardeners might not be able to start planting their gardens in late winter or early spring, they can still get outside and take steps to ensure their gardens thrive once planting season begins.
Home projects perfect for spring

The following are a handful of projects tailor-made for spring.

Inspect the gutters
Homeowners should conduct a careful inspection of their gutters come the spring, being sure to look for leaks while clearing the gutters of debris and reattaching gutters that might have become detached from the home on windy winter days and nights. When reattaching loose gutters, make sure the downspouts are draining away from the foundation, as gutters that are not draining properly can cause damage to that foundation and possibly lead to flooding.

Take stock of roof shingles
Examine the roof to determine if any shingles were lost (lost shingles might even be lying around the property) or suffered damage that’s considerable enough to require replacement. Summer can be especially brutal on shingles, especially those that suffered significant damage during the winter. If left unchecked or unaddressed, problems with damaged shingles can quickly escalate into larger issues when spring rains and summer sun inevitably arrive, so homeowners should prioritize fixing or replacing damaged shingles as quickly as possible.

Check for freeze damage
External hose faucets are often susceptible to freeze damage. To inspect such faucets, turn the water on and then place a thumb or finger over the opening of the faucet. If your thumb or finger can completely stop the flow of water, the pipe where the water is coming from is likely damaged and will need to be replaced.

Examine the lawn for low spots
Once a lawn has thawed out, homeowners can patrol their properties looking for low spots in the yard or even low spots within spitting distance of the home’s foundation. When low spots are detected, fill them in with compacted soil. Compacted soil can prevent spring rains from flooding a yard or damaging a home’s foundation. Assessing potential property damage is a rite of passage for homeowners in the spring. Though some damage is significant, often times even novice DIYers can work their homes and properties back into shape in time to enjoy spring and summer.
Hammond’s selection of decks signal the arrival of summer

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Building a deck for the first time can be a daunting task, especially for the do-it-yourselfer. Getting expert advice on how to plan that deck can make the project run smoothly and provide years of enjoyment in a beautiful outdoor space. Start with some pictures and a few rudimentary drawings and come to one of the several Hammond Lumber Company locations.

Whether the homeowner or a contractor will be doing the physical work, company representative Ryan Masse said store experts will review designs and even visit the site. “Our salespeople are happy to help you with your design, product choices and framing methods,” said Masse. “We also can help you find someone to build your deck if you don’t want to do it yourself.”

Masse said many customers remember when choosing decking materials used to be easy. “Wood was the only choice,” he said. “We will always offer wood, of course, but now there are other materials, and people seem to enjoy the results.”

All of Hammond’s locations stock an inventory of decking that includes red and white cedar, pressure-treated wood and other types of hardwood deck materials.

“If you’re willing to live without some of the aesthetics of the more expensive hardwoods, then composite wood is a good option,” he said. “The maintenance is minimal, and the decking material can resist any of Maine’s weather challenges with ease.”

Composed primarily of wood fibers and recycled plastic, composite deck boards come in a wide range of colors and stains, and the boards won’t warp, split or rot.

“Whether wood or composite, today’s choices of deck colors and materials really customize and complement the entire home and maximize the multi-seasonal opportunities to entertain or just be outdoors,” he said.

Masse said customers also have a newer and wider variety of railing options in wood, vinyl, and matching composite railing and stair kits. Hammond Lumber also carries a full line of stainless steel cable rail systems that can be used with wood or metal posts to create a modern minimalist look.

Serene lighting that makes a summer evening memorable also is available. “We have several unique and beautiful lighting options, and we can customize a look that will be just as striking in the evening as in the daytime,” he said.

Hammond Lumber also stocks the ever popular Camo concealed deck fastening system that provides a way for a board to be removed easily if some part of the deck needs repair or replacement. “We have the Cortex plug color match system, as well as a variety of concealed clip systems, also” he said. “We also offer a variety of deck cleaning products to ensure every deck looks brand new for years to come.”

Spring has arrived early this year, Masse said, so customers have begun visiting the stores with their deck plans and photos. Hammond’s sales staff also can visit the homeowners’ properties to view the building site, provide an estimate and provide referrals for trusted experienced contractors who will do the job properly.

“And we provide free delivery to the customer’s building site,” he said.

For those who are ready for a new or replacement dock and a variety of accessories, Hammond Lumber is the largest Shoremaster distributor in the United States. “We keep a full inventory in all stores of swim rafts, boat lifts, standing and rolling and floating docks, with all the accessories that are available,” Masse said. “We pride ourselves in carrying the best dock system in the industry.”

With a sizable inventory and fast delivery, Hammond Lumber provides unmatched value in the shorefront market, according to Masse. Shoremaster’s highly adaptable and maintenance-free aluminum components provide a long-lasting universal water-front dock system that families can enjoy for generations to come.

A premium aluminum boat lift provides an easy dependable way to access and store your boat. What’s more, some types of boat lifts provide you with more deck space and closer access to your boat.

More DECKS, PAGE 11

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It’s the perfect time to plan and plant your containers or start your own salad bowl from seed. The plants are beautiful and ready to brighten your mood.

Browsers and Sightseers Welcome

Hope to see you soon.
Ryan Masse, an outside contractor sales representative for Hammond Lumber Company, specializes in the ShoreMaster product line. Hammond Lumber is the exclusive Maine dealer of Shoremaster boat lifts; floating, standing and wheel-in docks and accessories at the Belgrade store. The product line features a unique combination of innovative features, top-quality materials and classic good looks.

“"If you’re willing to live without some of the aesthetics of the more expensive hardwoods, then composite wood is a good option. The maintenance is minimal, and the decking material can resist any of Maine’s weather challenges with ease.””

RYAN MASSE, COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE FOR HAMMOND LUMBER CO.

Decks
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Come Meet The Mattson’s Team

Left to right: Jim Davis, Vivian Gaboury, Charles Stubenrod, Ashley Woods and Steve Goranson.
Pools, spas can bring summer into the backyard
Local companies share generations of experience

BY VALERIE TUCKER
 Correspondent

A pool is one way of enjoying Maine’s summer fun without leaving the backyard.
This might be the year to add an in-ground or above-ground pool or hot tub, according to the owners of several central Maine pool and spa companies that have generations of experience to share.

In-ground pools and spas are permanent structures. Most in-ground pools are made of either concrete, vinyl or fiberglass.

Concrete remains the most popular, according to The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals. It is more porous that either vinyl or fiberglass, yet offers a durable surface.
A vinyl-lined pool is built with wall panels made from aluminum, galvanized steel, plastic or pressure-treated plywood, but panels have to be replaced every few years.

A fiberglass pool arrives fully built and is like a huge bathtub sunk into the ground. Pool colors include the classic blue and white, but consumers have other color choices for the walls or liners of pools.

Depending on the pool materials, shape choices can vary. The classic rectangle remains popular. More expensive, above-ground pools include heating, deck and railing options, but they typically are under five feet deep, so they are not safe for diving.

Maine law requires that all pool installations include fencing. Exceptions include portable above-ground swimming pools with sidewalls at least 24 inches high. Gates or doors opening through the pool enclosure must be securely fastened when the pool is not in use. Decking is an important finishing touch around any pool.

Pressure-treated wood or wood-like composite materials are generally built around above-ground pools. Untreated wood will need more frequent maintenance, including power washing, staining and sealing. Stone, tile and cement are durable alternatives for those looking for low maintenance requirements, but those surfaces are less forgiving when someone falls or drops that glass of lemonade.

Several central Maine companies offer a variety of choices and installation options for any budget. Most do the entire job, using subcontractors for the non-pool construction. All offer unique pool and spa choices for any budget.

Aquarius Pools & Spas in Winslow sells and installs in-ground and above ground pools. Mel Higgins said the former owners, Jerry and Lona Hachey, owned the business for 35 years, and he worked in the industry. He de-

More POOLS, PAGE 13
Pool Tech owners Brian and Jenn Kelly bought the business from her parents, Linda and Colby Rockwell, when they retired. The couple has expanded the offerings and services at their store in Winslow.

“We have a great showcase of accessories, pool toys, chemicals, filters, and maintenance equipment, Brian said. “We also have a complete BioGuard Water Analysis Lab Center, and an entire parts and service work shop.”

Sunshine Pools has two stores. One is in Jay and the other location, formerly in Augusta, has just opened on Route 202 in Greene, said owner Kim LaRoche. She and her husband, Jeff, run the business that Jeff’s parents, Leon and Lucy LaRoche opened in 1973. They have a complete range of packages and services, including installation of filter systems, replacement vinyl liners and constructing concrete decking. They also sell a lot of hot tubs.

“Sometimes people just want to have something they can use all year around,” Kim LaRoche said.

Doug Hebert, owner of Century Pools in Oakland, sells in-ground and above-ground pool kits, pool liners and supplies. He offers helpful information for customers who are new to the requirements of opening and closing a pool.

More POOLS, PAGE 14
Pools
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

pools seasonally. This time of
year, he also is busy scheduling
appointments with existing and
potential customers.
“Our hours are dictated by the
seasons and occasionally the
weather,” he said. “If folks are
traveling a distance, call ahead
to be sure we’ll have someone
available to meet you.”
Merit Pools & Spas in Augusta
has been serving central Maine
for more than 40 years.
“I’ve been building pools since
1964 and owned this company
since 1974,” owner Ray Gamache
said.
He visits every customer’s
property to look at the proposed
installation site and oversees
each installation.
One of the gadgets that flies off
his shelves is the automatic pool
cleaner, he said. The unit crawls
along the sides and walls of the
pool, gobbling up debris and al-
gue growth as often as the owner
chooses to run it.
“It’s like having a teenager who
doesn’t talk back,” Gamache
said.
Canty Construction LLC

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April 30 - May 1, 2016

Specials • Workshops and Lectures • Raffles • Refreshments • Activities

All Specials Effective April 30 - May 1, 2016

Our Nursery is Open with Great Specials to Help You Get Growing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perennials*</th>
<th>Pansy 6-Pack</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buy 5, Get 1 Free</strong></td>
<td>Pansies are the perfect flower for early spring as they thrive in cooler temperatures. Longfellow’s grows all of our pansies and they are “hardened off” and ready to go home today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$(9.99 or less)</td>
<td>*In-stock items only</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Trees and Shrubs*</th>
<th>$1.99</th>
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<td><strong>20% Off</strong></td>
<td>(reg. $3.59)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bumper Crop™ Soil Builder</th>
<th>Coast of Maine™ Bar Harbor Blend</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A premium soil builder created exclusively by Master Nursery™ garden centers. Bumper Crop™ Soil Builder contains only the finest all-natural, rich, organic composted ingredients. This versatile soil is perfect for conditioning all of your garden beds.</td>
<td>Bar Harbor Blend is a premium potting soil made with salmon, blueberry, lobster and other composts, sphagnum peat, perlite and kelp meal. It’s designed for potting house plants, planting window boxes, hanging baskets and all containers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7.99 - 1 cu. ft.</td>
<td>$7.99 - 1 cu. ft.</td>
</tr>
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<td>(reg. $9.99)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Espoma™ Garden-tone</th>
<th>Get Ready for Backyard Birds</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden-tone is an all-natural plant food formulated specifically for vegetable gardens. It is safe, long-lasting, and will provide the nutrients necessary for vigorous and productive plants.</td>
<td>All Birdseed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5.49 - 4 lb. bag</td>
<td>Includes all Wild Delight™ Seed, suet and large bags of black oil and meaties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(reg. $6.99)</td>
<td><strong>20% Off</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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