T he Belgrade Community Center for All Seasons will offer Camp Loon and Camp Golden Pond for young people. SAD 51 and the Great Pond Yacht Club will also conduct six weeks of sailing lessons for kids 8 to 13. Pre-registered kids will get a free afternoon at the Center. More information and camp registration forms are available at the Center or at www.hannomisbigdogs.com, or call 472-5124 for more information.

The Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market features some of the area’s most talented growers and crafters. The market is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays from July 6 to Aug. 30. Visit the Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market page on Facebook for more information.

The Belgrade Lakes Regional Conservation Alliance has merged to become the new 7 Lakes Alliance, which serves the Belgrade Lakes. The Alliance promotes the conservation and sustainable use of fish and wildlife habitats. It also encourages the support of characteristics that make the Belgrade Lakes unique, such as the lakes and streams, surrounding forest lands, and wetlands. For more information, visit www.7lakesalliance.org.

The Belgrade Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has a new website at www.belgrademaine.com. Visit the website to get information on all the local businesses that are part of the Belgrade Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. The website includes a calendar of events, a directory of businesses, and a way to find businesses in the area.

The Belgrade Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce is also sponsoring a new event called the Belgrade Lakes Area Wine Festival. The festival will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 27, at the Belgrade Lakes Yacht Club. The festival will feature live music, wine tasting, and food. For more information, visit www.belgradelakeswinefestival.com.

Snow Pond Center for the Arts and New England Music Camp announce their 2018 Summer Music Series

The 2018 series is blended a variety of outstanding performances, from the Snow Pond Symphony, featuring composers such as Leonard Bernstein and John Williams, to The Beatles, to the New England Music Camp’s NEMC season in their performance of Snow Pond Music Camp’s annual pops concert at the Bowl-In-The-Pines. Various area artists, craftsmen, and gourmet carts will be selling their goods. Black Tie, 7 p.m. Door at 6 p.m. 

On August 13, Snow Pond Center for the Arts will present the 23rd Annual Art Show. The event will feature works from over 400 artists from across the United States and Canada. The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is Free.

On Saturday, August 18, Snow Pond Center for the Arts will present the 24th Annual Pops Concert at the Bowl-In-The-Pines. The event will feature the New England Music Camp’s NEMC season in their performance of Snow Pond Music Camp’s annual pops concert at the Bowl-In-The-Pines. Various area artists, craftsmen, and gourmet carts will be selling their goods. Black Tie, 7 p.m. Door at 6 p.m. 

On Sunday, August 19, Snow Pond Center for the Arts will present the 24th Annual Art Show Closing Reception. The event will feature works from over 400 artists from across the United States and Canada. The show will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is Free.
Day’s Store celebrates 60 years

I n the spring of 1958, Diane Oliver’s parents, Jim and Mae Day, opened a general store in Long Pond. Diane Day, moved to the Belgrade Lakes area from New Sharon and opened what is now Day’s Store. The store, at first, was a general store operated by her grandparents, Jim and Mae Day. Diane’s parents, Gary and Joyce Cote, opened what is now Day’s Store and expanded the store to sell real estate and develop properties. Diane’s parents and grandparents ran the store together and added many more generations to the family. In 1972, her grandparents relocated to New Sharon, so Diane and her brother ran the store. Around 1982, Diane’s brother, Mark, lived in Belgrade Lakes. He was teaching school, his parents exercised at the store, and he and his wife, Debra, decided to run the store and live in Belgrade Lakes. "We worked with my parents, until 1979, when we officially signed over paper to her,” she said. "She had full control of the store at that point and it was basically her decision about retirement.”

Over the years, Diane and her husband, Mark, have helped run the store. Diane and Mark have three children and two grandchildren. They have helped their children and their brother’s four children, as well as their nieces and nephews, who work at the store. In 1992, their children decided they wanted to work at the store. "That’s how the fourth generation of Day’s in the store was born.” Diane said. "Our children, Isabelle and Melissa, have been a very special and pretty incredible.”

They are both still active now, but the Diane and her husband have run the store with a great view of the lake and the surrounding area by the house. Their son, Brandon, and daughter, Isabelle, work at the store. They also have a "very special" and "very talented" daughter, Melissa, who works at the store. "Our daughter, Melissa, is the best decision she’s ever made in her life,” Diane said. "She’s been a very good owner for the last 30 years. The transition of a real estate business at this point in her life was a great opportunity. She has been an amazing volunteer in her Belgrade Lakes community, serving on several boards and living on Great Pond. "We’ve been part of the Belgrade Lakes region for a special interest in families,” she said. "We are so happy with the opportunity to put our business skills and do what we love.”

Partner and associate broker Linda Horne-Scott grew up in Mt. Vernon, and her family’s expertise in the construction industry gave her a foundation to build a career in real estate. “My dad was a contractor and a developer, and I loved to help out on different projects, including our lake home,” she said. “I was given the special gift of being raised and working in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, which I truly believe has contributed to my confidence and my love for working with others.”

"I was given the special gift of being raised and working in Belgrade Lakes, Maine,” she said. "I am so very proud of my family and our community."

The three women say they feel an amazing energy in their new space. They work together, but they also have their own styles. Customers say they appreciate the warm, inviting atmosphere and personal attention.

"We love to make people feel right at home and we take pride in our customer service,” said Linda. "We are a local company, and we love being part of the Belgrade Lakes community."

They are now gearing up for the July 4 celebration, which will be a great opportunity for the community to come together and enjoy the lake and the popular Lakeside Inn. "We have planned a July 21 celebration that will include a fireworks display, music and a photos with the lakepoint real estate team,” Diane said. "We’ll have the popular sidewalk sales, music and outdoor movie nights, and other conservation groups in town to make their business’s presence known around town."

"We also started Open Mic nights and outdoor music nights, and we are growing into a great family entertainment for the lake,” she said. "Our 60th anniversary celebration includes being part of the July 4 parade, both on and off the lake. They have the people walking and music, and yachts with live music.”

They have planned a July 21 celebration, with music, food and dancing. "The Great Laker Grills and other conservation groups in town to make their business’s presence known around town."

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"I was given the special gift of being raised and working in Belgrade Lakes, Maine," she said. "I am so very proud of my family and our community."
“There isn’t another store like this, the enthusiasm for her unique décor in her new shop at 87 Main Street in downtown Belgrade. "Every person has a special touch before better every summer they wear it," Tyler said. The eclectic assortment of vintage clothes, tablecloths, lamps and townhouses arranged in a mixture of stately elegance and cottage-inspired displays, Tyler also offers a selection of gifts for baby showers, weddings, birthdays etc., as she said, "Just because!" The inventory changes regularly, as it's a custom shop, so by the time you return, everything will have been rearranged and updated with new sets and baskets, and I make it so easy for customers to find something that's perfect for special occasions," she said.

Those perfect "gifts on the go" are especially handy for those who didn't have time to stop or just plain forget a friend's birthday or the next neighbor's housewarming party. Tyler's Bauer Creek Binchotan Torches offer a range of scents for beyond the outdoors, the perfumed scents of classic lavender roses, flowers, plants and fruits that will fill the air with the beauty of the seasons. Tyler also offers the Happy Girl Melts line of soy candles offer a unique gift for someone special or to remind you of a special memory that you’re trying to find. She's happy to create a custom blend of scents, perfect for any occasion. The Happy Girl boutique offers trendy apparel, vintage finds, gifts and decor in downtown Belgrade. The store exudes Tyler's trademark cheery colors and vintage style. She has many years of experience in event planning and treasure collecting, and doesn't have to pull together a mix that's right for them. "Great style can be found all around us, and doesn't have to be expensive or hard to find," owner Sallie Tyler said.

They offer an easily-navigated and up-to-date website, a home viewing lounge and a hands-on interactive window for 24-hour service. "Every shop owner agrees they have a deep commitment to partners with other groups in the village to invest in the rest of the town. The more shops, entertainment and services the Belgrade Lakes offers, the more there will be people to love. "We all have an emotional connection to the town, with so many memories and an appreciation of the people who make this area so special. Everyone here has a heart of gold, it's a place to call home and that's not expected to be a part of what will store when other businesses have to do. Their New Lakehome Group office overlooks a remodeled historic building. The owner spent months working with their design and the renovation of the property. "The people there are especially telling the town wonderful stories about places to visit in the village. "We're always happy to be a part of the community, so tell everyone one they're going to come local and see what we have to offer," Klein said.

The town has an amazing “Beer and wine Glass” that enjoys spectacular elevated views of the lake. The town also offers thousands of acres of bicycle and nature trails, a beautiful community center with excellent outdoor and a busy public library. Everything is within walking distance, you don’t have to worry about the lake! The new Lakehome Group office overlooks a remodeled historic building. The owner spent months working with their design and the renovation of the property. "The people there are especially telling the town wonderful stories about places to visit in the village. "We're always happy to be a part of the community, so tell everyone one they're going to come local and see what we have to offer," Klein said. "We love where we live!" For more information, visit lakehomegroup.com, email info@lakehomegroup.com or call 495-2500.
Gardner family continues to thrive after more than 50 years at Great Pond Marina

By Valerie Tucker
Correspondent

Great Pond is the largest of the Belgrade Lakes and is prized for its beauty, great fishing and vacation memories. The 6,000 acre water is eight miles long and five miles wide, and for over 50 years, the Great Pond Marina has been the center of boating in Belgrade Lakes. Bob and Debbie Gardner purchased the marina in 2003 from the late Tom Webster. This year, they celebrate their 30th year in business and they are happy to have weathered the challenges the customers have by first names. And every spring is like a family reunion, he said. "We have had the privilege of seeing them grow from kids into adults," Bob Gardner said. "We also have lost too many regular clients and boat owners, and some have moved on."

"It's always a little bittersweet," he added. "We miss them too, which could grow Great Pond into a three-generation family business. Their son, Adam, runs the marina now and then. When he has free time, he is off training his hunting dogs, his husband said. The couple has lived in the same farmhouse for 40 years, raising their three children who have started their own families and careers. That means the senior Gardners will soon be joining their three children who have started their own families and careers. That means the senior Gardners will soon be joining their son, Adam, who has worked for us, they were always treated like family," he said.

They also give the boat for a demo ride for those not familiar with the boat or lake. They offer electrical access. Moorings are available for up to 24 feet boats, and some can accommodate boats up to 24 feet, and even mooring services. The marina has 76 dock slips. The marina has a full tank of gas at the fuel dock every new and old, said Debbie Gardner. "The view over the water is spectacular, and it's the perfect ending to a perfect day," Bob Gardner said.

This year, the lake service, instructions and a demo ride for those not familiar with the lake or the marina. Customers leave with a full tank of gas and pay only for what they use. We usually throw in some good fishing tips, too, for no extra charge," he added. The marina has 70 dock slips. Some can accommodate boats up to 24 feet, and some after electrical access. Moorings can include added space to store a kayak too, which could grow Great Pond into a three-generation family business. Their son, Adam, runs the marina now and then. When he has free time, he is off training his hunting dogs, his husband said. The couple has lived in the same farmhouse for 40 years, raising their three children who have started their own families and careers. That means the senior Gardners will soon be joining their son, Adam, who has worked for us, they were always treated like family," he said.

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Three generations of the Gardner family great stalwarts and customers at the Great Pond Marina. Pictured: Shari O'Brien, Megan Cloutier, Bob Gardner. "I also think if you ask anyone who has worked for us, they are always treated like family," he said.

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For more information, email info@greatpondmarina.com or visit the marina’s Facebook page or www.greatpondmarina.com. The marina is located at 25 Marina Drive, about two miles south of the village center. Summer hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week until Labor Day.

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Correspondent

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