

Public welcome at Grand Opening for East Windham Conservation Area

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

It's said that every goal we reach has once been part of a dream that we thought would never come true. With the official Grand Opening of the East Windham Conservation Area next weekend, that dream has become a reality for generations of future residents of Windham.

Creating the East Windham Conservation Area was achieved through a partnership between the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and the Town of Windham. A special dedication ceremony will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 4 at the Lowell Preserve Trailhead in Windham marking the completion of the first phase of the project. The first phase includes a trailhead parking area, signage, five miles of trails, and views of the western mountains.

Land at the site is 99 percent forested and includes 661 acres with 1,545 feet of undeveloped water frontage on Little Duck Pond, some 38 acres of wetlands and numerous headwater streams. Through its conservation the area will directly help protect the water quality for Little Duck Pond, Highland Lake, Forest Lake, and the Pleasant River. It is the largest wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreational trail corridor in Greater Portland and provides a 30mile trail network connecting Windham's Lowell Preserve, Falmouth's North Falmouth Community Forest and Blackstrap Hill Preserve.

The new multi-use trails have been built at the site by the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and the area also includes a 150-acre Deer Wintering Area, a traditional site for hunting by permission, and the 580-foot Atherton Hill, the tallest site in Windham.

Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts said the town is grateful to the Lands for Maine's Future organization for helping to fund this project.

"The timing of this land being available to be conserved for the future with recreational usage combined with the state's renewed commitment to funding with the Land for Maine's Future program has been ideal," Tibbetts said. "The LMF Board's award to grant the town nearly \$1 million for the acquisition of this property is an opportunity we couldn't afford to pass up." Since the 1990s, Windham residents have identified the East Windham Conservation Area as an important area site to conserve during increasing concerns about local development. It features large undeveloped habitat blocks and superior water quality protection. Windham's Open Space Plan identifies developing and maintaining open space partnerships and rela-

tionships as key mechanisms to grow conservation efforts in the town and when the Windham Town Council formally adopted the Open Space Plan, Windham reached out to the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust in 2021 to be an open space partner by holding a conservation easement and sharing responsibility for the trail management on the adjacent 308acre Lowell Preserve.

In a press release issued by the Town of Windham, Windham Town Councilor Brett Jones said that the conservation of the East Windham Conservation Area property, and the open space it provides are consistent with the town's long-term comprehensive plan to preserve Windham's rural character.

"When you combine its 700 acres with other already established preserves, it will provide Windham and surrounding area residences with access to 2,000 acres of unspoiled nature and four seasons of outdoor recreational activities," Jones said.

Funding to create the area was about \$3.7 million and included a -> see CONSERVATION Page 6



The East Windham Conservation Area will hold a Grand Opening ceremony from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 4 at the Lowell Preserve Trailhead in Windham. Neatly 700 acres, the area is expected to become a destination for walking, hiking, mountain biking, trail running, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and bird and wildlife watching. COURTESY IMAGE

Windham author publishes second children's book

By Masha Yurkevich STAFF WRITERS

Jeanine Faietta Eastman is not your typical children's book author. Along with her books being entertaining, fascinating, and captivating to young eyes, they also add a historical element for young minds.

She was born and raised in Maine and currently resides with her family on Highland Lake in Windham, where generations of her family have spent summers together.

"I have fond memories of my grandfather's stories of ice harvesting that took place on the lake during the early 1900s," says Eastman. "I wanted to share the story to the younger generation of today so that they would have an idea of what life was like during that time. And, how the frozen lake garden provided such an important commodity to so many families. Everyone worked together; life certainly was very different then compared to our lives today. After all, walking two miles to school, every day, uphill both ways during a snowstorm was a thing!" Prior to writing a book, Eastman says that she does research to make sure that her books are not only interesting, but also factually correct. When writing her most recent book, "Blizzard the Ice-Harvesting Horse," Eastman researched the history of

ice harvesting in Maine, the process used, and the tools involved. "And of

course, I had all the stories told to me about the harvest," she says.

Her motivation for writing her most recent book "Blizzard Ice-Harthe

vesting Horse" Windham author Jeanine Faietta shared. about June 8. COURTESY PHOTO learn the past in an



was all about Eastman's will be available to the importance meet the public and sign copies of of history to be her new children's book 'Blizzard the Ice-Harvesting Horse' at "I hope that Sherman's Maine Coast Book children will Shop in Windham on Saturday,



smiles while doing so.

"I love when the story comes together, how a story flows when writing it, along with the perfect illustrations that help tell the story and move it along," says Eastman. She prefers to write pen to paper and then type her manuscripts when the pen to paper process is complete and the manuscript is ready to be submitted to her publisher.

informative and fun way," she said. "With Blizzard the horse telling his story straight from the mouth of the horse, I also hope that it will also be a fun read for adults as well."

Although there are so many wonderful children's books and authors, Eastman says that she wanted to add to the genre with a story about ice harvesting in Maine. She also wanted to present children with something new to learn about and have lots of

So far, Eastman has written two children's novels and plans to write more books in the future. -> see AUTHOR Page 7

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When you work as a journalist in Florida for any length of time, as I did, it's a certainty that you will write more than your fair share of strange articles about some of the weirdest activities and events. Not to say odd things don't happen elsewhere, but Florida for me was a hotbed of unusual stories not commonly reported by newspapers in other states. There were articles published about Skunk Apes (a sort of cousin of Bigfoot with an odd odor), a guy in Miami high on bath salts who chewed off part of another man's face, or a state law prohibiting singing while wearing a swimsuit.

Here are a few of many offbeat and peculiar stories I can recall from my time working for a newspaper there...

Late one night in 1995, a semi-truck driving south down I-95 near Viera suddenly jack-knifed and overturned when a passenger car swerved into its lane, spilling the contents it was hauling and leaking gasoline for a quarter mile onto the roadway surface. Following close behind, a second tractor-trailer truck also crashed at the site trying to avoid the first crash and spilling bales of freshly cut hay onto I-95.

A spark from the first truck sliding and scraping the asphalt caught the entire stretch of I-95 on fire and when news crews arrived on scene, it was reminiscent of what the inside of a malfunctioning oven might look like at KFC. There were thousands of whole frozen flaming chickens and ignited bales of hay burning to the bewilderment of Florida Highway Patrol officers who had barricaded traffic along the interstate.



ARPIL 26 1828 – Russia declares war on Turkey to support Greece's independence.

1921 – Weather broadcasts air for the first time on radio in St. Louis, Missouri.

1925 – The Pulitzer Prize for literature is awarded to Edna Ferber for her novel, "So Big."

1962 – Ariel 1, the first British-American satellite, is launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

1968 – During a test, U.S. detonates a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar" beneath the Nevada desert.

1970 – Stephen Sondheim's musical "Company" opens at Alvin Theater in New York City and runs for 705 performances.

1976 – Pan Am Airways launches non-stop flights between New York City and Tokyo, Japan.

1977 – Legendary nightclub Studio 54 opens in NYC.

1983 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average breaks 1,200 for the first time. Believe it or not, this was not the first such accident on a Florida thoroughfare involving the spillage of frozen chickens. Similar accidents involving trucks carrying frozen chickens have been reported through the years in Brandon, Jacksonville, and Escambia County.

About a mile or so south of where that crash occurred on I-95, I got to report on a different accident on the interstate and it created quite a buzz in the community in 2003. I was driving north on I-95 to cover a high school tennis match when I received a phone call from an editor at the newspaper. She informed me that a truck with an open-bed trailer hauling eight beehives had overturned and traffic north on the interstate was at a standstill. She said a highway cleanup was underway and that they were letting traffic through on one lane, but she wanted me to stop at the accident scene and take photos for the newspaper.

After more than 20 minutes sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic approaching the accident site, I was able to pull over and take some photos of highway workers wearing Hazmat suits as they were removing broken beehives from I-95. A police officer told me that a swarm of more than 5,000 angry bees had left the scene when they escaped from the beehives following the accident.

The next day, I heard that the bees had traveled more than five miles to an apartment complex and residents living there were afraid as the angry bees divebombed them as they swarmed in the rafters of the apartment's parking structure. Emergency crews had to evacuate people in those apartments, and some were forced to go to a motel for several days while the bees were captured and extracted from the apartment complex. And I later learned that one of those apartment residents forced to evacuate because of the bee invasion happened to be an ex-girlfriend of mine who was allergic to bee stings.

Around 2007, an unusual robbery and arrest was reported in Palm Bay, Florida. Apparently, a man entered a convenience store there, put a six pack of beer on the counter and asked the clerk for a pack of cigarettes. The clerk asked for the man's ID to verify that he was over the age of 21 to buy the beer and cigarettes. As the clerk looked at the ID card, the customer pulled a gun and demanded that the clerk give him money from the cash register.

The robber was handed \$40 by the clerk and fled the store carrying his six pack of beer. This was before video surveillance was widely used for convenience stores there. About 45 minutes had passed and police were at the convenience store investigating the robbery when the telephone rang behind the counter and a caller asked the clerk if he had found an ID card that he might have lost at the store.

Police suspected it was the robber and told the clerk to tell the caller to come by and pick it up before the store closed that evening. They moved their police cruiser behind the store and hid in the back room waiting for the caller to return and pick up the ID.

Inspirational Quote of the Week "To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen." - Jim Lovell Within 15 minutes, the same fellow who had robbed the store walked in and wanted his ID back. On his way out of the store, he was arrested for armed robbery.

You can't make up stories like this and it's only a small sample of what a typical news day is like there. < - Ed Pierce



What one item do you purchase the most every time you go to the grocery store?

"Ice cream." – Brian Butler

"Cheese or eggs." – Julie Mallett

"Diet Mountain Dew for my youngest." – Christopher Bowker

"When you're married to a baker, milk, butter and flour are always on the grocery list." – Colin Beck

"Cat food." – Janet Paul

"Bananas and milk." – Ellen Ruth

"Tie between meat and produce." – Brian McCarthy

"Eggs and vegetables." - Valerie Volkernick McGuire

"Some type of berry flavored gummies, love them." – Tommy Matthews

"Diet Coke." – Valerie Chapman

"Windham trash bags." – Andrew Frank

"Snickers bars." – Rhonda Fenderson

"Coffee." – Sharon Taylor

"Round steak, celery, spaghetti sauce and laundry detergent." – Anne Glotchshuk

"Yogurt. Every time." – Sabrina Golebiewski

"Hummus." – Roberta O'Brion

"Bacon and OJ." William D. Reiner

•

"Dog food, salad fixings, saltine crackers, candy, chicken thighs and salsa."

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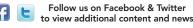
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EDITORIAL POLICY The Windham Eagle newspaper has a mission to be a Positive and Solutions Based newspaper. As a positive and solutions-based newspaper, we are committed to providing our readers with accurate, informative, and constructive news and information that uplifts and inspires. We recognize that certain content may not align with our mission and values, and therefore reserve the right to not publish certain types of content. For complete details about submissions and our letters policy, visit www.thewindhameagle.com

- Deirdre Schulte "Fruit and milk." - Lynne Latham "Tortilla chips." - Andrea Andrews "Fresh fruit and veggies. Will be glad when local farm stands open!" - Debra Jean "Smoked almonds." - Pat Landry Ouellette

"Bread." – Mickie Johnson

"Water." – Mary Dugans



Community continues to grapple with storm aftermath

By Kendra Raymond **STAFF WRITER**

Even though winter has officially passed, area property owners are still dealing with the repercussions of several extreme weather events that ravaged the area. Both the late December windstorm and the surprise late-winter nor'easter on April 4 inflicted damage on many parts of the Windham/Raymond area and knocked out power for more than 48 hours.

While some ambitious homeowners are brave enough to tackle property cleanup on their own, others are unable to safely restore their site to pre-storm conditions. A lot of locals are finding a sense of community, sharing, and assistance through various social media outlets.

Raymond resident Bruce Small recently visited Sebago Lake State Park and was astounded by the damage.

"The lake is very high with lots of erosion from the winter and spring storms," Small said in a social media post. "The last big snowstorm devastated the area. There are trees and big limbs down everywhere! It's really sad! It's going to take an enormous amount of work to clean things up!"

Other property owners report more branches down than normal and are looking for recommendations for arborists or other landscape professionals to hire. Community members are coming together to share resources and support.

In another social media post Heather Fontaine-Doyle, a Raymond resident, said that her yard looked downright apocalyptic.

"The road in has a bunch of broken and bent trees and limbs down as well," she said. "Still contemplating having someone come in for a spring cleanup since it was already a mess before the last storm, but at least we have



Storm clean-up is continuing at Sebago Lake State $_{
m souls}$ Park. The damage left by the April 4 nor'easter is enough to dig in extreme and clean-up efforts are slow but steady and tackle the mess, across the Lakes Region. PHOTO BY BRUCE SMALL

the big limbs in piles now."

Both Windham and Raymond Public Works Departments are working to remove tree limbs and other debris posing hazards to motorists, but the damage to private property across the area is beyond the scope of their duties.

Do I need a permit?

It is always best to check with the Code Enforcement Officer in your town if there is a question about permits. In general, anything considered "storm cleanup" is fine to remove, especially for safety reasons. An arborist can be a great resource since they are licensed and trained in the proper rules in your community. If they are performing work on your property, an arborist will obtain all necessary permits.

Small steps make progress

While it can seem daunting to face your post-storm yard damage, it is important not to become overwhelmed or attempt too much at once. Some broken trees can be quite dangerous to deal with and are best left to a professional with the proper training and equipment. For smaller jobs, a

"brush clean up party" where everyone lends a hand could be helpful, then reward everyone with some burgers on the grill afterward? Another method may be to inquire with the local schools to see if students may be looking for volunteer hours.

Disposal options

For those brave ambitious there are a few great

options right in the area. It would be helpful to have a pickup truck or trailer to move the debris off-site. Trailers can be rented on a daily or weekly basis.

The Town of Windham opens its leaf and brush disposal area twice a year in the spring and fall for a limited period. Its website asks that leaves be kept separate from the brush and disposed of in the appropriate areas as the posted signs indicate. If you transport your leaves in bags, please remove them from the bags and take the bags with you upon leaving. Brush being disposed there can be no larger than 12 inches in diameter.

The Windham Bush Disposal Site is located at the end of Enterprise Drive, off Route 302 in North Windham. It will close at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 12 and not reopen again until the fall.

The Casco/Naples Bulky Waste and Transfer Station is available to residents of Casco and Naples with a sticker. It is available to non-residents to pay with cash. Brush up to 6 inches is accepted and the cost depends on weight. The Transfer Station is located at 425 Leach Hill Road in Casco. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Businesses that process mulch can be another worthwhile option to consider as home and property owners search for disposal options. This "green" solution helps the environment and puts that pesky brush to good use. <





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Raymond's new Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters ready for challenges ahead

By Ed Pierce **STAFF WRITER**

Editor's note: This is another in an ongoing series of Windham and Raymond town employee profiles.

Melanie Fernald takes her new role as Raymond Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters very seriously and it's a job that not only requires meticulous attention to detail, but also being polite and cordial to everyone she meets.

In some ways, Fernald is the face of the town as she oversees the maintenance of town records for birth, death and marriages and prepares the minutes and agendas for town board and committee meetings as Town Clerk. As Registrar of Voters, she prepares the materials for state elections and town meetings, ensuring that all state and federal regulations are followed every step of the way, and certifying petitions for ballot questions and candidates.

If that wasn't enough, she also manages the issuance of business, liquor, dog, hunting and fishing licenses and registers motor vehicles and processes tax payments.

She started her new job April 1, succeeding Susan Look, who was appointed Raymond Town Manager earlier this year.

"We tend to see people in the highest and lowest points in their lives," Fernald said. "I love seeing new par-

ents come in for their baby's birth certificate or happy couples come in for a marriage license. But we also issue death certificates when a loved one has died. I take pride in knowing I've done something small to help people navigate those moments."

Originally from Westbrook, she went to Westbrook schools, then left to attend college at University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire where she studied psychology and earned a bachelor's degree. Years later, she went back to school at Hesser College in Portsmouth and earned an associate degree in paralegal studies.

After serving as an Assistant City Clerk for two and a half years in Westbrook, she worked for three and a half years as Westbrook's Deputy City Clerk. Before that, Fernald was a Legal Assistant for two County Attorney offices for criminal prosecutions in New Hampshire.

"I saw the ad for Town Clerk in Raymond and felt ready for the next challenge in my career," she said. "I have known the former Town Clerk, Sue Look, for years through mutual networking groups, and jumped at the chance to come here, knowing she'd still be around for support. Her knowledge-sharing is invaluable as I adjust to the differences between working for a city government and a town government.'



Melanie Fernald began serving as the Raymond Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters on April 1 and oversees the maintenance of town records for births, deaths and marriages, prepares the minutes and agendas for town board and committee meetings, conducts elections, and certifies petitions for ballot questions and candidates in Raymond. SUBMITTED PHOTO

According to Fernald, balancing all her duties is the most challenging aspect of her work.

"There are so many tasks to complete, so many people to assist and many interruptions due to the wide variety of tasks," she said. "A small town's clerk office staff handles an even wider range of responsibilities than larger communities, where there's a bigger staff and more people to carry the load. I have some new things to learn here that I didn't handle in Westbrook."

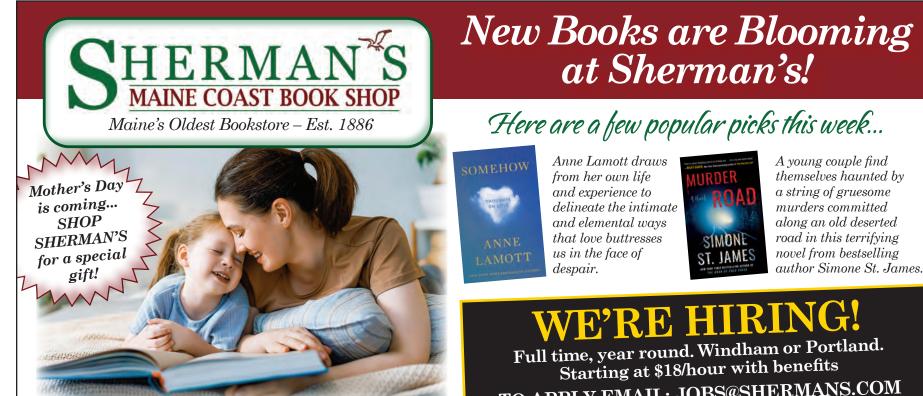
Her family has been supportive of her accepting the job as Raymond Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters.

"We are most excited about how short my commute will be to and from the camp this summer," she said. "My grandfather built a camp on Crescent Lake when my mom was a baby, and I always wish for more time there every summer. Working in Raymond will help make that dream come true."

As she settles into her new job, Fernald is confident that everything she has learned to this point will lead to success.

"I've heard Municipal Clerks referred to as the 'Swiss Army knives of their communities' and that feels like an accurate description. "The amount of information we need to learn to be able to assist residents, property owners, business owners, and visitors is vast," she said. "The clerk's office tends to be the link between residents and government. If we don't know the answers, we need to know the other resources to direct them to find their answers. I'm currently focusing on what makes the community of Raymond different and special. Every community has its own personality; spending more time here will help me learn more about Raymond's residents and visitors." <

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The Windham Eagle

Legislature approves trails bond as bill heads to ballot

The Maine Legislature has approved the Maine Trails Bond that will provide \$30 million over four years to invest in the design, development, and maintenance of trails statewide. In a strong show of bipartisan support, the Maine House voted, 133-6, and the Maine Senate voted, 29-3, far surpassing the two-thirds majority votes required to pass bond measures. The measure was signed by Gov. Janet Mills and will appear on the November ballot for approval by Maine voters.

This will be the first time that Maine voters will have an opportunity to vote for a trails bond. At a time when outdoor recreation activities, including on trails, represent a growing segment of Maine's economy, the Maine Trails Bond has garnered broad, bipartisan support across the state.

"This is terrific news," said Pete Didisheim, the Senior Director of Advocacy at the Natural Resources Council of Maine. "We're thrilled that Maine voters will have their first-ever opportunity to support a bond that would invest in new and improved trails statewide. These investments in trails will deliver



Loon Echo Land Trust Executive Director Matt Markot walks with State Rep. Jessica Fay at Pondicherry Park in Bridgton last fall. SUBMITTED PHOTO

benefits for generations to come."

The remarkably broad coalition of 520 Trails Bond supporters includes 75 cities and towns, 168 businesses, 41 ATV and snowmobile clubs, 43 statewide organizations, and 193 local organizations. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce, L.L. Bean, Maine Municipal Association, Maine Snowmobile Association, ATV Maine, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, New England Mountain Bike Association, Maine Tourism Asso-

Chris

Doughty

ciation, and Maine Outdoor Brands are but a few of the entities supporting the bond.

The Loon Echo Land Trust was one of the organizations that signed on to support the bond.

"Trails are integral to our way of life here in Maine. Our communities have long enjoyed access to this critical infrastructure, but we can't take it for granted," said Matt Markot, LELT Executive Director. "LELT manages over 35 miles of trails across the Lake Region and a Maine Trails Bond will enable us to better invest in these important community resources."

Enock Glidden, an Outdoor Accessibility Consultant and a disabled athlete, shared his support of the Trails Bond.

"As a wheelchair user and lifelong resident of Maine, I grew up in a time when accessibility was not at the fore-

front of most people's minds," Glidden said. "That's why I'm so enthusiastic about the Maine Trails Bond. If passed by Maine voters, this bond will help provide new accessible opportunities for people like me to be surrounded by nature and reap the benefits of what Maine's outdoors has to offer."

LD 1156 was introduced by State Representative Jessica Fay (D-Raymond), with cosponsor support from three other Democrats, five Republicans, and one Independent.

"Now more than ever, trails are critical to our quality of life and the health of Maine people. I am confident that Maine voters will embrace the Maine Trails Bond this fall, which will help fund trail projects across the state that enrich our lives, communities, and economy," Fay said.

→ see BOND Page 16





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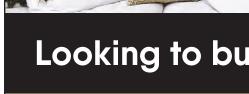
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CONSERVATION Cont. from page 1

\$1 million grant from the Land for Maine's Future initiative. In 2021, voters from Windham approved a \$1.8 million conservation bond using open space impact fees and another \$400,000 raised privately from public donations. A Land and Water Conservation Fund federal grant for \$500,000 also was obtained to pay for the infrastructure improvements at the site.

A town-wide survey in Windham conducted over a six-month period in 2021 and 2022 concluded that conserving the land to remain undeveloped for wildlife habitat, water quality protection and rural character was the top benefit to be derived from the project. The survey also ranked the second-highest community benefit for the site is to provide multiple-use outdoor recreation and create access for the whole community.

Land for Maine's Future officials say it was exciting to be part of such as expansive and significant conservation project which will provide recreational opportunities for future generations of Mainers.

"We have been excited about this project since the Town of Windham and Presumpscot Regional Land Trust first brought it to our attention in its exploratory phase," said Steve Walker, Director of the Land for Maine's Future. "This project embodies the best of public and private partnerships working together to protect the places that support our wildlife, our quality of life, and our economy."

In addition to holding the conservation easement, the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust will have a shared management agreement for the conserved land with Windham.

"This regional scale project, which is both a destination for outdoor recreation and critical for wildlife habitat, has only been possible due to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Land for Maine's Future Program, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Town of Windham's conservation bond, lead business partner Gorham Savings Bank, numerous private foundations, and over 400 local individuals and families donating to make this project a reality," said Will Sedlack, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's Executive Director.

Phase two work will begin this fall and see the remaining five miles of trails built, including a universal access trail, which can be navigated by those with limited mobility. This trail will lead to a scenic overlook with views of the Western Mountains, ensuring everyone can experience the wonders of Maine's great outdoors. A third phase of the project, planned for future years, will include an observation tower providing panoramic views from the top of Atherton Hill.

The public is invited to attend the Grand Opening event which is free, but space is limited, and registration is required. Please RSVP for the event at www.prlt.org/events <









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- Dispose of leaves and brush in designated areas ONLY (Please follow signs).
- Leaves must be removed from bags, please REMOVE them from the bags and TAKE THE BAGS WITH YOU.
- Leaf and brush disposal area is for Windham residents ONLY
- Brush must be less than 12" in diameter

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The Windham Eagle

AUTHOR Cont. from page 1

Her first children's book, "The Very Same Moon" was published in 2023 by Page Publishing, Inc. Her second book, "Blizzard the Ice-Harvesting Horse" was published just last month.

"When you read 'The Very Same Moon,' you will know that every boy loon sings a different tune," reads the summary from the back of the book. "It's true! They even have their own boy band and perform for the very same moon. So come hang out for a while, as the very same moon leads the way with a glowing light. Just like it has since the very first night. Meet all the animal friends and neighbors that have been guided through the lake waters and forest trees. Then, you will surely know why Maine is the way that life should be."

All of Eastman's books are available online at Amazon and from Barnes & Noble Booksellers. They can also be purchased at Sherman's Maine Coast Bookstore in Windham.

"I encourage everyone to support local, small Maine business and purchase my book there," says Eastman.

Here's a sneak peek into the summary of her most recent book, "Blizzard the Ice-Harvesting Horse."

"Blizzard is the ice harvesting

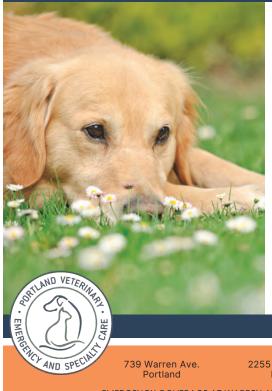
horse. Isn't it so cool that ice was harvested from the frozen waters of Highland Lake? That's how it was done during the early 1900s, so many years ago! Saddle up as Blizzard shares his adventures while he and his neighbors work together during the frigid Maine weather. With the cold wind blowing, it messes up his long mane. Oh well, lake hair, he doesn't care. After all, Blizzard's mane keeps him warm. He can make it through any storm! Neighbors helping neighbors, you will surely see why Maine has always been the way that life should be!"

Eastman will have a book signing for Blizzard the Ice-Harvesting Horse at Sherman's Maine Coast Bookstore in Windham, scheduled for Saturday, June 8, with the time of that event yet to be determined. <

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Common oral masses in cats and dogs

Unfortunately, oral masses and cancers are common in cats and dogs. Along with prevention of dental disease, annual or biannual COHATs (Comprehensive Oral Health Assessment and Treatments) can help detect these masses early when treatment may be more successful. It is common to find oral masses incidentally during a COHAT because it is impossible to do a thorough oral exam on an awake cat or dog.

Cats and dogs are both prone to oral cancer, but each has their own set of most common cancers seen. Some oral cancers can be benign, and some are more malignant. There can also be oral masses that are not cancerous at all. Benign tumors are those that do not spread to other areas of the body and are not very invasive into the tissue. Benign tumors usually can be removed relatively easily. By contrast, malignant tumors are more invasive and many of them spread to other areas of the body, making it difficult to remove or cure them. Non-cancerous masses are swellings of tissue due to inflammation or other non-cancerous reasons. Unfortunately, we cannot tell if a mass is a malignant, benign, or non-cancerous mass without removing it at least in part and sending it out for histopathology.

One of the most common oral tumors of dogs is thankfully a benign one. It is called a peripheral odontogenic fibroma, previously known as an epulis. This mass is typically associated with the periodontal ligament of the tooth, the muscle that surrounds and holds each tooth in place. Sometimes these masses are relatively small and can be removed without significant surgery. Other times, the masses can be quite large or come back after removal and requires removal of the associated tooth to ensure it does not come back.

The next most common benign oral mass of dogs is an acanthomatous ameloblastoma. While these masses are benign, they are a little more invasive into the bone and require 1 cm margins to ensure they are completely removed and do not come back. This requires removal of bone and teeth with the mass.

When it comes to malignant tumors in dogs, the most common is melanoma and make up 30-35% of malignant oral masses in dogs. These masses are often black in color, but not always, and can be found anywhere in the mouth. They can be very aggressive and grow quickly or they can be relatively benign and grow slowly. This type of malignant cancer typically spreads to the lymph nodes. If surgical resection is attempted, they require 2 cm margins to be successful.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the most common oral mass in cats and the second most common in dogs. SCC makes up 17-25 % of oral malignant masses in dogs and 60-80% of oral tumors in cats. True to their form, cats rarely have benign oral tumors. Unfortunately, SCC is very invasive and often not diagnosed until it is significantly advanced. If diagnosed early and in an accessible area, these masses can be removed with 1 cm margins. This is usually not possible in cats due to their small size.

The third most common malignant oral tumor in dogs and the second most common in cats is fibrosarcoma. It makes up 8-25% of malignant oral masses in dogs and 10-20% of malignant masses in cats. While this tumor does not always spread to other areas of the body, it can be highly invasive and nearly impossible to remove. It has long finger-like projections into the tissue which make it hard to remove without large margins. Radiation therapy can be used to shrink or control it.

The fourth most common malignant oral tumor in dogs is osteosarcoma. Occasionally this oral tumor can happen in cats, but it is not common. This is a tumor of bone more commonly seen on the limbs and makes up 9-12% of oral malignant masses in dogs. It does not commonly spread to other areas of the body when it is a primary oral tumor, but it can spread to the lungs.

Other malignant tumors in cats and dogs that are not as common include other sarcomas and carcinomas, mast cell tumors and lymphoma.

When it comes to oral cancer, the best prognosis comes with early diagnosis and treatment. We highly recommend biannual to annual COHATs for all pets to help diagnose and treat any problems in the mouth that may have otherwise gone undetected until it is too late. At Mainely Veterinary Dentistry, we send out any oral mass to a pathologist for accurate diagnosis as some malignant tumors can look benign in the beginning. It is at this stage that these tumors are more treatable. If your pet has an oral mass or they have not had a COHAT recently, we recommend talking to your veterinarian or scheduling a consultation.

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IMPROVING



Boys' tennis drops season-opener to South Portland

By Matt Pascarella STAFF WRITER

The Windham High boys' tennis team competed in its first match of the season against South Portland and put in a solid effort in singles and doubles but lost to the Red Riots, 5-0, on Tuesday, April 23 at Windham.

"We were just trying to do as well as we can for the first match," said Windham singles sophomore Carter Mathieu. "We had a lot of fun and that's what matters and hopefully throughout the season we can improve. We have a lot of time to improve, we're a young team that has a lot of potential. It was definitely tough, my opponent was very good at placement; everything I hit was coming back, I had to find ways to hit that I haven't experienced before ... it was a big battle, but a good first experience. I think I was doing a great job of staying in it. I'm hoping this will give me an idea of what it's like to play singles ... I can improve throughout the whole season. Getting my serve needs work. I've worked on it for a while and it's getting a lot more powerful. Hopefully I can get it to be really consistent. We [need to] put topspin on our shots, stay low to the net and match the ability of the opponent."

In the singles matches, South Portland defeated Windham junior Zachary Noonan 6-0, 6-0. Windham sophomore Nolan McPhail lost, 6-1 and 6-0, and Mathieu lost, 6-1 and 6-0. In the doubles matches, Windham juniors Asher Knott and Brian Gilheany worked very hard in the first match but fell, 6-4, and lost the second match, 6-0. Windham sophomore Nate Paulding and senior Fabrizio Marcuzzo were defeated, 6-0,



(L to R) Windham sophomore Nolan McPhail returns a serve during the boys' tennis season-opener against South Portland on Tuesday, April 23 at Windham High School. Sophomore Carter Mathieu is there in time for the ball. Junior Zachary Noonan sends the ball back over the net. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

and, 6-0.

"It was definitely intense – a very close match up," said Knott. "The way my South Portland doubles partners play, you have to think about placement. I felt the best I ever had, keeping it away from them and where I want it to be. In previous seasons, I've struggled with that. Maybe we could have had a bit more momentum and keep the momentum going. Our overall consistency is really good, our ability to respond to what they did was really good. We could work on positioning on the court and being caught in the middle. I felt we did pretty well; it being the first match, we are just getting started. I want to improve from that performance, and we have a good chance to do that."

The score only reflects part of the

match. Windham's second doubles team of Paulding and Marcuzzo had never played in a varsity match before. Even though they lost, they played hard against two very tough opponents. This will only make them stronger for future matches. All of Windham's singles players were doubles players last year. They, too, showed tremendous hustle on the court and in Noonan and McPhail's matches, it was so close that it really could have gone either way. Mathieu has been working hard in the off-season and gave a great effort against a seasoned player.

"It's very early in the season, so I'm really not concerned," said Windham boys' varsity tennis coach Garry Stone. "They competed and did well and I know my kids had fun. Some positives, second doubles ... got their





Junior Asher Knott (right) keeps his eyes on the ball before hitting it back over the net.

feet wet. I was very encouraged by first doubles ... in singles Carter, Nolan and Zach ... were all doubles players last year. No doubt in my mind they'll win their fair share. Returning topspin needs work, we're just not used to it. We lost that match, but we're going to compete ... have fun, get better." <



Marcus Tillery

Age: 17 Team: WHS boys' outdoor track and field Coach: Paula Pock

Parents' names: Susan Donaldson and Michael Tillerv

Reason for selection: Marcus is a great leader on the team who is very dedicated to the sport. He works very hard and is a great role model for the younger athletes, and he helps to really pick up the whole team. He sets hard goals to reach for himself and is very successful at that. His goal is to set the 100-meter Windham High School record. He's also striving to set the 200-meter and also the 4 x 100 school records. He's admired for his positive attitude, and Marcus is just a really great kid to have around the team.







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Varsity baseball falls to Marshwood in home opener

By Matt Pascarella STAFF WRITER

Windham's varsity baseball team took the field against Marshwood for their season home opener on Wednesday, April 17 but fell to Marshwood, 8-2.

The Eagles had kept it a scoreless game for four innings, but a few key hits by the Hawks in the top of the fifth inning gave them a big lead and Windham struggled to recover. Although Windham did cross the plate and have a few hits, Marshwood's fifth-inning boost was too much to overcome.

"We definitely need to do a better job of handling that," said Windham senior Login Desrochers. "It's rough but we played really well the rest of the game ... we just got to focus on limiting the damage when we get in situations like that. I think the first half of the game we swung the bats well; we did pretty good in the field. We got to string our hits together, they were a little spread out. We had too many strikeouts today, way too many swings and misses. Guys need to get together and rally in big moments, but other than that, we're looking pretty good."

Windham defense really limited Marshwood's opportunities in the first four innings. Senior Brady Harvie was on the mound and struck out eight and only let up three hits.

Desrochers singled in the first inning, but unfortunately was left on base.

"That's the type of situation where they just got five or six runs; there's no reason we can't get five or six runs," said Windham varsity baseball coach



(L to R) Windham senior Erik Bowen nears home plate late in a prep baseball game against Marshwood on Wednesday, April 17. Junior Grant Coppi holds onto the ball after catching a pop fly in right field. Senior Brady Harvie throws some heat. Senior Login Desrochers runs to first base line after driving the ball to the outfield. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Chris Doughty. "That's baseball aside from that big inning, I thought we played pretty even. Their starter is arguably the best pitcher in the state. I felt like we were prepared – a couple times I felt like we didn't take advantage of opportunities we had; our energy was a bit deflated after that [fifth] inning. You can have a big inning at any time ... especially with the talent we have on the team. Once we get on base we have a ton of speed. Still feel really good about the team, we're going to have a great season."

Harvie doubled in the bottom of the fifth inning. Sophomore Ethan Clapp singled and brought Harvie home.

"Felt good going into that fifth inning," said Harvie. "I had been pitching good that other four, kind of lost

a couple of my pitches and couldn't throw them for strikes. Hit a couple batters and had a rough inning but powered through. We made some good plays in the field; we need to get our bats going some more ... we got to be able to hit through our order and at least get the ball in play; we got to avoid that blow up inning and try to play seven solid innings of baseball."

In the bottom of the sixth inning, senior Erik Bowen was hit by a pitch; he quickly stole second base and crossed home plate after Desrochers hit a line drive to center field.

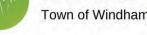
Windham battled in the bottom of the seventh inning but could not make up the difference.

"We were good in our own individual ways for the first few innings," said senior Ryan Smyth who pitched the final inning. "We got to collect as a team ... we got to get that timely hitting down and score runs. You can't just take that one inning and be like, 'the game's over.' It's something we got to work on as a team and we'll definitely be able to get there by the first couple games. That was a great pitcher we faced today - it's not easy to face someone like him; we'll adjust and get there."

According to Smyth, Windham was very aggressive in the count, solid in the field and defense was great.

Windham has already made improvements in just their second regular season game on Monday, April 22 when sophomore Wyatt Washburn pitched a no-hitter against Cheverus at Cheverus High School in Portland and the Eagles won that game, 11-0. <







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Celebrating a special birthday in Windham

State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw (R-Windham) has recognized Betty Calderwood of Windham for reaching 95 years of age on April 20, 2024. The public recognition came in the form of a Legislative Sentiment from the 131st Maine Legislature and the people of Maine. The sentiment was sponsored by Bagshaw and cosponsored by Calderwood's niece, Rep. Amy Arata (R-New Gloucester), and Arata's father, State Rep. Richard Bradstreet (R-Vassalboro). 'Betty Calderwood is a woman of faith," Bagshaw said. 'We enjoyed celebrating this milestone in her life and delivering legislative recognition from the people of the State of Maine. According to Betty, she is not a fan of television, enjoys listening to the radio, Rice



Krispies, mashed potatoes, and her extended family not necessarily in that order.' From left are State Rep. Amy Arata, Betty Calderwood, and State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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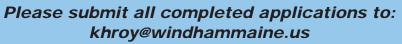


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THE CHARM OF DECORATIVE FLAGS AND SPINNERS

Transforming your outdoor space from mundane to magnificent doesn't always require a complete overhaul. Sometimes, it's the small touches that make the biggest impact. Enter decorative flags and spinners, the unsung heroes of outdoor décor that add flair, movement, and personality to any environment.

Decorative flags are versatile and come in a myriad of designs, from whimsical patterns to seasonal motifs. Whether you're celebrating a holiday, showing off your team spirit, or simply adding a pop of color, there's a flag for every occasion. Hang them from a porch railing, stake them in the ground, or mount them on a pole the possibilities are endless. Not only do decorative flags instantly brighten up your outdoor space, but they also serve as a reflection of your individual style and interests.

Now, let's talk about spinners those mesmerizing, kinetic sculptures that dance with the slightest breeze. Available in various shapes, sizes, and materials, spinners add an enchanting element to gardens, patios, and yards. Whether it's a graceful windmill, or a playful whirligig, these dynamic artworks capture the imagination and create a captivating focal point. As they spin and twirl, they infuse your

outdoor oasis with a sense of movement and energy, turning an ordinary day into a delightful spectacle.

The beauty of decorative flags and spinners lies in their ability to evoke joy and a sense of whimsy. They invite onlookers to pause, admire,

and perhaps even smile as they interact with the elements. Furthermore, they're affordable, easy to install, and require minimal maintenance, making them a hassle-free way to elevate

your outdoor décor.

So, whether you're looking to revitalize your garden, add charm to your front yard, or simply infuse your outdoor space with personality, consider incorporating decorative flags and spinners into your design

scheme. With their charm, versatility, and ability to bring a touch of magic to any setting, these delightful accents are sure to make your outdoor space shine. <

UT FLOWERS MAINE BLOO MERS: BEST ANNUALS FOR (

As spring takes hold in the Pine Tree State, gardeners are planning their flower beds and containers, eager to add a splash of color to their landscapes. For those seeking beautiful blooms to bring indoors, selecting the right annuals is essential. Here, we delve into some of the best annuals for cut flowers that thrive in Maine's:

1. Zinnias: Zinnias are a favorite among gardeners for their vibrant colors, long stems, and prolonged bloom time. These cheerful flowers come in a variety of shapes and sizes, from small button-like blooms to large, dahlia-like flowers. Zinnias thrive in full sun and well-drained soil.

2. Cosmos: Cosmos are beloved for their delicate, daisy-like flowers and feathery foliage. These easy-togrow annuals come in shades of pink, white, and magenta, adding a touch of whimsy to bouquets and arrangements. Cosmos thrive in sunny locations and are drought-tolerant once established.

3. Sunflowers: Sunflowers are iconic symbols of summer, with their bold, cheerful blooms and towering stems. These versatile annuals come

in a variety of sizes, from dwarf varieties suitable for containers to towering giants that reach several feet in height. Sunflowers thrive in full sun and well-drained soil.

4. Sweet Peas: Sweet peas are prized for their fragrant blooms and delicate tendrils, making them a popular choice for cut flower arrangements. These annuals prefer cooler temperatures and thrive in Maine's spring and early summer climate. Sweet peas come in a range of colors, from soft pastels to bold primaries, adding a touch of elegance to bouquets.

5. Marigolds: Marigolds are known for their bright, cheerful flowers and spicy fragrance, making them a staple in many Maine gardens. These hardy annuals come in shades of yellow, orange, and red, adding a pop of color to beds and borders. Marigolds thrive in full sun and tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, making them a reliable choice for Maine gardeners.

6. Dahlias: Dahlias are prized for their stunning blooms, which come in a wide range of colors, shapes, and sizes. These showy annuals thrive in Maine's warm summer climate and can be grown from tubers or started from seed. With proper care and maintenance, dahlias produce an abundance of flowers throughout the summer and into the fall.

7. Bachelor's Buttons (Cornflowers): Bachelor's buttons are beloved for their vivid blue flowers and airy foliage, making them a charming addition to cut flower arrangements. These easy-to-grow annuals thrive in sunny locations and are drought-tolerant once established, making them well-suited for Maine gardens. <

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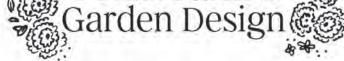


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Enhancing your outdoor living experience begins with selecting the perfect furniture to complement your space. Our outdoor environment is an extension of our homes, where we unwind, entertain, and create lasting memories. This is why it's crucial to choose furniture that not only fits comfortably within the area but also enhances its functionality and aesthetic appeal.

For compact spaces like small patios or balconies, the Balcony Basics collection offers Adirondack chairs and sets designed specifically to maximize comfort without overcrowding. These pieces maintain quality, comfort, and value while making the most of limited space. Meanwhile, for larger outdoor areas, the diverse range includes dining sets, benches, and picnic tables-ideal for hosting gatherings or relaxing by the pool or lake. When choosing outdoor furniture,

you must first consider how you use your outdoor space. Whether it's for quiet mornings with coffee, lively barbecues with family, or a spot to rest during outdoor activities there are plenty of high-end and affordable furniture options to cater to various needs - ensuring that every moment spent outdoors is comfortable and enjoyable.

The Built to Last line of Adirondack furniture is a favorite amongst homeowners across America due to not only its 25-year warranty but also customers like that it is crafted from 100% recycled, weather-resistant materials. It is built to withstand the elements while retaining its style and comfort. From sturdy Adirondack chairs to weatherproof dining sets, the products promise durability without compromising aesthetics. A spacious seat and back allow for "wiggle" room, and extra-wide armrests

GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

Millions of people embrace opportunities to get back in their gardens each spring, and they might be reaping more rewards from that activity than they realize. According to the American Institute of Stress, gardening sparks a level of creativity among enthusiasts, and that can help to alleviate stress and improve mood by lowering levels of the hormone cortisol. A busy day in the garden is also a good form of low impact exercise.

provide ample space to place a drink and even small plates.

Begin your journey to outdoor re-

laxation and entertainment by exploring the extensive range of Built-to-Last furniture at On the Docks, Windham. <

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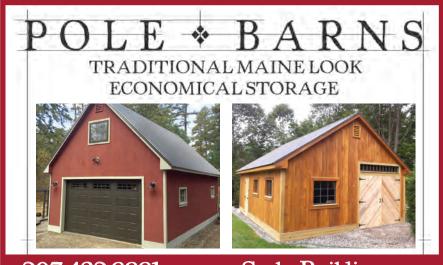
TIPS FOR PREVENTING HOME ELECTRICAL FIRES

A person's home should be a safe haven. Too often, however, there may be dangers lurking in a home that can compromise the safety of residents.

Electrical fires are no joke. The Hartford insurance company says electrical failure or malfunctions account for almost 34,000 home fires per year. The National Fire Protection Association says they can contribute to 440 deaths and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage annually.

Older homes may be most vulnerable to electrical fires, as such structures were not designed to handle the demands of modern living. The insurance experts at Nationwide say half of all homes in the United States have electrical systems that were installed before garage door openers, high-tech coffee makers, and many computers became must-have items. And the Electrical Safety Foundation International says homes built before 1973 with overloaded electrical systems pose a number of safety threats.

Overloaded circuits are not the only contributor to electrical fires. Damaged wiring characterized by worn, frayed or loose wires can cause fires.



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Malfunctioning appliances or those improperly maintained also can create home fires. Another contributor is poorly installed extension cords and power strips, as well as faulty outlets and switches around homes. Homeowners can take

various steps to reduce the risk of electrical fires at home.

• Install arc fault circuit interrupters. AFCIs are special types of circuit breakers that help prevent fires caused by nicked or frayed wiring. An AFCI gets tripped and cuts off power when an electrical problem is detected before a fire can start. In 2022, the National Electric Code started requiring AFCIs in bedrooms, and by 2017 they have been mandated throughout homes.

• Conduct a home electrical inspection. All homes more than 40 years old should be inspected to ensure their electrical systems can handle modern demands, says Nationwide. A qualified electrician can make recommendations regarding replacing breakers and suggest other modifications to improve safety.

• Utilize a monitor. Ting from Whisker Labs monitors a home's



electrical network using a smart plug-in sensor that is designed to detect hazards. The company indicates micro-arcs and sparks that develop are precursors to electrical fires.

• Turn to automatic shut-offs. Homeowners

can utilize appliances and additional devices that automatically shut off after a set period of time. This can reduce the risk of overheating.

• Rely on timers or smart devices. Timers and smart home devices can give homeowners control of electrical components like appliances or lights from a remote area. This enables users to turn an appliance on or off to reduce overheating or avoid additional risk factors for electrical fires.

• Don't go DIY. Choosing to work with a professional electrician rather than doing electrical work oneself can help reduce electrical fire risk considerably. Electricians know how to work on electrical systems safely to prevent damage to wires and components, and also safeguard themselves against shock.

Risk for electrical fires at home can be reduced with technology and other strategies. <

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NAVIGATING HOME PROJECTS: CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR

Embarking on a home improvement project is an exciting endeavor, but finding the right contractor can often feel like a daunting task. Whether you're planning a kitchen renovation, bathroom remodel, or roofing replacement, selecting a trustworthy and reliable contractor is crucial to the



success of your project. Here are some valuable tips to help you navigate the process of choosing a contractor for your home projects in Maine:

1. Identify which professionals you need: Start by conducting thorough research to identify potential contractors in your area. Some contractors are of the jack-of-all-trades variety, but many specialize in a particular line of work. It's important that homeowners identify which type of contractor they should work with prior to starting a project. This requires homeowners to define the goal of the project (i.e., new wood floor installation), which can serve as a springboard into finding the right type of contractor.

2. Verify Credentials: Once you've compiled a list of potential contractors, take the time to verify their credentials and qualifications. Ensure

that the contractor is licensed and insured in the state of Maine, as this provides protection for both you and the contractor in the event of accidents or damages. Additionally, check for any professional certifications, memberships in industry associations, and affiliations with reputable organizations.

3. Request References: Ask each contractor for a list of references from past clients and take the time to contact them to inquire about their experience working with the contractor. Ask specific questions about the quality of work, communication, timeliness, professionalism, and overall satisfaction with the project.

4. Get Multiple Quotes: Obtain detailed quotes from multiple contractors for comparison purposes. Be wary of any bids that are significantly lower or higher than the others, as they may indicate discrepancies in the scope of work, materials, or labor costs. A comprehensive quote should outline the project timeline, materials to be used, labor costs, payment schedule, and any applicable warranties or guarantees. Also, insist on written estimates. Handshake agreements offer no protection to homeowners or contractors, so estimates indicating what will be done and how much the project will cost should be provided. An unwillingness to provide is as a red flag.

5. Communicate Clearly: Effective communication is key to a successful working relationship with your contractor. Prioritize contractors who are responsive, attentive, and transparent in their communication. Discuss your expectations, preferences, and concerns openly and ensure that the contractor understands your vision for the project. Clear communication helps prevent misunderstandings, delays, and costly mistakes down the line.

6. Review Contracts Carefully: Before signing any contracts or agreements, review them carefully to ensure that all terms, conditions, and expectations are clearly outlined and agreed upon by both parties. Pay close attention to payment schedules, project timelines, change order procedures, warranties, and dispute resolution mechanisms. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to seek clarification from the contractor before proceeding. 7. Trust Your Instincts: Ultimately, trust your instincts when selecting a contractor for your home project. Choose a contractor who you feel comfortable working with, who demonstrates professionalism and integrity, and who shares your vision for the project. Your home is a significant investment, and it's essential to choose a contractor who will prioritize your needs and deliver quality results. A reliable and reputable contractor will not only deliver quality workmanship but also provide peace of mind throughout the construction process, allowing you to enjoy the transformation of your home with confidence. <









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SpringHOME & GARDEN BITE BACK AGAINST LYME DISEASE

Among the tall grasses and wildflowers that sprout each spring and summer lies a stealth predator just waiting for its chance at an easy meal. Ticks may be small in stature, but their impact on bite victims can be significant. Preventing Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses comes down to following some key steps.

• Learn how common Lyme disease is. Lyme disease affects an estimated 476,000 people each year in the United States alone, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases. However, instances of Lyme disease are likely underreported due to undiagnosed cases.



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• Know which ticks carry Lyme disease. The black-legged deer tick carries the Lyme disease spirochete. Adult males and females are active October-May, as long as the daytime temperature remains above freezing.

• Wear light-colored clothing outdoors. When traveling in areas where ticks reside, it is important to wear light-colored clothing. Long pants and tall socks, long-sleeved shirts, and hats also should be worn. It is easier to spot ticks on light-colored clothing, and covering up prevents

ticks from gaining easy access to skin.

• Know where to expect ticks. John's Hopkins Medicine says blacklegged ticks live in moist and humid environments, particularly in and near wooded or grassy areas. Walking through leaves and bushes or through tall grasses can disturb ticks and enable them to jump onto people or pets. To avoid ticks, walk in the center of trails and avoid tall vegetation.

• Be mindful of pets. Even if you do not venture outdoors into tick-laden environments, your dog may. He or she can carry ticks into the house where they may end up on you or other family members. Prescription tick

repellent products are available from veterinarians, and there are topical solutions and collars that can keep ticks away.

• Remove ticks quickly and correctly. The CDC says if a tick is removed in less than 24 hours from

when it first attached, the chances of getting Lyme disease is very small. Remove a tick with finetipped tweezers as soon as it is noticed, being cautious to remove all mouth parts. Try not to squeeze the tick, as it can regurgitate saliva and other flu-

ids when squeezed.

• Repel ticks when possible. Create less favorable conditions for ticks. Use a product containing DEET or permethrin on clothing to repel ticks. Some natural remedies to deter ticks is lemongrass essential oil, oil of lemon eucalyptus, oregano, rosemary, spearmint and thyme oils.

• Call a professional. It is extremely common for residents to use chemical-control agents on their properties to reduce the number of ticks in the yard. Hiring a professional company is an affordable and effective way to gain peace of mind and be able to enjoy outdoor spaces with ease. <

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In recent years, the adoption of smart home features for security and convenience has seen a significant rise, driven by several key factors:

1. Enhanced Security: Smart home security systems offer advanced features such as real-time monitoring, motion detection, and remote access. Homeowners can receive instant alerts on their smartphones in case of suspicious activity or unauthorized entry, allowing them to take immediate action, such as contacting authorities or activating alarms. The ability to remotely control and monitor security cameras, door locks, and sensors provides homeowners with peace of mind and a heightened sense of security, whether they are at home or away.

2. Convenience: Smart home devices streamline daily tasks and routines, making life more convenient for homeowners. From voice-activated assistants that can control lights, thermostats, and appliances to smart locks that allow for keyless entry, these features simplify home management and improve efficiency. For example, homeowners can remotely adjust thermostat settings, lock or unlock doors for visitors, and even receive package delivery notifications-all

from their smartphones or tablets.

3. Integration and Automation: One of the key advantages of smart home technology is its ability to integrate seamlessly with other devices and systems, creating a unified and interconnected ecosystem. Home automation platforms allow homeowners to create custom routines and schedules that automate various tasks, such as turning on lights at sunset, adjusting temperature settings based on occupancy, closing and opening shades and garage doors, and arming security systems when everyone leaves the house. This level of integration not

only enhances convenience but also improves energy efficiency and optimizes security.

4. Remote Monitoring and Control: Smart home features enable remote monitoring and control of various aspects of the home, regardless of the homeowner's location. Whether traveling for work or on vacation, homeowners can use their smartphones or computers to check on their home's security status, monitor energy usage, and even view live video feeds from security cameras. This remote access provides homeowners with greater flexibility and control over their homes, allowing them to stay connected and informed.

5. Energy Efficiency: Smart home devices help homeowners reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills by optimizing energy usage and promoting eco-friendly practices. Smart lighting systems, for example, can be programmed to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and dim or brighten based on natural light levels, reducing unnecessary energy consumption.

As technology continues to evolve and become more accessible, smart homes are likely to become even more prevalent, offering homeowners unprecedented levels of convenience, comfort, and peace of mind. <

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ADVANTAGES TO HIRING A PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPER

Hiring a landscaper for mowing and garden maintenance can offer several advantages for homeowners who want to keep their outdoor spaces looking their best without the hassle of DIY upkeep. Here are some key benefits:

1. Expertise and Experience: Landscapers are professionals with specialized knowledge and experience in lawn care and garden maintenance. They understand the unique needs of different plant species, soil types, and climate conditions, allowing them to provide tailored care and attention to your landscape. Their expertise ensures that your lawn and garden receive proper maintenance techniques, leading to healthier, more vibrant plants and a well-manicured appearance.

2. Time Savings: Lawn care and garden maintenance require regular attention and can be time-consuming tasks for homeowners with busy schedules. By hiring a landscaper, you can reclaim your valuable time and spend it on other priorities, knowing that your outdoor spaces are in capable hands. Landscapers have the equipment, manpower, and efficiency to complete maintenance tasks quickly and efficiently, freeing up your weekends for relaxation and leisure activities.

3. Consistent Maintenance: Landscapers follow a regular maintenance schedule to ensure that your lawn and garden receive consistent care throughout the year. From mowing and edging to pruning and fertilizing, they take care of all the essential tasks necessary to keep your landscape healthy and attractive. Consistent maintenance not only enhances the overall appearance of your property but also prevents issues such as weed overgrowth, pest infestations, and nutrient deficiencies.

4. Access to Equipment and Resources: Landscapers have access to

professional-grade equipment, tools, and resources that may not be readily available to homeowners. From lawn mowers and trimmers to irrigation systems and soil amendments, they have everything needed to tackle a wide range of maintenance tasks efficiently and effectively. By hiring a landscaper, you benefit from access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology without the need to invest in expensive tools yourself.

5. Customized Services: Landscapers offer customized services tailored to your specific needs and preferences. Whether you require weekly lawn mowing, seasonal cleanups, or spe-

cialized garden care, they can create a maintenance plan that suits your budget and schedule. Landscapers work closely with clients to understand their goals and priorities, providing personalized recommendations and solutions to achieve the desired results.

6. Enhanced Curb Appeal: Well-maintained landscaping enhances the curb appeal of your home, increasing its attractiveness and value. Landscapers have an eye for design and aesthetics, ensuring that your outdoor spaces are visually appealing and harmonious with your property's architecture and surroundings. From creating lush green lawns to designing

colorful flower beds and elegant hardscapes, they can transform your landscape into a welcoming and inviting outdoor oasis.

In conclusion, hiring a landscaper for mowing and garden maintenance offers numerous advantages for homeowners, including expertise and experience, time savings, consistent maintenance, access to equipment and resources, customized services, and enhanced curb appeal. By entrusting your lawn and garden care to a professional landscaper, you can enjoy beautiful, healthy outdoor spaces year-round without the stress and hassle of DIY maintenance. <



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THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING BACKYARD TREES

As Maine residents know all too well, the state's rugged landscapes and coastal regions are no strangers to severe weather. From powerful nor'easters to winter ice storms and summer thunderstorms, the threat of emergency weather events looms large, often wreaking havoc on homes and communities. While preparing for these storms typically involves securing outdoor furniture and stocking up on supplies, one aspect that is often overlooked is the maintenance of backyard trees. Here, we delve into the importance of maintaining backyard trees before emergency storms hit and the steps homeowners can take to mitigate potential risks.

1. Mitigating Hazards: Trees can become hazardous during storms if they are weak, diseased, or structurally compromised. Overhanging branches, deadwood, and leaning trees pose significant risks to property and safety, especially during high winds and heavy precipitation. By proactively assessing and addressing these hazards before a storm strikes, homeowners can reduce the likelihood of tree-related damage and protect their homes and loved ones.

2. Preventing Property Damage: Falling trees and branches can cause extensive damage to homes, vehicles,

fences, and other structures during storms. Regular tree maintenance, including pruning, trimming, and removal of dead or diseased limbs, helps prevent property damage and minimize the impact of falling debris. Additionally, maintaining healthy trees through proper watering, fertilization, and pest management enhances their resilience to adverse weather conditions.

3. Ensuring Safety: Safety is paramount during emergency storms, and properly maintained trees contribute to a safer outdoor environment for homeowners and their neighbors. By removing weak or hazardous trees and branches, homeowners can minimize the risk of injury to themselves, their families, and passersby. Clearing debris and fallen branches promptly after a storm also helps prevent accidents and facilitates recovery efforts.

4. Preserving Aesthetics and Property Value: Trees are valued for their beauty, shade, and environmental benefits, and preserving healthy trees enhances the aesthetics and value of residential properties. Regular tree maintenance helps preserve the natural beauty of landscapes, ensuring that trees remain assets rather than liabilities during emergency storms. Well-maintained trees also contribute



to curb appeal and may increase property values.

5. Supporting Ecosystem Health: Trees play a vital role in Maine's ecosystems, providing habitat for wildlife, improving air quality, and reducing soil erosion. By maintaining healthy trees, homeowners contribute to the overall health and resilience of local ecosystems, supporting biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Proper tree care also helps mitigate the spread of pests and diseases that can harm native vegetation.

TAKING ACTION:

• Schedule Regular Inspections: Conduct regular inspections of backyard trees to identify signs of damage, disease, or decay. Look for cracks, splits, cavities, and other structural issues that may compromise tree health and stability.

• Prune and Trim as Needed:

Prune trees regularly to remove dead, diseased, or overgrown branches that pose hazards during storms. Hire a certified arborist to perform pruning and trimming, especially for large or mature trees.

• Remove Hazardous Trees: If a tree is severely damaged, diseased, or structurally unsound, consider removing it before a storm hits to prevent potential damage and safety hazards.

• Hire a Tree Company: Working with trees can be dangerous, especially when dealing with large or damaged trees. Tree companies have the necessary equipment and training to safely and efficiently perform tree maintenance and removal tasks, reducing the risk of accidents or property damage. Be sure the company you hire is insured in the event of an accident or property damage.

By proactively addressing tree hazards, preventing property damage, ensuring safety, preserving aesthetics, and supporting ecosystem health, homeowners can mitigate risks and enhance resilience to emergency storms. Remember, the time to prepare is before the storm arrives—take action now to safeguard your home and community against tree-related hazards. <



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POPULAR PERENNIALS AND SHRUBS FOR THRIVING GARDENS

Southern Maine's temperate climate and diverse landscapes provide an ideal environment for cultivating lush and vibrant gardens. When it comes to choosing plants that will thrive year after year, selecting the right perennials and shrubs is key. Here, we explore some of the best options for southern Maine gardens:

1. Coneflowers (Echinacea): Coneflowers are beloved for their vibrant blooms, which attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies. These hardy perennials are drought-tolerant once established and thrive in full sun to partial shade. With their striking colors and long bloom period, coneflowers add beauty and interest to any garden.

2. Daylilies (Hemerocallis): Daylilies are prized for their easy care and abundant blooms, which come in a wide range of colors and sizes. These resilient perennials thrive in southern Maine's climate and soil conditions, making them a popular choice for gardeners seeking low-maintenance plants with a long-lasting impact.

3. Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia): Black-eyed Susans are quintessential summer bloomers, with their cheerful yellow flowers and dark centers brightening up gardens from midsummer to fall. These versatile perennials are drought-tolerant and attract pollinators, making them an excellent choice for adding color and wildlife interest to southern Maine landscapes.

4. Hostas: Hostas are prized for their lush foliage and shade tolerance, making them ideal for gardens with limited sunlight. Available in a variety of sizes, colors, and textures, hostas add texture and visual interest to shady areas and thrive in southern Maine's cool, moist climate.

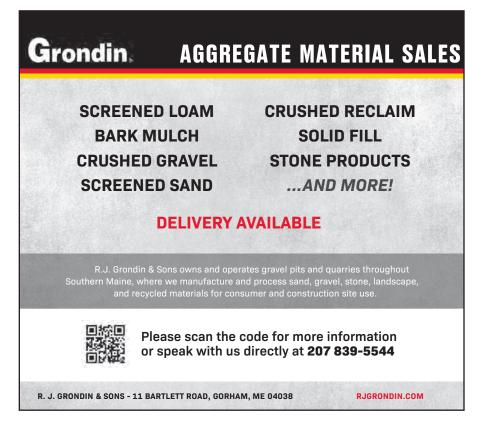
5. Hydrangeas: Hydrangeas are beloved for their showy blooms and long-lasting appeal. Varieties such as Endless Summer and Annabelle thrive in southern Maine's acidic soil and cool summers, producing abundant flowers from midsummer to fall. With proper care and pruning, hydrangeas can be a stunning focal point in any garden.

6. Blueberry Bushes (Vaccinium spp.): Blueberry bushes are not only delicious but also a beautiful addition to Maine gardens. These native shrubs thrive in acidic soil and full sun, producing bountiful harvests of sweet berries in the summer months. Blueberry bushes also provide year-round interest with their delicate white flowers in spring and fiery foliage in fall.

7. Rhododendrons and Azaleas: Rhododendrons and azaleas are prized for their stunning spring blooms and evergreen foliage, making them a popular choice for adding color and structure to landscapes. These shrubs thrive in acidic soil and partial shade, making them well-suited for gardens with dappled sunlight or filtered shade.

Whether you're seeking colorful blooms, lush foliage, or delicious berries, there's a perennial or shrub perfect for every garden in Maine. These are just a few of the most popular ones, but keep in mind there are many other suitable options. Contact your local garden center or landscaper for advice on what will do good where and how to properly care for them. Their expertise is priceless. <

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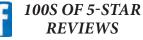
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THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING YOUR CHIMNEY

As the cold winds sweep through Maine, families across the state rely on their chimneys to provide warmth and comfort during the winter months. However, many homeowners overlook the importance of regular chimney maintenance, putting their homes and loved ones at risk. Here, we delve

into the significance of cleaning and maintaining your chimney.

1. Preventing Chimney Fires: Over time, creosote, a highly flammable substance, can accumulate inside chimney flues. When ignited, creosote can lead to chimney fires that pose a serious threat to your home

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2. Improving Air Quality: A dirty chimney can hinder the proper venting of smoke and gases from your fireplace or wood stove, leading to poor indoor air quality. Harmful pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, can build up in your home, posing health risks to you and your family. By cleaning and maintaining your chimney, you can ensure proper ventilation and protect indoor air quality.

3. Extending Chimney Lifespan: Neglecting chimney maintenance can lead to deterioration of chimney components, such as bricks, mortar, and liners. Over time, this can compromise the structural integrity of your chimney, leading to costly repairs or even replacement. Regular cleaning and maintenance help identify and address issues early, prolonging the lifespan of your chimney and saving you money in the long run.

4. Preventing Animal Intrusions: Chimneys provide cozy nesting spots for birds, squirrels, and other critters seeking shelter from the cold. However, these animals can cause blockages and damage to your chimney, hindering proper airflow and ventilation. Regular chimney inspections and cleaning help detect and remove animal nests and debris, preventing costly damage and ensuring optimal chimney performance.

5. Ensuring Efficient Heating: A clean and well-maintained chimney promotes efficient heating by allowing smoke and gases to exit your home freely. When airflow is obstructed by creosote buildup or debris, your fireplace or stove may not operate efficiently, resulting in reduced heat output and increased fuel consumption.

6. Compliance with Fire Safety Regulations: Proper chimney maintenance is not only essential for safety but also required by fire safety regulations and building codes. Failure to clean and maintain your chimney can result in violations and penalties, as well as increased insurance premiums. By staying on top of chimney maintenance, you can ensure compliance with regulations and protect your home and loved ones from potential hazards.

Don't wait until winter arrives take proactive steps to care for your chimney and enjoy a cozy and worry-free heating season in your Maine home. <



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SIGNS IT IS TIME TO REPAIR OR REPLACE YOUR DECK

Spring is a season of rejuvenation that compels millions across the globe to quit hibernating and get back to enjoying the great outdoors. Spring also marks a great time to assess a home's exterior,

namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come. Harsh winter weather can take its toll on a deck, and the following are some telltale signs that a deck could be in need of repair or replacement.

• Wobbly underfoot and in hand: Wobbly planks and railings are one sign of a deteriorating deck homeowners won't recognize as they hide from winter weather indoors. But these tend to reveal themselves rather quickly when examining a deck after winter. Wobbly planks in the middle of the deck can be inconvenient, but wobbly steps and railings can be dangerous. According to the home improvement resource Angi, wobbly railings can be a byproduct of rot. A local decking professional can assess the extent of the rot in railings and elsewhere and determine the best



necessary. Extensive rot may require a full replacement of the existing deck.

• Faded paint: Many homeowners

course of action. If the

rot is isolated to an

area or two, a simple

repair may be all that's

paint their wood decks, and that paint will not last forever. Faded paint can turn an otherwise lovely deck into an eyesore, and paint can fade over the winter. Thankfully, a local painter can address a faded deck and may recommend some additional strategies to safeguard the deck against fading next winter and beyond.

• Holes in the wood: Many a homeowner has encountered curious-looking holes in their deck. This could be a sign of insect infestation. Termites, carpenter ants and carpenter bees are among the various types of insects that can bore holes through wood. Homeowners who notice holes throughout their deck are urged to call a deck professional and/or pest control firm to assess the holes and offer a solution. Though small issues may be addressed with repairs, a deck littered with holes caused by insects

may need a full replacement.

• **Rust:** Wood decks may be made of wood, but they can still exhibit signs of rust, namely in the nails and metal connectors that hold the deck together. If screws have rusted to the point where they are no longer holding the deck together, a full-scale

replacement could be in the cards, as the deck could have substantial structural damage. Like other issues that can reveal themselves during a springtime inspection of the deck, rust necessitates a thorough examination by an experienced decking professional. <



Some improvements like updating your kitchen, expanding your space or building a pool, as examples, may require more coverage. While other projects such as a new roof, upgrading your HVAC system or adding a security system, may actually lower your rates.

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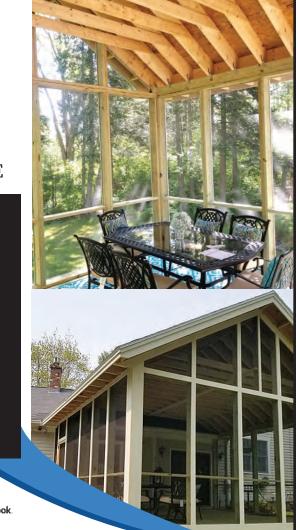


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THE ADVANTAGES OF HIRING A CLEANING COMPANY

Maintaining a clean and tidy home or office environment is essential for promoting health, productivity, and overall well-being. However, keeping up with cleaning tasks can be time-consuming and exhausting, especially for busy individuals and businesses with demanding schedules. That's where hiring a professional can make a world of difference. Here are some key advantages of enlisting the services of a cleaning company:

1. Expertise and Experience: Professional cleaning companies employ trained and experienced cleaners who have the knowledge, skills, and expertise to tackle cleaning tasks efficiently and effectively. They are familiar with industry best practices, cleaning techniques, and the use of specialized equipment and cleaning products to achieve superior results. Whether it's deep cleaning carpets, sanitizing bathrooms, or polishing floors, cleaners can handle a wide range of cleaning needs with attention to detail.

2. Customized Cleaning Plans: Cleaning companies offer customized cleaning plans tailored to the unique needs and preferences of their clients.



Whether you require daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly cleaning services, they can create a schedule that fits your budget, schedule, and cleaning priorities. Additionally, cleaning companies can accommodate specific requests and address any areas of concern, ensuring that your cleaning needs are met to your satisfaction.

3. Time Savings: Outsourcing cleaning tasks to a professional cleaning company frees up valuable time for individuals and businesses to focus on more important priorities. Instead of spending time and energy on cleaning chores, you can devote your time to work, family, hobbies, or other activities. Cleaning companies handle all aspects of cleaning, from dusting and vacuuming to disinfecting and organizing, allowing you to enjoy a clean and healthy environment without the hassle of DIY cleaning.

4. Consistent Quality: Professional cleaning companies are committed to delivering consistent quality and excellence in their services. They adhere to high standards of cleanliness and professionalism, ensuring that every visit meets or exceeds your expectations. With a dedicated team of cleaners and quality assurance protocols in place, cleaning companies strive to maintain a high level of consistency and reliability.

5. Health and Safety: A clean and sanitary environment is essential for promoting health and safety, especially in shared spaces such as homes, offices, and commercial facilities. Professional cleaners follow industry-standard cleaning protocols and use EPA-approved disinfectants and cleaning products to kill germs, bacteria, and viruses. By maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, cleaning companies help prevent the spread of illnesses and create a healthier indoor environment for occupants.

6. Cost-Effectiveness: While some may perceive hiring a cleaning company as an additional expense, it can actually be a cost-effective investment in the long run. Professional cleaners work efficiently and use their expertise to maximize cleaning results while minimizing waste and inefficiency. Additionally, outsourcing cleaning tasks eliminates the need to purchase cleaning supplies and equipment, saving you money on cleaning products and maintenance costs.

By entrusting your cleaning needs to a professional, you can enjoy peace of mind knowing that your space will be clean, healthy, and well-maintained, allowing you to focus on what matters most in your life or business. <



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POPULAR COLORS FOR PAINT AND HOME DECOR

NEUTRAL TONES: Timeless neutrals like white, beige, and gray continue to be popular choices for interior walls. These colors provide a versatile backdrop that complements a variety of decor styles and allows homeowners to easily change accent colors and accessories.

1. Earthy Hues: Natural and earthy tones such as warm browns, soft greens, and muted blues have been gaining popularity as people seek to bring the tranquility of nature indoors. These colors evoke a sense of calm and connection to the outdoors, making them ideal for creating serene living spaces.

2. Bold Accents: While neutral tones dominate main living areas, bold accent colors are being used to add personality and drama to smaller spaces like entryways, bathrooms, and accent walls. Deep blues, rich greens, and jewel tones are popular choices for creating striking focal points and adding visual interest to rooms.

3. Soft Pastels: Soft pastel hues like blush pink, pale lavender, and soft mint are making a comeback in interior design, particularly in bedrooms and nurseries. These delicate shades

create a soothing atmosphere and add a touch of sweetness to any space.

4. Warm Whites: Warm white shades with creamy undertones are increasingly favored over stark, cool whites for creating a cozy and inviting ambiance. These soft whites pair well with natural wood tones and warm metallic accents, adding warmth and depth to rooms.

5. Greige: Greige, a blend of gray and beige, continues to be a popular choice for homeowners looking for a versatile and modern alternative to traditional neutrals. This neutral hue offers a sophisticated and understated backdrop that works well in both contemporary and classic interiors.

Ultimately, the best paint colors for a home depend on individual preferences, architectural style, and the desired mood and atmosphere of each room. Whether opting for timeless neutrals, soothing earth tones, or bold statement colors, homeowners have a wide range of options to choose from to create spaces that reflect their personal style and enhance their living experience.

You can always consult a professional for ideas and expertise. <

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9 SIGNS OF PEST INFESTATION IN AND AROUND YOUR HOME

Individuals want a home that is welcoming and comfortable. Unfortunately many conditions that people find appealing also appeal to pests. Pests may be more problematic at certain times of year, such as when weather is extreme and pests like rodents or even raccoons seek refuge in a home. During times of year when temperatures are mild, certain insects may begin to hatch or swarm, becoming problematic around the home.

Some signs of pests taking up residence may be readily apparent, while others may be less obvious. The following are nine signs of pest infestation in or around a home.

1. Droppings: Small droppings may indicate that pests are nearby. Droppings will vary depending on the insect or rodent. It's good to familiarize yourself with the appearance of various droppings, from mice to termites to bed bugs.

2. Footprints: Footprints are another sign of pest infestation. Footprints left in dirt around a home, or in dusty areas in the attic or basement, may show that pests are tracking in and out of the house.

3. Sawdust piles or trails: Sawdust could be indicative of termites or ants. Insects like carpenter bees also may burrow into areas of wood and leave sawdust behind.

4. Shed wings, skins and casings: Many insects molt and, during this process, will shed certain parts of their anatomy to grow larger. Roaches, bed bugs and beetles are some pests that might be scattering sheds or egg casings in a home. Termite wings are

discarded once the swarmers choose a new location for the colony.

5. Foul odors: Musty or foul smells, particularly in hidden areas, may indicate pests are nesting nearby. 6. Unexplained

noises: Scratching

or scurrying in walls or floors often indicates pests are present.

7. Bites: Waking up in the morning with welts or red areas on the skin might indicate the presence of bed bugs or other biting insects.

8. Presence of nests: Those who can see nests in corners or undis-

turbed areas of the home likely have pests present. Rodents often use chewed cardboard, insulation, paper, and other scavenged items to create nests, according to exterminators.

9. Increased number of beneficial insects: An influx of spiders and other predatory insects may indicate there are plenty of food sources in the home for them to feast on.

Pests can be problematic, but homeowners who recognize signs of infestation can take prompt action. <

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Studies show that curb appeal can have a significant impact when selling a home. One study, which examined Google Street View photos and sales data from more than 88,000 properties, found that homes with high curb appeal sold for an average of 7 percent more than similar homes with less inviting exteriors. Homes defined as having high curb appeal for the study included those with features including well-maintained lawns and professional landscaping.



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When it comes to home maintenance in Maine, few tasks are as crucial as keeping your roof in top condition. With its harsh winters and unpredictable weather patterns, the Pine Tree State presents unique challenges for homeowners. Understanding when to undertake roofing projects can save you time, money, and headaches down the road.

Maine's climate is characterized by cold winters, ample snowfall, and occasional severe storms. These weather conditions can take a toll on roofing materials, causing damage that compromises the integrity of your home. That's why it's essential to schedule roofing inspections and repairs at the right time.

The ideal time to tackle roofing projects in Maine is during the warmer months, typically from late spring to early fall. During this period, the weather is more predictable, and contractors can work more efficiently without having to contend with ice, snow, or freezing temperatures. Additionally, warmer weather allows roofing materials, such as shingles and sealants, to adhere properly, ensuring a durable and watertight seal.

Spring is an excellent time for roof inspections, as it allows contractors to assess any damage caused by winter

weather and make necessary repairs before the summer heat sets in. Addressing issues early can prevent them from worsening and potentially causing more extensive damage to your home.

Summer is prime time for roofing projects in Maine. With longer daylight hours and dry weather conditions, contractors can complete installations or replacements efficiently. Whether

you're upgrading to more durable materials, such as metal roofing, or simply replacing worn-out shingles, summer offers optimal conditions for getting the job done.

However, it's essential to plan ahead and schedule your roofing project well in advance, as contractors tend to be busier during the summer months. By securing a spot on their schedule early, you can ensure that your project is completed in a timely manner.

Fall is another suitable season for roofing projects in Maine, particularly in the early months when the weather is still relatively mild. It's an opportune time to tackle any remaining repairs or maintenance tasks before winter arrives. Additionally, completing roofing projects in the fall can help prepare your home for the harsh conditions

ahead, minimizing the risk of leaks, ice dams, and other winter-related issues.

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While winter may not be the most ideal time for roofing projects in Maine, it's still possible to address urgent repairs if necessary. However, it's essential to exercise caution and work with experienced contractors who understand how to navigate the challenges of winter weather safely.

By scheduling inspections, repairs, or replace-

3 MOST COMMON TYPES OF ROOFING MATERIALS USED IN MAINE: • Asphalt Shingles: Asphalt shingles are popular due to their affordability, durability, and availability in various styles and colors. They can withstand Maine's harsh weather conditions, including snow, to rain, and wind. Additionally, asphalt shingles are relatively easy to • Metal Roofing: Metal roofing is another common choice. It offers excellent durability and longevity, often lasting 50 years or more. Metal roofs are resistant to fire, insects, rot, and mildew, making or them well-suited for Maine's climate. They also shed snow easily,

• Wood Shingles or Shakes: Wood shingles or shakes are traditional roofing materials that provide a rustic and natural appearance. Cedar is commonly used due to its resistance to decay and insects. Wood shingles and shakes can complement the aesthetic of many homes and offer good insulation properties. However, they require regular maintenance to prevent moss, algae, and rot.

ments during the warmer months, you can ensure that your roof remains in optimal condition withstand the rigors of the state's climate. Whether you're proactively maintaining your roof addressing unexpected damchoosing age, the right time to tackle roofing projects can help protect your home and investment for years to come. <

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The adage "there's a lid for every pot" suggests that, even in relation to the real estate market, there's bound to be a buyer for every home on the market. Price is a significant variable in the minds of potential buyers, but there are additional factors that can affect the impression people get of a given home.

Certain home features can tip the scales in favor of sellers. In fact, various renovations can help sell homes more readily. And these renovations need not cost a fortune. Putting a but these tips may help it sell fast.A fresh coat of paint: Although

home on the market can be stressful,

painting is relatively inexpensive and a job that some do-it-yourselfers can tackle, it's not a task relished by many. Painting is messy, it takes time, and requires moving furniture. In fact, prepping a room for painting often is the toughest component of any painting job. But fresh coats of paint can create a strong first impression. Choose a neutral color and get painting. Jennie Norris, chairwoman for the Interna-

DID YOU KNOW?

Inflation has garnered countless headlines in recent years, and much of that news has focused on the notably higher cost of food. Though the cost of some items at the grocery store has gone down in 2024, many items remain significantly more expensive than they were as recently as three or four years ago. In an effort to overcome rising food costs, some consumers have thought about gardening. According to Washington State University, the average household with a food garden spends around \$70 per year on seeds and garden supplies. The reward for that small investment is roughly \$600 worth of food. Though the financial investment associated with a food garden might be minimal, it's important for prospective gardeners to recognize that the commitment of time required to establish and sustain a food garden can be significant. tional Association of Home Staging Professionals, says gray is a "safe" color that has been trending in recent years.

• Minor bathroom remodel: Remove dated wall coverings, replace fixtures, consider re-glazing or replacing

an old tub, and swap old shower doors for fast fixes in a bathroom. If there's more room in the budget, replacing a tub, tile surround, floor, toilet, sink, vanity, and fixtures can cost roughly \$10,500, says HGTV. You'll

recoup an average of \$10,700 at resale, making a minor bathroom remodel a potentially worthy investment.

• **Redone kitchen:** The kitchen tends to be the hub of a home. This room gets the most usage and attention of any space, and it's a great place to focus your remodeling attention. The National Association of the Remodeling Industry estimates that homeowners can recover up to 52 percent of the cost of a kitchen upgrade upon selling a home. Buyers want a functional and updated kitchen. Trending features include drawer-style microwaves and dishwashers, commercial ranges, hidden outlets,

and even wine refrigerators.

• Updated heating and cooling system: Better Homes and Gardens reports that homeowners may be able to recoup 85 percent of the cost of new HVAC systems when they sell their

homes. Heating, cooling and ventilation components are vital to maintain. You don't want buyers to be taken aback by an older system, and many millennial buyers are not willing to overlook old mechanical systems.

• Fresh landscaping: A home's exterior is the first thing buyers will see. If they pull up to a home with eye-catching landscaping and outdoor areas that are attractive yet functional, they're more likely to be intrigued. Often buyers will equate a home that features an impressive exterior with upkeep inside as well. The American Nursery Landscape Association says the average homeowner may spend \$3,500 for landscaping.

Improving a home's chances to sell quickly and at a higher price often comes down to making smart improvements that catch the eyes of buyers. <

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MUST-HAVE ITEMS FOR BACKYARD SUMMER ENTERTAINING

Summer entertaining season provides ample opportunities to soak up some sun and have some fun with family and friends. Backyard barbecues and other get-togethers at home are even more fun when hosts ensure they have certain must-have items for summer soirees.

• Fire features: The days when summer hosts only needed a few extra lawn chairs and some burgers and hot dogs on the grill for a backyard barbecue are long gone. Though those items still have a place at backyard barbecues, summer parties have taken a step up. Fire features, whether it's a standalone fire pit, one built into a patio or a gas-powered fire table, are now wildly popular. Fire features provide a welcome place to relax and converse with guests after the sun goes down. And much to kids' delight, a fire feature also paves the way for some post-meal s'mores.

• Insulated wine cooler: Coolers are great places to store water, soda, beer, seltzers, and other popular beverages. But what about wine? An insulated wine cooler ensures wine stays properly cooled but doesn't get too cold, which can happen when wine is stored in a more traditional cooler filled with ice. Bottles are simply placed in the insulated cool-



er (much like canned beverages slide easily into can koozies), and the bottle can be kept on the table much like you would for formal dinners indoors. Hosts can go the extra mile by pairing insulated wine tumblers with their wine cooler.

• Games: Summer entertaining season might be all about relaxation, but games can up the fun factor at backyard gatherings. Cornhole is a wildly popular game, and custom-

ized cornhole boards can help hosts come across as party professionals. Ladder toss, bocce and wiffle ball are some additional games that can make the festivities more fun. Hosts who don't have a pool also can invest in an inflatable pool big enough to fit all the kids who will be coming to the party.

• Outdoor storage cabinet: Hosts can save themselves the stress and effort of walking in and out for din-

nerware and other table accessories by investing in a sturdy outdoor storage cabinet. As meal time draws near, hosts will appreciate that all the plates, napkins, utensils, and placemats are already outside. The top of the storage cabinet can double as a small but convenient buffet station for sides that aren't being cooked over an open flame.

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• Projector and screen: A projector and screen can really up the ante on summer entertaining, turning a backyard barbecue into a great place to watch a game or cuddle up after dinner for a movie night under the stars. Projectors and screens won't bust the budget, but those who have more to spend may want to consider an outdoor television. Outdoor televisions are built to handle the glare of the summer sun, but a retractable awning may be a good safety net for hosts who plan to spend many a weekend afternoon outside watching games or movies with family and friends.

These are just a handful of items that can up the ante on traditional backyard barbecues. Homeowners should know that there's no limit to the number of items that can make summer entertaining season more special. <

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SpringHOME & GARDEN HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN TO REPLACE WINDOWS

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window as-

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sessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all





while providing features the homeowner desires.

For those wondering when to replace windows here are some suggested guidelines.

• Difficulty opening and closing

windows. A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new. • There's ap-

parent window damage. Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.

• Drafts in the window are com**mon.** If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.

• Dated windows are present in the home. Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics

of a home.

Outdoor noises are noticed quite readily. Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball

up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.

• Fading indoors is noted. Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency.

Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage. <





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Lakefront docks stand as pivotal features, seamlessly melding utility with charm in lakeside communities. Beyond their functional role, these structures become vital components of lakefront living, offering unparalleled access to the water and enriching the lifestyle of property owners.

At their core, lakefront docks provide essential access points to the water, facilitating a myriad of recreational activities. Whether launching a kayak for a serene paddle, casting a line for fishing adventures, or simply enjoying a refreshing swim, docks serve as gateways to aquatic enjoyment right from one's doorstep. They transform lakeside properties into hubs of leisure, fostering a deep connection to nature and the joys of waterfront living.

Moreover, lakefront docks enhance property value and desirability. A well-designed dock not only expands the usable space of a lakefront property but also elevates its visual appeal. Picture-perfect scenes of boats gently bobbing on the water's surface and friends gathering for lakeside gatherings become synonymous with the quintessential lakefront lifestyle.

However, the construction and maintenance of lakefront docks require careful consideration of environmental factors and local regulations. Sustainable

construction practices and eco-friendly materials are essential to minimize the ecological footprint and ensure the long-term health of the lake ecosystem. In conclusion, lakefront docks are in-

dispensable assets for property owners, serving as portals to boundless aquatic enjoyment and enhancing the allure of lakeside living. As cherished features of lakefront properties, docks epitomize the harmonious coexistence of human habitation and natural beauty, enriching the lives of lakefront residents with every gentle lap of the water against their pilings. <





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HOW DIY CAN BE BAD FOR HOMEOWNERS' BOTTOM LINES

Homeowners know it can be tempting to go the do-it-yourself (DIY) route when starting a home improvement project. Home repairs and renovations can be costly, and the notion of saving money on such projects compels many homeowners to try their hand at home improvements. However, the DIY approach can be costly too, and if things go awry, homeowners may end up with empty pockets and unfinished projects. Online tutorials and advertisements for home improvement retailers can make DIY seem like a snap. However, there are potential pitfalls to consider that could make the ostensibly less expensive DIY route far more detrimental to the bottom line than homeowners may recognize.

• **Permits:** Permits ensure work is done in accordance with local codes, which are designed to ensure the safety of residents and their neighbors. Licensed contractors know which per-





mits are necessary for projects they're hired to work on, and many even procure permits for their clients (homeowners are urged to read estimates and contracts to determine who will be responsible for acquiring the appropriate permits). DIYers may not know about local permits, and therefore go ahead with projects without procuring any. That can be harmful in the short- and long-term. In the short-term, a failure to procure the appropriate permits can make a home less safe and potentially lead to costly fines and necessitate a complete do-over of the project. In the long-term, homeowners who did not secure the appropriate permits may not be given a certificate of occupancy (CO) when putting their homes on the market, which can make it very difficult to sell the home.

• Ancillary costs: The ancillary costs of DIY are not often noted in online tutorials. However, such costs can dramatically increase the amount of money DIYers shell out in order to complete projects on their own. Ancillary costs include but are not limited to the price of tools and equipment; disposal fees for materials that will need to be discarded; and the cost of permits. These costs are often included in estimates provided by contractors, but they're easily overlooked by novice DIYers.

• Repairs: Even experienced contractors make mistakes, so DIYers, particularly novices, can anticipate making a few errors along the way. Minor mistakes may not prove too costly, but more significant mishaps can quickly negate any cost savings associated with DIY renovations. The cost to fix DIY mistakes varies depending on the project, but a 2019 survey from Porch. com found that the average DIY mistake cost homeowners \$310 and added five and a half hours to the overall time spent to complete a project. It's worth noting the Porch.com survey was conducted prior to the dramatic increase in materials costs related to inflation in recent years. So it's reasonable to assume that fixing DIY mistakes in 2024 could end up costing considerably more than a few hundred dollars.

Before diving in to DIY, homeowners may want to consider the real costs associated with forgoing professional experience in the potentially misplaced hopes of saving a few dollars. <

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REVITALIZE YOUR KITCHEN: TRENDING MAKEOVER IDEAS

The kitchen, often hailed as the heart of the home, is a space where functionality meets style. In 2024, homeowners are embracing innovative makeover ideas to transform their kitchens into stylish and functional hubs for cooking, dining, and entertaining. From sleek modern designs to timeless classics with a contemporary twist, here are some popular kitchen makeover ideas that are making waves this year:

1. Sustainable Materials: With a growing focus on eco-friendly living, sustainable materials are taking center stage in kitchen makeovers. From reclaimed wood cabinets to recycled glass countertops, homeowners are opting for materials that minimize environmental impact without compromising on style. Bamboo flooring, cork backsplashes, and energy-efficient appliances are also popular choices for creating eco-conscious kitchens.

2. Statement Lighting: Lighting plays a crucial role in setting the mood and enhancing the aesthetics of a kitchen. In 2024, homeowners are embracing statement lighting fixtures as focal points in their kitchen makeovers. Oversized pendant lights, geometric chandeliers, and sculptural sconces are popular choices for adding drama and personality to kitchen spaces. LED lighting strips under cabinets and along toe kicks are also being used to create ambiance and improve task lighting.

3. Bold Colors: While neutral tones remain timeless, bold colors are making a comeback in kitchen makeovers this year. From deep blues and rich greens to vibrant yellows and fiery or-



anges, homeowners are incorporating bold hues into their kitchen designs to add personality and make a statement. Bold color choices are being seen on cabinets, islands, backsplashes, and even appliances, creating visually striking and dynamic kitchen spaces.

4. Multifunctional Islands: The kitchen island continues to be a focal point in kitchen designs, but in 2024, it's all about maximizing functionality. Homeowners are opting for multifunctional islands that serve as both a workspace and a gathering spot for family and friends. Features such as built-in sinks, wine fridges, seating areas, and hidden storage solutions are being integrated into kitchen islands to optimize space and efficiency.

5. Smart Technology: As technology continues to advance, smart features are becoming increasingly prevalent in kitchen makeovers. Homeowners are incorporating smart appliances, touchless faucets, voice-activated assistants, and integrated smart home systems into their kitchen designs to streamline tasks, improve efficiency, and enhance convenience. From adjusting oven tem-

peratures to checking inventory levels, smart technology is revolutionizing the way we interact with our kitchens.

6. Open Shelving: Open shelving is a popular trend in kitchen makeovers, offering a practical and visually appealing alternative to traditional upper cabinets. Homeowners are embracing open shelving for displaying decorative

items, storing everyday essentials, and showcasing stylish dishware and cookware. Floating shelves, metal brackets, and reclaimed wood are popular choices for creating a modern and minimalist look.

In conclusion, 2024 is all about embracing innovation and creativity in kitchen makeovers. Whether incorporating sustainable materials, making a statement with bold colors, or integrating smart technology, homeowners have a myriad of options to revitalize their kitchens and create spaces that are both functional and stylish. With these popular makeover ideas, homeowners can transform their kitchens into the ultimate gathering place for family and friends to enjoy for years to come. <

DID YOU KNOW?

Home renovations can improve a home in many different ways. Modifications to kitchens and bathrooms have long been popular projects, but are they the most popular renovations? According to data from Realm, which analyzed the top 10 most popular projects from roughly 2.8 million listings and permit filings in the United States in 2022, certain projects are more popular than others. Nationally, the most common home renovations include interior painting, exterior painting, finishing a basement, installing or replacing windows, and bathroom remodeling. Houzz polls have unveiled that renovating kitchens and bathrooms, new windows and porches, balcony and deck projects are among the most popular.





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EXPLORING POPULAR TYPES OF HARDSCAPING PROJECTS

Maine homes are renowned for their rustic charm and natural beauty, but savvy homeowners know that enhancing outdoor spaces with hardscaping can take their property to the next level. From creating functional

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outdoor living areas to adding visual interest and curb appeal, hardscaping projects offer endless possibilities for transforming your home. Here are some popular types of projects:

• Patio Installation: Patios are a staple of outdoor living in Maine, providing a versatile space for entertaining, dining, or simply enjoying the serene beauty of nature. Whether constructed from natural stone, pavers, or concrete, a well-designed patio can seamlessly blend with the surrounding landscape and enhance the functionality of your outdoor space.

• Fire Pit or Fireplace: Embrace the cozy ambiance of cooler evenings by adding a fire pit or fireplace to your outdoor area. Whether you opt for a traditional stone fire pit or a more elaborate built-in fireplace, these features provide warmth, comfort, and a focal point for gatherings.

• Retaining Walls: Maine's varied terrain often presents challenges when it comes to landscaping, but retaining walls offer a practical solution for managing slopes and creating level areas. Constructed from a variety of materials, such as natural stone, concrete blocks, or timber, retaining walls can add structural integrity to your landscape while enhancing it visually.

• Walkways and Pathways: En-

hance the accessibility and flow of your outdoor space with the addition of walkways and pathways. Whether leading from the driveway to the front entrance or meandering through gardens and outdoor living areas, well-designed pathways can add character and charm to your home while providing a safe and inviting passage for guests.

• Driveway Paving: Upgrade your home's curb appeal and functionality with a paved driveway. Whether you prefer the classic elegance of asphalt or the natural beauty of cobblestone or brick, a well-maintained driveway enhances the aesthetic appeal of your home while providing a durable surface for vehicles and foot traffic.

• Outdoor Kitchen or Barbecue Area: Take advantage of Maine's short but glorious summers by creating an outdoor kitchen or barbecue area. Whether it's a simple grill station or a fully equipped outdoor kitchen complete with countertops, sinks, and seating, these features allow you to enjoy alfresco dining and entertaining in style.

• Water Features: Add a touch of tranquility to your outdoor oasis with a water feature such as a fountain, pond, or waterfall. The soothing sound of flowing water creates a peaceful ambiance and enhances the natural beauty of your landscape. <



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A GUIDE TO SELECTING THE RIGHT FLOORING FOR YOUR HOME

When it comes to home design, few elements have as much impact as flooring. Not only does it set the tone for the entire space, but it also plays a crucial role in comfort, durability, and functionality. With a myriad of options available, choosing the right flooring for your home can feel overwhelming. Here, we offer a comprehensive guide to help you navigate the selection process and find the perfect flooring solution for your needs.

1. Consider Your Lifestyle: Before diving into flooring options, take a moment to assess your lifestyle and the specific needs of your household. Do you have children or pets? Are you looking for flooring that can withstand heavy foot traffic? Will the flooring be installed in high-moisture areas such as kitchens or bathrooms? By considering these factors, you can narrow down your options and focus on materials that are best suited to your lifestyle.

2. Evaluate Durability: Durability is a key consideration when choosing flooring, especially in high-traffic areas. Look for materials that are known for their durability and resistance to wear and tear, such as hardwood, laminate, vinyl, or tile. Keep in mind that different materials have varying levels of durability, so be sure to choose a flooring option that can withstand the demands of your household.

3. Assess Maintenance Requirements: Another important factor to consider is the maintenance requirements of different flooring materials. Some materials, such as hardwood and tile, may require regular cleaning and maintenance to keep them looking their best, while others, like laminate and vinyl, are more low-maintenance and easy to clean. Consider your willingness to invest time and effort into maintaining your floors when making your decision.

4. Explore Aesthetic Options: Flooring is a major design element that can greatly influence the overall look and feel of your home. Consider the aesthetic style you want to achieve, whether it's modern and sleek, rustic and cozy, or somewhere in between. Look for flooring options that complement your existing decor and furnishings, as well as your personal design preferences.

5. Take Comfort Into Account: Comfort is another important factor to consider when choosing flooring for your home. Think about how the flooring will feel underfoot, especially in areas where you spend a lot of time standing or walking, such as kitchens or living rooms. Materials like carpet and cork offer softness and warmth, while hardwood and tile provide a firm and solid surface.

6. Budget Wisely: Finally, consider your budget when choosing flooring for your home. Flooring materials vary widely in cost, so it's important to set a budget and stick to it. Keep in mind that while some materials may have a higher upfront cost, they may also offer

greater durability and longevity, making them a worthwhile investment in the long run.

By taking the time to evaluate your needs and explore your options, you can select flooring that not only enhances the beauty of your home but also provides lasting comfort and functionality for years to come. <









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Knitting Guild inspires creativity and camaraderie

By Kaysa Jalbert

There's a simple remedy to end a search for the perfect plum-colored-sweater or a beanie-style hat that will fit right - learn how to knit it yourself.

It may be intimidating to take on a new skill and flaunt your own creations around town, but the Lighthouse Knitting Guild of Maine focuses on educating members and providing a supportive community for all creators to grow skills, creativity, and confidence in the art of knitting.

The Lighthouse Knitting Guild of Maine, LKGM, is the local Maine chapter for the national organization of The Knitting Guild of America, TKGA, a global non-profit organization helping knitters at all levels improve their art and skills through education.

"As a guild, our members focus not only on sharing the art and skill of knitting with each other, but also with our communities," says Jan Long-Connelly, Vice President of Communications for LKGM. "Many of us demonstrate our knitting work at events like the annual Cumberland Fair to help raise awareness around the benefits of knitting. Since we most often meet on the Windham High School campus, it seemed like a natural fit for our group to participate in the Windham High School Knitting Club. Several of our members actively assist with teaching knitting skills to the students, mentoring them through various knitting projects, and helping with obtaining needed supply donations."

The Guild typically meets the first Saturday of each month from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Windham Raymond Adult Education Building located behind the Windham High School. Any meeting location changes, meeting topics or special events are always posted on the group's website and Facebook page.

Members come from a variety of locations throughout Maine. Many live in the Windham area but membership spans from Woolwich down to the New Hampshire border.

"A big focus of the Guild is educating members," said Long-Connelly. "Skilled members share their knowledge by presenting classes in such techniques as brioche, steeking, and mosaic knitting."

Annually, the guild has a nationally known designer offer either a virtual

or an in-person class. In the past Bristol Ivy and Kate Atherly have provided classes in Windham. The LKGM's in-person class with Elizabeth Smith, originally scheduled for April 6th, was postponed from that date because of the storm that caused power outages and travel concerns for its members. The Guild will be announcing the new date for Smith's presentation soon.

Guild Member benefits include attending monthly guild meetings to meet and learn from other experienced knitters and the opportunity to admire their individual work. Members may participate in Knit-A-Longs with moderators to support as you learn a new skill either at in-person meetings or online using Ravelry, a free online site for knitters, crocheters, and fiber artists where members can also access the Guild's lending library.

Members also get early registration or reduced fees to guild-sponsored workshops by popular designers and gifted teachers. They also offer opportunities to fill or trim stash at the annual Spring Yarn Swap or wind your own cake using a yarn swift and ball winder available at meetings. Opportunities are available to participate in many charity knitting programs both locally and abroad, offering various knitted goods to those in need.

The Lighthouse Knitting Guild will hold its next meeting from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday May 4 at the Windham Raymond Adult Education Building.

The Maine chapter was founded in 2015 by a group of friends who loved kitting and began to meet regularly forming a local kitting guild and shortly thereafter joined the national organization by using the model established by The Knitting Guild Assoc.

The Knitting Guild Assoc. is the only national non-profit organization that focuses specifically on kitting. A membership costs \$35 a year and includes benefits from newsletters and magazines to online educational meetings.

Anyone interested in joining the guild and have additional questions, contact the Guild at: lighthouse.knitters.maine@gmail.com. For more info visit: lighthouseknitguildmaine.com <







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Student production

Students from Windham Christian Academy will be performing "The Wizard of Oz" at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 25 and Friday, April 26 and at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27. The cost is \$10. You can reserve tickets by calling 207-892-2244.

TRIAD meeting

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 8 at the Gorham Police Department, 270 Main St., Gorham. There will be a pot-luck lunch, so participants are asked to call 207-229-

0950 to coordinate food. Guest speaker will be Clara McCool, Greater Portland Regional Broadband director. FMI, call Doris Ames at 207-887-9222.

Shredding event

The Windham/Raymond School Age Child Program, a local 501c3 before and after school program, will sponsor its annual paper shredding event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 11 in the Windham Lowe's parking lot. There are no limits on the amount of paper that can be shredded. Donations will be accepted. FMI, call 207-899-5007.

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TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE PLANNING BOARD SITE WALK NOTICE **Camp Timanous** 85 Plains Road, Raymond, ME

Monday, May 6th, 2024 • 5:30 p.m.

You are hereby notified the Raymond PLANNING BOARD will hold a Site Walk at the following location on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. regarding the information for the following proposed project:

APPLICANT: Scott Simons, Simons Architects LOCATION: Map: 009 Lot: 19 Zone LRR1 85 Plains Road – Camp Timanous **DESCRIPTION:** Site Plan – Youth Camp Barn & Kitchen Renovations

The site walk will commence at 5:30 p.m. meeting at the project site, 85 Plains Road. Public welcome. COVID 19 precautions.

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Yoga and horses

The Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals and Ashley Flowers Yoga are teaming up to offer a unique yoga experience beside MSSPA horses on Sundays in Windham. Hour-long yoga sessions will be held at 11:30 a.m. on May 12, June 9 and July 14 at 279 River Rd, Windham. Cost to participate is \$12 per session. FMI, visit msspa.org or call 207-892-3040.





Grade: 2 School: Windham Primary School Teacher: Ms. Killian Diggins Favorite subject(s) in school: Math is his favorite sub-

ject because he gets to use rulers.

Parent's name: Bruce Merrill Reason for selection: Blake has worked hard to follow the Windham Primary School's Three Bees: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. His classmates and

teachers notice his efforts and how well he gets along with everyone! We are most proud of the growth mindset Blake brings to school each day and the pride he shows in his hard work.



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TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE PLANNING BOARD SITE WALK NOTICE **Mila's Wood Road**

Off Roosevelt Trail, Raymond, ME

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 • 5:30 p.m.

You are hereby notified the Raymond PLANNING BOARD will hold a Site Walk at the following location on Monday, May 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. regarding the information for the following proposed project:

APPLICANT: Nicolas Cummings by Dustin Roma LOCATION: Map: 004 Lot: 15B Zone LRR2 Mila's Woods Road **DESCRIPTION:** Road Construction Permit

The site walk will commence at 5:30 p.m. meeting at the project site, Mila's Woods Road off of Roosevelt Trail. Public welcome. COVID 19 precautions.

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SITE WALK NOTICE **Alfred Mann Drive Off Route 121, Raymond, ME** Monday, May 8th, 2024 • 6:30 p.m.

You are hereby notified the Raymond PLANNING BOARD will hold a Site Walk at the following location on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the information for the following proposed project:

APPLICANT: Keystone Investment Group LLC by Dustin Roma LOCATION: Map: 007 Lot: 32 Zone VR Alfred Mann Drive **DESCRIPTION:** Road Construction Permit

The site walk will commence at 6:30 *p.m. meeting at the project site,* Alfred Mann Drive off Route 121. Public welcome. COVID 19 precautions.



The green grass grows all around

By Nicole Foster SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



No Mow May has been steadily gaining popularity and even receiving official designations in some surrounding communities. This is a concept which

- Nicole Foster, Broker/REALTOR[®] helps to protect our pollinators including bees who winter in the "duff layer" of the grass. They benefit from the extra time for flowering weeds like dandelions, which are their first source of food after winter, time to bloom and can continue to find warmth on cold nights. This new trend is well received by many homeowners as spring in Maine often arrives suddenly, catching many of us off guard as we transition from storm clean-up to yard maintenance. One moment, you're still removing winter's remnants; the next, your lawn is turning green and flowers are beginning to bloom, while your neighbor's Christmas decorations still linger. If you're feeling behind on your spring yard work, don't worry! Here are some expert tips to keep your lawn looking its best throughout the year.

Maine's climate, characterized by cold winters and relatively short growing seasons, requires special attention when it comes to lawn care. Start by

thoroughly de-thatching your lawn to remove dead grass, leaves, and debris that have accumulated over the winter. Use a flexible metal rake or one that can be weighted and pulled. This will allow your soil to breathe and creates openings for the new shoots to grow.

There will be areas where you will need to add more grass seed to patches. Be sure to purchase new grass seed each year to maximize germination. The best time to overseed your lawn in Maine is in September, but the next best time to is during May. Making sure that you select the correct type of seed for your site is very important so be sure to read the information label on the back of the bag of seed to confirm that the amount of shade and drainage your area has is suitable for what you are using. A blend that is high in fescues can best tolerate shade and foot traffic. Use a drop seed spreader to evenly coat the area in one direction, then make a second passage in right angles to the first passage. Help to build nutrient rich soil by top-coating up to half an inch with a 50/50 mixture of compost and loam, but avoid doing this more than once per year. This mixture helps improve soil structure and fertility, reducing the need for additional fertilizers. For homeowners with mature lawns older than ten years, the lawn can often recycle nutrients naturally, eliminating





the need for fertilizer altogether.

Mature lawns older than ten years old are able to recycle nutrients on their own. If you do choose to use a fertilizer on your lawn, then it is best applied between Labor Day and Columbus Day no more than once per year and select a phosphorus free product. The majority of homes in Maine have soil that is acidic which favors the growth of weeds over grasses. Weeds will continue to grow and thrive even with the use of herbicides if you do not take steps to lower the pH in your soil. Contact the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Falmouth to get a soil test box that can be tested in the laboratory so you can raise or lower your soil's pH and add nutrients that it requires.

Often homeowners will mow their grass too frequently or cut it too short, leaving it more susceptible to drought, insects, and disease. A good rule of

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thumb is to cut no more than a third from the length of the blade of grass, so allowing it to grow to four inches then cutting off one inch can help to prevent it from turning brown. Leaving the clippings can also help to prevent sun scorch, is nutrient rich, and should not contribute to thatch if minimally fertilized.

If your lawn has been richly fertilized then participating in No Mow May could result in too much lush growth and clumping once cut, contributing to mold or tick habitats so you may opt to participate in Less Mow May by reducing mowing to once four inches in length instead of eliminating for the month.

This article was brought to you by Nicole Foster, a real estate broker with Locations Real Estate and 19 years of experience. Follow Nicole on Instagram @207nicolefoster or Facebook *facebook.com/sellingmaine.* <

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and these cookies followed that theme. The ingredients to make these cookies are inexpensive and can readily be found at the store where you shop.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of white sugar 1 cup of brown sugar 1 cup of shortening 2 eggs, well-beaten ¹/₂ teaspoon of baking soda 1 cup of crushed pineapple tidbits 2 teaspoons of baking powder 3 cups of flour 1 cup of chopped walnuts 1 cup of confectioner's sugar

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, cream both white and brown sugars and the shortening together. Beat in the eggs to the mixture. Add the sifted dry ingredients alternatively with the crushed pineapple. Stir in the chopped walnuts. Form into teaspoonfuls and drop onto a greased baking sheet. Place baking sheet in oven for 12 to 15 minutes. SERVING Cool and top each cookie with a pinch of powdered confectioner's sugar. Place cooled cookies on serving plate. Enjoy with a tall glass of cold milk. Makes about three dozen cookies.

Cooking Corner proudly sponsored by Mills & Co.



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- 14. One who renews 16. Sculpted body part
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- 19 King Cole, musician
- 20. \overline{Plates} on a turtle's shell
- 22. University of Utah athlete
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- of them
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CLUES DOWN

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 - poetry 11. Creates anew
 - 13. Humorous commentaries
 - 15. Cool!
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 - 21. Designed to be useful 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
 - 24. High schoolers' test
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- 38. Type of gasoline 40. Actor LeBlanc 41. Perform in a play
- 42. One's mother
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Part of a banana
- 50. Indian hand clash cymbals 52. Relative biological
- effectiveness (abbr.) 53. Agave
- 55. Noted journalist Tarbell
- 56. Computer firm
- 57. Type of record
- 58. Bacterium that can cause infection
- 63. Sheaths enclosing the spinal cord
- 65. A narrow opening (as in a rock wall)
- 66. Pattern
- 67. Very eager to see something
- 29. City in India 32. Furniture
- 34. You have likely chatted with one
- 35. Pass or go by
- 36. Proof of purchase
- 39. A digital tape recording of sound
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Building occupied by monks
- 47. Georgia rock band
- 49. Device that generates intense beam of light
- 51. State of agitation
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top

1. Witch

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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mation, from turning flour, sugar and eggs into delicious cookies and pastries, and baked goods into smiles, and it's the essence of what the new Pine Tree Bakery is all about.

Located at 1557 Bridgton Road in Westbrook on the Windham/Westbrook Town Line, Pine Tree Bakery is owned and operated by Lesa Beck, who turns out baked goods by hand each day using only the finest quality ingredients. The bakery offers a vast selection of pastries, small cakes, breakfast sandwiches, coffee, tea and hand-crafted espresso drinks and a generous assortment of tasty desserts such as tarts, cookies, brownies, and more.

"By far the best thing we do is bring smiles to the people we serve," Beck said. "It makes them happy. Our friendly staff works hard to make sure you are happy with what you receive when you visit us."

Pine Tree Bakery opened April 10 and uses exceptional ingredients such as Callebaut chocolate, Cabot butter, and King Arthur flour, which give their products a high-quality and delicious taste.

"While many bakeries use premade mixes or bought-in packaged products, at Pine Tree Bakery we make everything from scratch in house," Beck said. "Our baked goods include a rotating selection of cookies, muffins, small cakes, pastries, and desserts. We update our selection each week to fea-





Lesa Beck, owner of Pine Tree Bakery, takes pride good experience for in preparing from scratch cookies, pastries, break- our customers so fast sandwiches and baked goods using the finest they will come back quality ingredients. It's located on Route 302 right again and again." on the Windham/Westbrook line. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

ture new flavors and items. While we don't have a full lunch menu yet, it's something we are working on for the future and we do offer a couple of savory baked items each day."

For coffee, Pine Tree Bakery offers drip coffee and Espresso-based drinks with beans from Coffee by Design, a high-quality local coffee roaster right here in Maine.

"Our pastries and desserts are all individual serving size," Beck said.

"We've worked hard to keep our prices reasonable for our customers. Our pastries and desserts range in price from \$2.25 to \$5. What really sets us apart is our high-quality food and pastries and our customer service. We really want to make it a

"And we are a great spot to grab breakfast and coffee on your way to work in the morning or stop by later in the afternoon for that end-of-day pick-me-up and a cookie," she said. "We offer both take-out and dine-in so you can choose to grab and go if you're in a hurry or sit and relax with some good coffee and a treat or two."

Beck first learned how to bake as a child and found it to be wonderful stress relief when she worked in a technology career.

"I spent 20 years in the tech industry as a project and program manager but was ready for a change and had always dreamed of opening my own bakery café," she said.

Prior to opening the new bakery, Beck remodeled the 1,500-square-foot interior so it can now seat 38 customers at one time, transforming the former CeCe's Diner into a new favorite gathering spot for locals.

"We have also created a comfortable and cozy space to hang out with a cup of coffee and breakfast or to spend time with family and friends," Beck said. "We have a spacious dining area and plenty of parking.

Beck says that feedback from our customers has been incredibly positive to date, and she and her employees are so happy that their customers are enjoying their food.

"Some of our best sellers to date have been our Swedish Cinnamon Knots, Blueberry Streusel Muffin, Cinnamon Rolls, and Scones," she said. "I'd like to give a shoutout to our amazing baker, Sue Jones, and to Jessie Farinella, the friendly face you'll see at the front counter."

Hours for Pine Tree Bakery are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. For more details, call 207-887-9087 or visit https://pinetreebakery.my.canva.site/home. You can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram. <



www.TheWindhamEagle.com

April 26, 2024



Editor.

As the Chair of the Select Board in Raymond, I would like to clarify some things for Raymond residents after reading the letter from David H. Brown this week. We are holding town meetings as defined in state statute. Votes held by secret ballot are still considered as holding a town meeting. While we don't all gather in a room, this is still an acceptable method of holding a meeting. We have found that we get much more participation holding a ballot vote than we were getting coming to a meeting. Our experience is that only 40 to 60 people attended in-person meetings. Our ballot votes get hundreds of people coming out to vote that we feel better represents the will of the town.

Our budget meetings are open to

everyone to come and listen or offer comments. We will be holding a public meeting on May 7 where people can see the presentation on the new Public Works building and hear the reasons behind the need for it. The primary reason is that the safety of our employees is of prime importance. The town has outgrown its current space and all the equipment used by Public Works needs to be protected from the elements. It is protecting our investment in all the equipment. Our mechanics cannot properly maintain this equipment when having to do it outside during storms.

The building is being done through a design build process. The estimated maximum cost of the building is \$6.2 million and that is the amount that the town is being asked to authorize for bonding. This year we are retiring

Windham, 04062 old bonds with payments of \$285,000 that will end. Raymond is one of the handful of towns in Maine with an AAA bond rating. That is due to the fiscal policies of the Raymond Select Board. We feel we can borrow money for bonding at a 3 percent interest rate due to our financial strength. The Board also thinks we will have a minimal property tax increase on the municipal side after we use our surplus

editor@thewindhameagle.com

or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail,

(undesignated fund balance) to keep property taxes down. Raymond has one of the lowest mil rates in Cumberland County. We have been discussing this building for three years now. With retiring debt and our strong financial position,

now is the time to move forward with

this investment for Raymond. ~ Joe Bruno, Raymond Select Board Chair BOND Cont. from page 5

Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford and Northern Cumberland County) was a co-sponsor of the bill.

"Local economies across Maine will benefit enormously from this bond," Bennett said. "I support the amazing number of organizations across the state who have called on the Legislature to place this measure on the November ballot," Bennett shared.

The Maine Trails Bond, or LD 1156, will provide \$30 million in competitive grants over four years to organizations and towns for motorized, non-motorized, and multi-use trail projects. Funds will be managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands for the design, maintenance, and construction of trails.

Al Swett, President of the Maine Snowmobiling Assoc., shared his support for the bond. "Maine's trails and trail clubs bring people together and help them access some of Maine's most spectacular places," he said. "For too long, we've been underinvesting in our trails. But that could soon change, if voters endorse the Maine Trails Bond this November – which I think and hope they will." <





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