

Varney Bridge reopens following replacement

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The contractor replacing Varney Bridge in Windham has completed work about three weeks ahead of schedule and the bridge has been re-opened.

Wyman & Simpson, Inc. started work to demolish and replace the 26-foot steel girder bridge on William Knight Road over the Pleasant River on June 15. Work on the bridge was expected to last until Oct. 13 but was finished last week.

While making repairs on the bridge in 2015, engineers from the Maine Department of Transportation recommended that the town explore options for closing or replacing the bridge because of ongoing structural deterioration. MaineDOT engineers reported that capacity issues and faster and heavier loads stressed this type of bridge past its original design parameters.

Typically, steel girder bridges can be more expensive than other types of bridges because of the rising cost of materials and for construction and this type of bridge may not be suitable for very heavy loads and may not be able to support the weight of heavy vehicles. MaineDOT engineers found issues with the bridge's concrete abut-



Construction to replace Varney's Bridge on William Knight Road over the Pleasant River in Windham has been completed three weeks ahead of schedule and the bridge has been reopened. Work to demolish and replace the aging 26-foot steel girder bridge began there on June 15. PHOTO BY KEITH MANK

ments and reduced the allowable load to three tons.

That made it not possible for construction trucks, dump trucks, garbage trucks, and other large vehicles to cross the bridge because of the weight limitation. Town snowplows had to stop, turn around and go the other way due to their weight.

With concrete abutments supporting the old steel bridge structure, ➔ see **BRIDGE** Page 4

Windham Business Gathering to discuss sewers, Route 302 project and proposed community center

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

A Windham Business Gathering hosted by the Windham Economic Development Corporation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30 at Erik's Church located at 824 Roosevelt Trail in Windham.

Among items of interest to be discussed at the gather9iing are the new sewer project in Windham, the Route 302 Project, and the proposed community center complex at Windham Middle School.

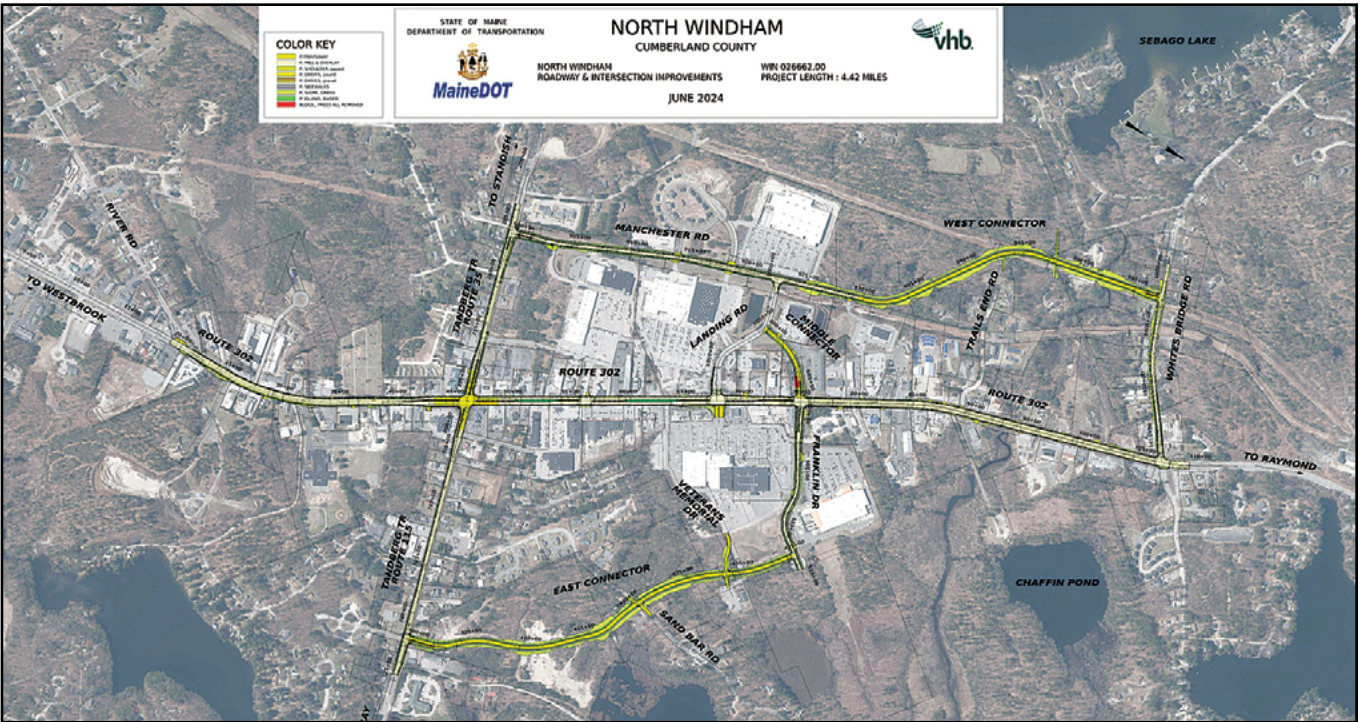
A cash bar and hot and cold Hors d'oeuvres will be available.

Eric Gigure, WEDC president, Mark Morrison, Windham Town Council chair, and Robert Burns, Windham Town Manager will make remarks about the projects.

There will also be a Question-and-Answer session with members of the Windham Town Council and Windham Economic Development Corporation members.

Route 302 Project

According to the Maine Department of Transportation, the planned Route 302 Project in North Windham will improve a dangerous and inefficient highway bottleneck, improve safety and efficiency for motorists and active transportation users in Windham and provide more uniform ac-



A Maine Department of Transportation map shows improvements planned for a portion of Routes 302, 35 and 115 in North Windham. It is one of three topics to be discussed at a Windham Business Gathering at Erik's Church on Sept.30 hosted by the Windham Economic Development Corp. COURTESY PHOTO

cessibility to employment and retail as well as tourism and recreation critical to Maine's economy.

It involves redesigning about 9,000 feet of Route 302 from River Road to White's Bridge Road in Windham to improve safety, mobility, and efficiency. The project will add three new connector routes behind the town's commerce center in North Windham to ease congestion on Route 302 while also making improvements to Routes 35 and 115 to improve safety, mobility, and efficiency.

The work will replace aging traffic signals with new smart signals and make road improvements aimed at benefiting pedestrians and bicyclists by constructing 11,700 feet of new multi-use pathways. All work is expected to be completed by 2030.

➔ see **MEETING** Page 6

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INSIGHT

Oktoberfest remains a Bavarian tradition in September

Yes, it's true, the real authentic Oktoberfest celebration in Munich, Germany takes place every year in September. In 1872, municipal officials staging the annual fall festival moved it up a month to take advantage of September's longer days and warmer weather. Therefore, a famous event celebrating October has started in September ever since and traditionally ends on the first Sunday in October.

The only reason I happen to know this is because back in 1978 while stationed in the U.S. Air Force in Germany, I joined a dozen members of my unit attending Oktoberfest. We went on a Saturday because of work duties and chartered a bus to take us back and forth to the event.

While driving down the autobahn to get there from our duty station near Frankfurt, I read about the history of Oktoberfest and why it means so much to Germans. It seems that on Oct. 12, 1810, Prince Ludwig I of Bavaria, the grandfather of the castle-building Bavarian King Ludwig II, married Princess Theresa in their own version of a royal wedding. The public was invited to celebrate the wedding afterward and the Munich fairgrounds were designated as the site where the wedding reception was to be held.

There was an abundance of food, music and King Maximillian I of Bavaria, the father of Prince Ludwig I, issued royal charters to six different Munich breweries to produce beer for the wedding party.

Today in HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 25

1513 – The Pacific Ocean is discovered by Vasco Nunez de Balboa of Spain when he crosses the Isthmus of Panama.

1789 – The first U.S. Congress adopts 12 amendments to the Constitution, the first 10 of which becoming the Bill of Rights.

1890 – Sequoia National Park and Yosemite National Park are established as U.S. National Parks in California.

1911 – Groundbreaking begins for the construction of Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts.

1956 – The first transatlantic telephone cable is finished between Scotland and Newfoundland and provides direct contact between North America and Europe.

1973 – The crew of Skylab II lands in the Pacific Ocean after being on the U.S. space laboratory for 59 days.

1974 – Scientists report that freon gases from aerosol sprays are destroying Earth's ozone layer.

1990 – The U.N. Security Council votes to impose an air embargo against Iraq.

Those six breweries continue to supply beer for the Oktoberfest festivities to this day and include Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Löwenbräu, Paulaner, Spaten and Hofbräu-München. Each brewery has its own house and pavilion at Oktoberfest and are packed with long tables and waitresses wearing traditional Dirndl (a traditional Alpine dress consisting of a bodice, blouse, full skirt and apron).

I observed that to become an Oktoberfest waitress, you must be strong and resilient. They are expected to carry a minimum of four heavy glass steins of beer by hand while holding the stein handles to each table and to not spill any beer along the way.

Along with finding beer houses and beer tents on the Oktoberfest grounds, visitors can also enjoy traditional oompah bands strolling the grounds playing Bavarian folk tunes and polka music using deep brass instruments and accordions and wearing lederhosen, traditional short or knee-length leather trousers worn by workers.

Food is everywhere and showcases different kinds of German sausages called wursts. Weisswurst is popular during Oktoberfest and is a mild wurst made of minced veal and sweet mustard. Then there's Brezn, giant twisted and salted Bavaraian pretzels and Hendl, which is rotisserie chicken crispy and seasoned.

I passed on eating Schweinshaxe (roasted pork knuckles) but did try the Wiener Schnitzel, a cut of veal pounded nice and thin, breaded, and pan-fried in butter. For a side dish, I had Spaetzle (small egg noodles).

Going to Oktoberfest is like attending a state fair here in America. There are rides such as the Ferris Wheel and Oktoberfest-themed merry-go-rounds.

My German neighbors in Frankfurt told me that Oktoberfest truly is the heart and soul of Munich and exemplifies the Bavarian way of life devoted to home and hospitality. It is intended to have something for everyone who attends to enjoy and experience.

Every year there is a procession in Munich at the start of Oktoberfest with staff, vendors, brass bands and beer wagons hauling thousands of kegs from breweries to the fairgrounds. The procession is traditionally led by a Bavarian girl dressed in a black and yellow monk's habit and known as the "Münchner Kindl," or Munich child. This procession is known as the Entry of the Oktoberfest Innkeepers.

Following the procession, the official opening of Oktoberfest takes place at exactly noon. The Mayor of Munich taps the first keg of beer and announces the Bavarian phrase "O'zapft is!" (It is Tapped!). No matter where you may be from, something you will hear a lot about during Oktoberfest is "Gemütlichkeit." That's a uniquely Bavarian feeling of warmth, welcome, and belonging and it's something that those who host Oktoberfest want to pass on to all who visit.

Of course that's not always the case. Just two years after I attended the 1978 Oktoberfest, a far-right terrorist attack using an improvised explosive device detonated at the main Oktoberfest entrance in Munich in 1980, killing 13 (including the bomber) and wounding more than 200 people.

There have been other occasions when the annual festival was called off. It was not held in 1813 as Napoleon was waging war across Europe and for a cholera epidemic in 1854. The Prussian -Austrian War in 1866 halted the festival as did another cholera outbreak in 1873. From 1914 to 1918, no Oktoberfest was held because of World War I. In 1923, a financial crisis in Germany closed the event. From 1939 to 1948, the festival was scrapped thanks to World War II and in 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 epidemic shut things down.

Unlike in America where marketing agencies try to cash in on the Oktoberfest name offering everything from car sales events to fast food sweepstakes, Germans citizens remain proud of the legacy of Oktoberfest and do not overly commercialize it. <

~ Ed Pierce

ON THE SPOT

What band do you never get tired of listening to?

"Elmore Twist with Windham's own Bill Bennett." – Bill Keller

"The Mallett Brothers Band. If you haven't visited Mallettville, you're missing out." – Mike Butterfield

"Jimmy Eat World. (Listening right now!)" – Brian McCarthy

"Led Zeppelin." – Darrin McGoldrick

"Bob Marley & the Wailers." – Karen Luce

"Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers." – Valerie Luce

"The Allman Brothers Band." – David Warchol

"Earth, Wind and Fire or The Stylistics, it's a hard choice." – Tommy Matthews

"Crosby, Stills, and Nash." – Julie Mallett

"The Beatles or The Raspberries." – Dean A. Smalley

"Loverboy, U2 and Smashmouth." – Rick Seacroft

"Christopher Cross." – Anne Glotchshuk

"Toby McAllister & The Sierra Sounds." – Michelle Johnstone

"The Mallett Brothers Band." – Katie Lizotte

"LCD Soundsystem." – Melissa Hammond

"The Eagles." – Deb Poirer Hall Mcphail

"Bob Marley and the Wailers." – Sharon Taylor

"From Ashes to New." – Taylor Helene Jordan

"Black Crowes." – William D. Reiner

"12/O.C." – Rita Fogg Estes

"Bob Seger and The Rolling Stones." Miki Mayberry

"Styx." Beckie Lawrence

"Big Wreck. And it's not close." – Jonathan E. Priest

"Backstreet Boys." – Melissa Fielding

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Deadline nears to participate in WindowDressers

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Colder weather is nearing and for many, staying warm in winter is a priority. An economical and helpful way to do that is to participate in the WindowDressers program.

WindowDressers provide insulated window inserts to help keep heat in for free or at a low cost. It is a grassroots volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that trains, supplies, and supports teams of volunteers hosting community builds with the goal to create insulating window inserts for local residents.

The program brings together community volunteers of all economic and social situations together to improve the warmth and comfort of interior spaces, lower heating costs, and reduce emissions by producing low-cost insulating window inserts that function as custom, interior-mounted storm windows.

Camille Beaulieu, an AmeriCorps volunteer serving with the Town of Windham, is organizing the second Window Dressers Community Build from Dec. 1 to Dec. 6 at the South Windham Fire Station.

Beaulieu said insulated window in-



The second WindowDressers Community Build will be held from Dec. 1 to Dec. 6 at the South Windham Fire Station. The program offers low-cost or free window inserts easily placed in windows to keep heat in homes during the winter months. A deadline has been set of Nov. 1 to measure windows, and anyone interested in participating should sign up now. SUBMITTED PHOTO

serts help prevent heat loss in homes, much of which occurs through windows with about 30 percent of an average home's heat loss occurring through windows and doors.

"Our custom-built window inserts significantly reduce this heat loss by creating two additional sealed air spaces: one between the insert and window and another between the two plastic layers," she said. "This ef-

fectively doubles window insulation, making homes more energy efficient and comfortable throughout the winter. Our research shows that, in a typical house, and one medium sized insert (30 inches by 52 inches) can save an average of 8.5 gallons of heating oil every year."

The price of the inserts varies upon the size and complexity of the required insert.

"Inserts are free for those who cannot afford to pay, and low cost for middle- and high-income households," Beaulieu said. "WindowDressers keeps their insert prices exceptionally low at about 50 to 75 percent cheaper than commercial products through their non-profit model of cooperative insert-building. This means that customers contribute time at our local Community Build."

Last year was the first year that Age Friendly Windham (AFW) participated in the WindowDressers community build event.

Age Friendly Windham Coordinator Erica Bell-Watkins said the program aligns with the organization's action plan to help facilitate weatherization programs for the community. It also aligns with the Town of Windham's energy plan 2023 to educate and assist residents with utilizing energy efficiency programs.

"It was a wonderful community building event that brought people from the region of all ages, backgrounds and life experiences together," Bell-Watkins said. "Students from Saint Joseph's College hopped in to help along with volunteers from

→ see **WINDOWS** Page 4

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→ **BRIDGE** *Cont. from page 1*

scouring from the river caused erosion where the concrete touched the Pleasant River water degrading the bridge’s safety. There was also rusting on the steel supports which need to be replaced.

Varney’s Bridge was originally built in 1950 and it had been upgraded and repaired many times over the past three decades with its structural issues persisting and continuing to worsen. In 2021 members of the Windham Town Council voted to replace the existing bridge with the most cost-effective method to ensure the safety of the community upon the recommendation of the town manager. At the Annual Windham Town Meeting in June 2021, Windham residents approved spending \$25,000 for a study at the Annual Town Meeting about how to best move forward to replace the aging structure.

The study was completed in the summer of 2022, and the results were forwarded to the MaineDOT. Using the MaineDOT Bridge Program Design Guide, a preliminary design report was created and mandated that any other survey work needed to define right-of-way and bridge layout and alignment be performed and any geotechnical engineering evaluations required to design a new bridge support structure be initiated.

In January 2023, the new Maine DOT Three-Year Plan for upcoming projects by state crews was released. MaineDOT authorized \$1.5 million in funding for the \$2.2 million project with the town picking up the remaining \$700,000 for the project.

The Town of Windham then developed preliminary and final design plans in accordance with MaineDOT standards and requirements. Those design plans included a specific plan for the project, a bridge profile including cross-sections and geometry for approach design, design computations, load ratings, and evaluation information for the new structure meeting MaineDOT specifications. All of that included development of an engineering estimate of construction costs and creating a final plan for review by the state.

At Windham’s Annual Town Meeting in June 2023, a warrant item was approved by voters to contribute \$700,000 to complete the bridge replacement project. MaineDOT also conducted and documented quality control design checks and provided engineering support during the competitive bidding process and any other additional services as was requested by the town.

Windham Town Councilors put the project out to bidding in November 2025 and awarded the project to Wyman & Simpson, Inc. for the town’s portion of costs in general obligation bond funding for replacing Varney’s Bridge. Seven bids had been submitted to replace the bridge.

When the bridge work started in June 2026 it was estimated at the time it could take up to 120 days to complete. The reconstruction work required a full road closure on William Knight Road and local detours were put in place for traffic and emergency vehicles.

The bridge was reopened to the public on Sept. 17. <

→ **WINDOWS** *Cont. from page 3*

several organizations and the window receipts. We shared meals and many stories.”

Residents of the Sebago Lakes Region, which includes Windham, Raymond and Standish, can sign up now for inserts which will be built and distributed in January.

The inserts are built of attractive pine frames and wrapped drum-tight with two layers of durable plastic film. These layers create an insulating air space while letting in all the light and views. Foam weather stripping around the outer edges stops drafts and ensures the insert’s snug fit.

All inserts are built at the community build event, where volunteers and customers come together to assemble them. Each insert is made in a few simple steps with the help of custom jigs, which guide every step of assembly so that anyone, regardless of experience, can easily and consistently build inserts.

“Customers install the window inserts themselves once they bring them home,” Beaulieu said. “The inserts are

lightweight and designed to slide easily into the inside of the window. Each insert has a small pull tab at the bottom for removal at the end of the heating season.”

The WindowDressers program is supported through a diverse range of funding sources, including individual donations and grants from foundations across New England.

According to Beaulieu, WindowDressers is still actively accepting insert requests and actively measuring windows. The measuring deadline is Nov. 1 so all orders must be in and measured before then.

“Anyone who wants to request inserts should do so now, so volunteers have enough time to measure all windows by Nov. 1,” Beaulieu said. “We are also asking folks to volunteer to build window inserts with us Dec. 1 to 6 at www.windowdressers.org/volunteer or scan the code here to bring you directly to the Sebago Lakes Region sign up page. You can also sign up to provide food, if you’re unable or not available for build shifts.” <

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Raymond Parks and Recreation offers fall programs with something for just about every age and interest

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

Raymond Parks and Recreation is offering a variety of programs and activities this fall for residents of all ages, from youth sports and adult recreation to outdoor activities, family events and community outings.

According to Raymond Parks and Recreation Director Riley Silvia, the department aims to provide opportunities for residents with a wide range of interests and experience levels.

“Our goal is to make sure Parks and Recreation truly has something for everyone,” Silvia said.

Youth soccer is currently under way, and registration is open for the upcoming youth basketball season. Adult offerings include basketball at Jordan-Small Middle School, pickleball at Raymond Elementary School and futsal at Jordan-Small Middle School.

The department is also offering several outdoor recreation opportunities. The “Fall in Love with Yoga” program, offered in partnership with Sebago Cycle, allows participants to practice yoga at Tassel Top Park. The “Together on the Trail” hiking group meets weekly and explores trails in Raymond and surrounding communities with Registered Maine Guide Elena Glidden.

For younger children, Raymond Play & Grow provides a relaxed weekly play group at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park. The program gives young children an opportunity to play while their parents and caregivers connect with others.

While there are no brand-new programs being introduced this fall, Silvia said the department is continually looking for ways to expand its offerings.

“One of our biggest challenges right now is access to indoor recreation space,” Silvia said. “As we head into the colder months, we are trying to get creative with the spaces and resources available to us.”

Youth sports continue to be among the most popular programs. Soccer and basketball provide local children with opportunities to participate close

to home, develop skills and become part of a team.

Pickleball has also become popular among adult participants. The department offers different nights for different levels of play, from beginner and leisurely play to intermediate and advanced, allowing people with varying levels of experience to participate.

Silvia said the department determines its programming by listening to residents, monitoring which programs fill up and considering feedback from participants. Staff members also look at how existing community spaces can be used in new ways. One example is Raymond Play & Grow, which was created around the existing amenities at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park, including its playground and walking path.

Among the events Silvia is particularly looking forward to this fall is Pumpkins in the Park and Outdoor Movie Night at Tassel Top Park. The family-friendly event will give families the opportunity to decorate pumpkins together before watching an outdoor movie. The event is scheduled for 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 in partnership with the Raymond Schools PTO. Families will receive a pumpkin and decorating supplies, with the movie beginning at approximately 6:15 p.m. Popcorn and a drink will be included, and families are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. The decorated pumpkins will also be displayed for the community to enjoy on Halloween night. Parks and Recreation will additionally have a photo booth avail-



able during Halloween trick-or-treating for families and children to take pictures in their costumes.

The department is also organizing “Night Out with Raymond Parks & Recreation” trips to Maine Celtics and Maine Mariners

games, giving residents an opportunity to attend professional sporting events together.

For Silvia, the importance of the department extends beyond the individual activities it offers.

“Recreation is about much more than the activity itself,” Silvia said. “These programs create opportunities for people to meet their neighbors, make friends, spend time with their families, and feel connected to their community.”

Residents can find information

about current programs and register through the Raymond Parks and Recreation RecDesk page at Raymond.recdesk.com. Program updates, registration openings and special events are also shared through the Town of Raymond Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Silvia encourages residents who have never participated in a Parks and Recreation program to give one a try.

“You do not have to know anyone, be an experienced athlete, or have participated in Parks and Recreation before,” Silvia said.

Whether through a sports program, hiking group, family event or community outing, the department hopes residents will find an opportunity to get involved this fall.

“More than anything, I hope they leave feeling a little more connected to their neighbors, their family, the outdoors, or the Raymond community as a whole,” Silvia said. <

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Topics of Discussion

New Sewer Project ★ Rte 302 Project ★ Proposed Community Center

6-6:30 Social Time

6:30 Welcome - Remarks by Eric Giguere, WEDC President
Remarks by Mark Morrison, Town Council Chairman
Remarks/Presentation by Bob Burns Town Manager
Question & Answer Time with Town Councilors & WEDC Members

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→ MEETING *Cont. from page 1*

MaineDOT first entered into a working partnership in 2019 with the Town of Windham to alleviate traffic congestion on Route 302. In 2022, the state and the town collaborated on a transportation planning and feasibility study called North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility, Local Access.

State transportation officials obtained a RAISE grant in 2023 of \$25 million for the project. The total project cost, including design, engineering, right of way and construction costs is \$31.25 million. MaineDOT and the Town of Windham will equally split the 20 percent total project cost match of \$6.25 million.

Besides congestion, the project area had seven high-crash locations (HCLs) in the three-year period from 2018 to 2020 alone and MaineDOT staff say the project will assist in reducing crashes and injuries in a commercial area that has grown rapidly around outdated safety features or no safety features at all.

The East Connector Road will be a total of .67 miles and consists of build-

ing a local roadway at the eastern terminal of Franklin Drive and extending south to Route 115. It includes intersection connections with Veterans Memorial Drive and Sandbar Road.

The West Connector Road will be a total of 1.01 miles and consists of building a local roadway beginning at the north terminus of Manchester Drive and extending North about .55 miles to Whites Bridge Road. It includes intersection connections with Landing Road, Amato Drive and Trails End Road.

The existing intersection of Manchester Drive and Route 35 will receive improvements, including a new traffic signal.

The Middle Connector Road will be .14 miles and consists of building a local roadway beginning at the Franklin Drive and the Route 302 intersections and extending southwesterly to Landing Road about 755 feet.

Sewer Project

Plans were approved by Windham voters in a special referendum in June 2022 for a new sewer project that included construction of a public wastewater system and the removal

of about 100 septic systems that were discharging into the North Windham aquifer. Because of the lack of an effective sewer system in North Windham, over the years contaminants have continued to pollute the aquifer, threatening surrounding ponds and lakes, and stifling economic growth.

In addition, for the past two decades increasing nitrate levels have been observed in the underlying aquifer that threatened local water resources including Sebago Lake. Current levels of nitrates in the groundwater have exceeded drinking water standards. Septic system pollution entering the aquifer directly impacts surrounding valuable water resources, and this new wastewater treatment plant addresses the issue before the problem escalated and became irreversible.

The wastewater treatment plant is expected to remove 25,000 pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants each year being dumped by septic systems into the aquifer and watershed. The installation of sewers is expected to stimulate significant economic growth in Windham and lead to development in the area by industries and businesses not willing to locate here because of associated septic system issues and costs.

Community Center Referendum

Windham voters will be asked on Nov. 3 to approve issuing general obligation bonds up to \$19.5 million in a referendum to finance the costs of rehabilitating the Windham Middle School for use as a community center, and moving the Windham Public Library and Town of Windham municipal offices there. It includes the costs of design, engineering, pro-

fessional services, site preparation, construction, renovation, operating costs, and other improvements and furnishings as may be required in connection with the project. The proposal includes appropriating up to \$2 million of the town's fund balance as the Town Council deems reasonable and necessary to reduce the borrowing amount and directly pay for costs of the project.

As part of the referendum to obtain \$131.7 million in state funding to build a new middle school for students in Windham and Raymond, RSU 14 voters agreed in 2023 that the existing Windham Middle School could not be used as a school again, since the state had already contributed funding for substantial repair costs over decades of the building's use. In formulating the proposal as to how best to repurpose the WMS building, WMS Repurpose Advisory worked with an architect and design team and toured the Westbrook and Gorham Community Centers to see how those towns adapted old school buildings for community center facilities.

Determining that the basic structure of the school was sound and that it offered 80,000 square feet of available space, the committee looked at the existing town buildings with long-term replacement costs and short-term maintenance, parking improvements and repair costs and decided that a number of municipal services could be relocated to the site for a fraction of the cost of renovating or replacing current buildings.

To RSVP to attend the Windham Business Gathering, send an email to vermetteja@hotmail.com <

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KEY ISSUES:

- ★ Reforming DHHS to save children of child abuse.
- ★ Lowering the cost of living via taxes, utility policies, healthcare policies, & installing protection programs for Maine's seniors, families, & workers.
- ★ Protection of individual & constitutional rights, including ensuring that women & girls are not forced to unfairly compete against biological men.

Kenny is an advocate for our community since 2017 helping raise over \$500,000 for over 20 organizations located in, or supporting, district residents and is endorsed by the late Bill Diamond's wife and daughters, Jane & Karyn, Tom Tyler, Gary Plummer, the late Pat Moody, and many others.

Please vote Kenny For Senny on November 3!

Follow me on socials & learn more at: KennyForSenate.com

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Historical Society selling honey after successful harvest

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

It's been more than a year in the making, but Sue Pride of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society says its "Honey Bee Project" is such a success that it is now able to offer an abundance of honey for sale to the public.

In the early spring of 2025, the society launched the project when beekeeper and member Ingo Hartig established two hives on the Raymond-Casco Historical Museum campus in Casco. Hartig also offered educational talks at the Casco Public Library and the Raymond Village Library about beekeeping.

The museum also hosted a lively Bee Celebration later in 2025, with the Queen Bee in attendance, bringing crafts, games, and all things honey to families and visitors on a weekend event. Since then, school groups and homeschoolers have made the bee talks a popular event, sparking curiosity and countless questions about beekeeping.

Pride said that although the original museum hives were lost this spring because of weather or as the result of other natural causes, strong educational interest inspired the historical society to continue the program with newly purchased bees.

"This year's improved spring weather helped the new colony thrive," Pride said.

In May, third graders from Raymond Elementary School visited the museum and engaged enthusiastically.

cally with a presentation about bees with Hartig, reaffirming the historical society's decision to keep the program alive.

According to Pride, this season yielded a major success with a harvest of more than 90 pounds of honey.

“After uncapping the waxed cells, pouring out the golden liquid, and extracting it in a centrifuge, the honey has been bottled under the label ‘Ingo & Hugo’s Honey’ honoring both the beekeeper and his helper,” Pride said.

There is always something of interest happening at the Raymond-Casco Historical Society Museum and with the addition of bee hives to the site, Pride says visitors have more to explore from regular weekend events to new collections, and the museum always tries to offer something to fit everyone's interests.

She said that the museum campus has expanded significantly over the past several years with the addition of a blacksmith's shop and an old schoolhouse on the museum



Beekeeper Ingo Hartig of Raymond has helped establish a 'Honey Bee Project' for the Raymond-Casco Historical Society and it yielded more than 90 pounds of honey this year. Honey is now for sale at the Raymond-Casco Historical Museum, 1 Shadow Road in Casco. SUBMITTED PHOTO

grounds. Visitors can now take in exhibits showcasing actual items from the Raymond area, as well as the museum's popular transportation barn.

"A lot is happening here at Raymond-Casco Historical Society," she said. "We have new exhibits, a model farm, and new bee hives. The idea is

to let people know how important honeybees are. Ingo especially likes working with children.”

For the early settlers of Raymond, honey gathered from bee hives was used instead of sugar.

which was a highly taxed
the British. The production
and beeswax became an
source of income for colo-
used to make products such
, lipstick, shoe polish, and

The honey collected from the 2026 harvest is now for sale at the Raymond-Casco Historical Museum, 1 Shadow Lane off Route 302 in Casco. The price is \$15 per bottle.

The museum is open from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays this fall. Honey will also be available from 3 to 6 p.m. at Casco Fest on Saturday, Sept. 26 and Sunday, Sept. 27.

“The honey is selling quickly, and community members are encouraged to visit the museum soon to purchase a bottle and support this educational and environmental initiative,” Pride said.

To learn more about the Raymond-Casco Historical Society or the “Honey Bee Project,” visit www.raymondcascohistoricalsociety.org or follow the historical society on Facebook for updates, events, and historical programing. <



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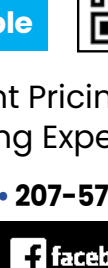
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Leaf and Brush Disposal Site prepares for seasonal opening

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

It seems like summer just started but falling leaves tell a different story for Windham residents as their yards fill up with leaves and piles of unwanted brush that have accumulated on their property since spring. The big question is how to get rid of it.

With that in mind, Windham’s Department of Public Works has announced the dates for dropping off leaves and brush for fall disposal and residential clean-ups in town.

The Windham Leaf and Brush Disposal Site will officially open for the fall season at 7 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 and will wrap up operations for the fall season at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8. The Leaf and Brush Disposal Site can be found at the very end of Enterprise Drive off Route 302 behind the self-storage building in North Windham.

According to Windham DPW officials, residents who are dropping off items for disposal at the Leaf and Brush Disposal Site need to separate leaves from brush and place them in the appropriate areas where the



The Windham Leaf and Brush Disposal Site will be open from Saturday, Oct. 17 to Sunday, Nov. 8 at the end of Enterprise Drive off Route 302 behind the self-storage building in North Windham. COURTESY PHOTO

marked and the posted signs indicate at the disposal site.

For residents transporting leaves to the Leaf and Brush Disposal Site in paper or plastic bags, DPW requests that the leaves be removed from the bags and the bags taken back home for proper disposal there. They also

ask that residents not bring any unwanted brush or branches larger than 12 inches in diameter to the site for disposal.

Grass clippings are allowed to be dumped at the Windham Leaf and Brush Disposal Site, but large heavy tree stumps are not permitted for

disposal there. And, DPW says that residents are not allowed to dump garbage, metal, trash, rubble, old televisions or appliances at the facility.

For new residents who were wondering, the Town of Windham does not offer a collection for leaves at the curb, and bags of leaves should not be placed in weekly recycling bins for collection.

Each fall about 600 to 700 yards in cubic feet of leaves and unwanted brush are typically collected at the town’s Leaf and Brush Disposal Site.

Windham DPW officials say to use the service, load up your vehicle and take the bags for disposal to the Leaf and Brush Disposal Site which will be open around the clock, 24 hours a day to Windham residents.

While Windham’s Public Works department once handled both spring and fall brush disposal services, the town is assisted in this bi-annual collection by R.J Grondin and Sons, a family-owned construction company.

Larry Grondin, vice president of Grondin and Sons, said that it was a “good fit” to offer the town assistance with brush disposal.

“After we helped with Public Works’ new building, the initial plan was to just help out while construction was taking place,” he said. “Though we settled on us taking over with the brush disposal entirely since they no longer had the room for it. It’s worked out so far for us both and we like working with them.”

Grondin said that all materials gathered during the spring and fall brush seasons are given new life through the Grondin and Sons company. Instead of burning the leaves and brush like residents in the past once would, Grondin and Sons find new purposes for the materials.

The leaves are composted, and wood-based materials collected are used to create new heating materials.

Grondin said it’s great knowing that the leaves and brush gathered are repurposed rather than trashed at a waste facility. These disposed materials in Windham gain a new purpose, and it also provides residents with a local site place to self-dispose of leaves and brush free of charge.

To learn more about Windham’s Leaf and Brush Disposal Site, call the Windham Public Works Department at 207-892-1909 or visit <https://www.windhammaine.us/586/Leaf-and-Brush-Disposal>. <

Does the proposed Community Center truly make sense for Taxpayers?

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The proposed \$19 million renovation of the current MS (Middle School) into a community center raises serious concerns about cost, necessity, and long-term planning. The existing facilities are functional, and public tax dollars should be used only when truly necessary. If the building requires upgrades to meet DOE (Department of Education) standards, such as a sprinkler system or roof replacement, those improvements can be made without undertaking a full renovation.

Have other alternatives even been considered? One option would be to move Manchester students to the current MS and repurpose Manchester School for town use. The current Middle School is larger to accommodate Field Allen students. This would keep students on one campus, reduce transportation costs, and avoid the inefficiencies of splitting schools across multiple locations.

It is my understanding the DOE (Department of Education) advised RSU14 the current Middle School can no longer be used as a school and that’s what prompted this initiative. Manchester and Field Allen schools are older than the current Middle School. Is the DOE going to tell us those buildings are outdated in two years and cause us to face an additional large-scale expansion in addition to the 170 mil for the new MS and 19 mil on this proposed project? I do not agree with everything the DOE does with our children’s education to begin with. To learn they have the authority to dictate the criteria of the buildings we provide for them is another bridge too far. How can the same building be made safe for the public but not students and teachers? 70% of our tax dollars go to “education”. Until we as taxpayers stop supporting their agenda, they will continue to take our money while test scores decline.

Repurposing Manchester School for town services appears to offer several advantages. It is more centrally located downtown, would be more accessible to residents and local businesses, has no bearing walls, and would likely be far less expensive to renovate. It would also reduce traffic congestion on Route 302 by eliminating the need for buses to enter and exit the road multiple times each day. In addition, the Manchester fields could be used by the public and community groups. Keeping schools on the same campus makes long-term logistical and financial sense. It reduces bussing costs which include fuel, labor, maintenance, and vehicle depreciation, while improving traffic flow and overall efficiency.

Taxpayers cannot continue absorbing unnecessary expenses for projects that may be attractive in concept but are not practical. The current Middle School was built

as a school and is in better condition than many other school buildings in town. If a sprinkler system is required, that cost is far below \$19 million.

To summarize, potential advantages of using Manchester School as a community center include.

- Lower renovation costs
- Better access to downtown and local businesses
- Improved parking
- Reduced bus congestion and safer traffic flow as buses would no longer have to come onto 302 in the morning or later afternoon.
- Separate campuses for schools and town services
- Fewer field conflicts between public and schools
- Greater accessibility by car, bike, or foot
- Better alignment with downtown development goals
- Easier access for businesses, the public and Town organizations such as Chamber, Rotary WEDC, and other organizations.
- Some families are locating downtown would it make sense to be able to access the field at a Community Center that could provide public access to bathrooms?

The proposed community center includes pickleball courts. Considering we have cold winters and hot summers, I find it difficult to ask taxpayers who are all stretched financially to fund amenities they may never use. In addition, Pickle ball courts are loud; does it make sense to put them right next to a school? “IF” the Council deems pickleball courts are a “necessity” it would be far less expensive to put up a net on the current tennis courts or the basketball court next to the police station. What if we looked at pickle ball courts from a business perspective? The town could sell the soon to be vacant fire station across from Manchester School to a private business that could provide a service to the public and generate tax revenue. For example, it could be repurposed as a sports-oriented venue with pickleball courts, a golf simulator with a sports bar/restaurant upstairs creating a year-round facility that serves the community and what do you know...tax revenue.

Before voting this November, residents should ask whether the Town reviewed other options for the Middle School. While it may seem that this is the only option on the table, a NO VOTE will force a more thorough and well thought out plan that works for everyone. Many folks in town believe the Town and RSU moved too quickly by “promoting” a \$1 sale of the Middle School as some great deal and then “appointing” a committee to design the current plan without fully considering more beneficial alternatives.

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Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to:
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Editor,

I'm writing to share my perspective after working with Marge Govoni and Joe Kellner on the RSU 14 School Board for the past three years. Both know their role thoroughly. They work within their scope of authority and let the administration focus on the critical work of educating our students.

Joe is a leader by nature. He considers every perspective before making a decision and he works hard to find middle ground where possible. Marge cares deeply about our community and its children, and it's evident in her work. The institutional knowledge she has built over nearly 20 years of service consistently gives me valuable insight when I make decisions.

I'm not voting for either candidate because I agree with them all the time – I don't. I'm voting for them because

they are the effective leaders our students deserve. Please join me in voting for Marge and Joe for School Board on Nov. 3.

~ Christina Small, Windham

Editor,

I met Kenny Cianchette over five years ago at his business, Erik's Church. As we spoke, he had numerous interactions with his staff. What I noticed was how kindly and clearly that he spoke to everyone. I noticed that his staff functioned with autonomy as well. This level of competency is directly related to how he treats his staff and what he expects of them. He depends on young people to operate his business and it's clear they rise to his expectations.

Kenny seems to fully understand that the young people of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. He's actively developing leaders through sports,

and within his business. It's not surprising that his football teams have won two state championships. He's given young people the encouragement and opportunity to excel.

I'm convinced Kenny Cianchette, as our next State Senator, will make decisions in Augusta that will benefit young and old alike.

~ Ingrid LeVasseur, Windham

Editor,

I've had cause to work with the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of a family member. The ineffectiveness of that department cannot be overstated. A child's welfare was at stake and no amount of testimony, calling or pleading brought about any change. In desperation, I called Bill Diamond. One

call from Bill to DHHS re-solved the issue.

Kenny Cianchette is uniquely qualified to fill Bill's shoes. He's demonstrated his love for and generosity to this community. He supports many of the non-profits who support children's needs.

Kenny supports structural reform of the Office of Child and Family Services, including proposed legislation which replaces the current system with a cabinet-level department. This approach will elevate accountability, ensure transparency and provide direct oversight.

Kenny will pick up where Bill Diamond left off. Please join me in voting for Kenny Cianchette for State Senator.

~ Deb McPhail, Windham



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Nangle: Helping families stay warm as cooler weather arrives

► **By Senator Tim Nangle**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Sen. Tim Nangle

Cooler mornings remind us that another Maine winter is approaching. For many of us, that means thinking about how to fit the next heating oil delivery into the household budget. Heating oil prices are climbing, and I feel that pinch, too.

The war in Iran is disrupting global oil supplies and driving up heating costs here in Maine. According to the Maine Department of Energy Resources, a Sept. 14 survey put the statewide average at \$5.77 per gallon. When groceries, housing and other necessities already cost so much, filling the tank can be a difficult expense to manage.

After spending most of my career in public safety, I know that keeping

people safe starts with making sure their basic needs are met. A warm home is one of those needs. Nobody should have to choose between buying heating fuel, refilling a prescription, or putting food on the table.

That is why my colleagues and I worked this year to help Mainers manage energy costs. In the supplemental budget, we invested in electricity assistance for households with low incomes. We also authorized up to \$1.5 million from Maine’s “Rainy Day” fund for emergency heating assistance during declared emergencies lasting more than 10 days. This gives Maine another way to provide emergency heating assistance when federal funding is delayed, as it was during the federal government shut-down last fall.

We also passed the Energy Fairness Act, which requires the Maine Public Utilities Commission to consider affordability for residential customers when making decisions. It directs a comprehensive review of electric delivery rates to identify

ways to contain costs, reduce unpredictable swings in bills and improve transparency. Mainers deserve to understand what we are paying for and to have our household budgets considered when regulators make decisions that affect us.

These steps will not completely ease the strain of a costly winter, but they reflect a responsibility I take seriously: making it more affordable for people to live here.

As we head into the cooler months, I also want to share resources that may help.

The Home Energy Assistance Program, known as HEAP, helps eligible homeowners and renters pay part of their heating costs. Applications for the 2026-2027 season are open, and I encourage you to apply early. Renters may qualify, even if heat is included in their rent. In Cumberland County, call The Opportunity Alliance at 207-553-5900 to schedule a phone appointment. You can also find the online application by visiting mainehousing.org/HEAP.

For households with an extremely low fuel supply the Energy Crisis Intervention Program may provide emergency assistance. The program opens Nov. 1. If you are running low, call The Opportunity Alliance at 207-553-5900, explain your situation and ask what help is available. Learn more at opportunityalliance.org/ecip.

Also, the town or city you live in

has a General Assistance program that may help pay for heating fuel and utilities if you cannot meet your basic needs. Contact your municipal office to apply. This is another place to turn if you need help before seasonal emergency assistance opens.

If you are unsure where to start, dial 211 or text your ZIP code to 898-211. A specialist can help identify heating assistance and other local resources.

When applying for HEAP, ask about other programs like electricity assistance, weatherization and heating system repairs, too. Depending on eligibility, these programs may help with other energy expenses and make your home more energy efficient.

I know these bills add up and asking for help isn’t always easy. We have more work to do to make energy affordable, but support is available now. If you need help finding the right program or navigating an application, contact me at Tim.Nangle@legislature.maine.gov or 207-287-1515. My office is here to help you find what you need to stay warm in the months ahead.

State Senator Tim Nangle represents District 26 including Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook.

The opinions in this column are those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of The Windham Eagle newspaper ownership or its staff. <

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Local students recognized for academic excellence

The following students from Windham and Raymond have been recognized for academic excellence at their respective colleges and universities:

Eric Sawyer, Lisa Gamage, Grace Forant, Melinda Vaughan and Miranda Gleason, all of Windham, have been named to the President’s List for exceptional academic performance at Southern New Hampshire University during the summer 2026 semester.

Liam Connor-Schaefer, Taryn Curry, Max Daigle, Marlie Ennis, Sophie Gardner, Kailee Gaudreau, Elara Kluck, Alice Morrison, Isabel Rondeau, Estella Sample, Savana Swan, Elizabeth Talbot, and Maya VanHise, all of Raymond, have been named to the Dean’s List for outstanding academic performance at the University of Southern Maine during the Spring 2026 semester.

Matthew Fox of Windham has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bates College with a major in mathematics and minoring in religious studies.

Maryam Al Ani, Theresa Anderson, Molly Black, Haddon Boyle, Piper Chicoine, Brook Couch, Kait Crawford, Luke Cuniffe, Penelope Day, Katie Day-Murray, Dakota Desantis, Grace Foster, Alexandra Fuller, Samuel Genovese, Joel Habiyakare, Rosemary Haibon, Gabrielle Halterman, Eliza Hill, Scott Ingalls, Annie Jackson, Lauren Jordan, Benjahmin LaWind, Zocia LaWind, Connor LeClerc, RJ Legere, Amelia Mortero, Arsema Muleta, Sarah Musaniwabo, Ahlam Nure, Devin O’Brien, Blake Peebles, Celina Sayed, Elise Schultz, Caleb Smith, Eliana Tardiff, Afomiya Timerga, Jessica Tuttle, and Jake Wallace, all of Windham, have been named to the Dean’s List for outstanding academic performance at the University of Southern Maine during the Spring 2026 semester.

Riley Parker of Windham has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Rhode Island.

Kelly Gleysteen of Frye Island has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science from the University of Rhode Island.

Amanda Foss of Raymond has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from the University of Rhode Island.

Antonio Candelmo, Arthur Belanger, Christie Thetonia, Dawn Brazalovich, Jonathan Charron, Leann Johnson, Mike Potter, Miranda Moulton, Heidi Cox, Neal Hurley, Sharon Kennedy, Danielle McQuarrie, Isaac Mireles, Jade Pierce, Matthew Searway, and Luke Vashon, all of Windham, have been named to the President’s List for exceptional academic performance at the University of Maine at Augusta during the Spring 2026 semester. <

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BRIEFS

Harvest Supper

The Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ will host its September “Harvest Supper” from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 941 Meadow Road in Casco. The meal will feature ham and potatoes, baked beans, roasted vegetables, cider, homemade desserts and ice cream. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 8 and under. FMI, call 207-627-4282.

Fall event

Space to Thrive, a local non-profit in Windham, is hosting a free fall com-

munity event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. There will be forest walks, live music, vendors, face painting, raffles, food, and more. Parking is available at Windham High School, with only a short 4-minute walk to Space to Thrive at 184 Pope Road in Windham. FMI, call 207- 252-9837.

Community Presentation

Brian Butler, an environmental scientist and geologist, will present an introduction to “PFAS - Understanding the forever chemicals” in plain language during a free community

presentation from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, 40 Windham Center Road in Windham. on Sunday, Sept. 27. Brian led environmental investigations and remediation of military bases, industrial sites and landfills for federal, state and industrial clients throughout the U.S. and overseas. Enter by the church side door. FMI, call 207-892-8447.

Blood Drive

North Windham Union Church will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28 at 723 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate blood.

Cancer Support

The Windham Cancer Support Group will conduct its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road. All those impacted by cancer are welcome. FMI, email: coppjanet@yahoo.com

Golf Tournament

The Greater Windham Business Exchange is hosting a golf tournament fundraiser to raise money for the Sebago Lake Region Fuller Center for Housing on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at Spring Meadows in Gray. There will be a shotgun start with Aroma Joe’s providing morning coffee and ending with a BBQ lunch and The Healing Tribe doing chair massage for all players. Back Swing Events will have a women’s professional golfer

conducting a putter challenge for donations and there will be raffle prizes from Lake House Tavern, Nappi Distributors, Crow’s Nest, Windham Barber, Hailey’s Kitchen, and more. Teams of four and green fees are \$550 with 100 percent going to Sebago Lake Region Fuller Center for Housing. Teams can register online at GWBE.org. FMI, email: GWBE.maine@gmail.com.

Free Movie

The free movie “Freedom Writers” will be shown from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road. The film stars Hilary Swank and Patrick Dempsey and is about a young teacher who takes on a class of at-risk students in a violent high school, inspiring them to learn tolerance and to apply themselves through daily writing in a journal. For more details, call 207-892-1908 ext. 7. Transportation may be available from Age Friendly Windham. FMI, call 207-892-4649.

Peony Sale

Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond, is having a Peony Sale from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Raymond Village Library organization. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Suicide Support

The Alternatives to Suicide Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the Lake Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm St., Bridgton. FMI, call 207-803-8707.

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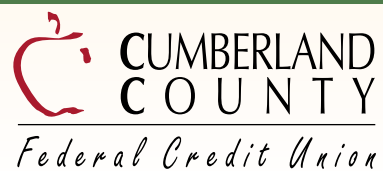
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Noon – 12:30 p.m.
Windham Middle School
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1 p.m. – Pie-Eating Contest
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Saco River Jazz Band performs
2:45 p.m.
Farewell Remarks
3 p.m. Doors close

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SebagoLong Lake Music Festival’s 2026 concert season to air on Maine Public Classical’s ‘Maine Stage’

SebagoLong Lake Music Festival is pleased to announce that its 2026 concert season will be broadcast over the coming months on Maine Public Classical’s Maine Stage.

Beginning Sept. 30, listeners across Maine and beyond can enjoy five exceptional chamber music performances recorded live at the historic Deertrees Theatre in Harrison.

Each broadcast airs at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, offering audiences a chance to revisit the magic of the summer season – or discover it for the first time – from the comfort of home.

“This partnership with Maine Public Classical allows us to share the artistry and energy of our summer concerts with a wider audience,” said Carol Madsen, Vice President of the Board of Trustees. “It’s a gift of music we’re proud to offer.”

Broadcast Schedule

1) Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026
From the July 14, 2026 concert

**** Louise Farrenc – Nonet for Winds and Strings, Op. 38 (1849)**

**** Franz Schubert – Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 66 “Trout” (1819)**

2) Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2027
From concerts performed July 21, 2026 and Aug. 13, 2024

**** Reinhold Glière – Five Duos for Flute and Cello, Op. 39 (1909)**

**** Ludwig van Beethoven – Sere-nade for String Trio in D Major, Op. 8 (1795–1797)**

**** Antonín Dvořák – Piano Quartet**

No. 2 in EFlat Major, Op. 87 (1893)

3) Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2027
From the July 28, 2026 performance

**** Carl Maria von Weber – Trio for Flute, Cello, and Piano in G Minor, Op. 63 (1818–1819)**

**** Bohuslav Martinů – Duo No. 1 for Violin and Viola, H. 313 “Three Madrigals” (1947)**

**** Robert Schumann – Piano Quintet in EFlat Major, Op. 44 (1842)**

4) Wednesday, April 7, 2027
From the Aug. 4, 2026 concert

**** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Trio in EFlat Major, K. 498 “Kegelstatt” (1786)**

**** Alfred Schnittke – Piano Quintet (1976)**

**** Antonín Dvořák – String Quintet in EFlat Major, Op. 97 “American” (1893)**

5) Wednesday, May 19, 2027
From the Aug. 11, 2026 concert

**** Camille SaintSaëns – Fantaisie for Violin and Harp in A Major, Op. 124 (1907)**

**** Claude Debussy – Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp (1915)**

**** Johannes Brahms – Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 25 (1861)**

Program notes, artist information, and biographies are available at sebagomusicfestival.org. Listeners may tune in via their local Maine Public Classical station or stream online.

“We had an exciting season, and these broadcasts will take us all back to Deertrees and the wonderful mu-

sic of Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival,” said Dana Flanders, President of the SebagoLong Lake Music Festival Board of Trustees.

Looking Ahead

SebagoLong Lake Music Festival returns to Deertrees Theatre in 2027 with five live concerts on July 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3 and 10.

Music Director Mihae Lee shared, “I am very excited about our 55th season next summer. We will honor the 200th anniversary of Beethoven’s death, and each of our five concerts will feature one of his masterworks.”

The Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival is an organization devoted to presenting and promoting high-quality chamber music performances in the Lake Region of Western Maine. Every summer SLLMF presents a 5-week series of chamber music concerts at the Deertrees Theatre in Harrison. To learn more about them, to make a donation, or to get involved visit their website at: www.sebagomusicfestival.org. <



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Making a contribution

By Andy Young
STAFF COLUMNIST



- Andy Young, Columnist

“Time is money,” Ben Franklin wrote in “Advice to a Young Tradesman,” an essay he penned in 1748. I’ve always thought that made a lot of sense, which was why 10 years ago, I decided to make my home television-free.

It’s a choice I’ve never regretted. The thousands (or maybe tens of thousands) of hours I’ve spent doing some-

thing other than sitting inertly in front of a video screen have been exceptionally well spent.

One of the many fringe benefits of having no TV is being spared the irritation of the ceaseless (and generally senseless) stream of politically themed hogwash that floods the airwaves during an election year. However, a recent spate of phone calls and text messages originating from area codes I’m unfamiliar with indicate that the lack of a video screen is no longer effective insurance against getting bombarded with campaign ads.

Resourceful political operatives have found new ways to inundate our consciousness with all kinds of propaganda. The text messages and phone calls I’ve gotten in just the past week verify that even for those who don’t do TV or social media, there’s no escaping incessant politically based electronic invasions, the bulk of which are an insult to our collective intelligence.

The upside to the recent spate of junk text messages and robocalls I’ve been receiving is that I’m clearly in high demand, given the frequency with which heavy hitters from both of America’s major political parties are lavishing their attention on me. However, given the tone of their correspondence, it seems these people are less interested in getting my vote this November than they are in obtaining access to my wallet and/or bank account.

Representatives of both candidates for Maine’s U.S. Senate seat have confided in me that they’d really appreciate my fiscal support, although I suspect every adult in Maine is receiving similar appeals.

But it’s not just Maine politicians and their hired guns who are vying for my affection, or more specifically my checkbook.

Somebody from area code 771 messaged me that a historic 13-star flag has been reserved in my name, and they will send it to me for a tax-deductible gift of \$35 (or more, if I’d prefer).

The speaker of the United States House of Representatives texted me with, “You’re the key to our success.” I’m not sure why he thinks that, since he represents Louisiana’s 4th congressional district, and I’m not eligible to



vote there.

I’ve also heard from the vice-president, several senators, and multiple high-visibility panhandlers from both parties, all of whom use a variety of come-ons to deliver the same basic message: “Give us your money, because if you don’t the bad guys will win, and you, the nation, and the world are doomed.”

Given the still-rising cost of health-care, groceries, energy, and just about every other necessity these days, I won’t be contributing money to anyone running for elective office this year. That’s partly because I’m not in a position to, but also because whatever I could afford to give would be dwarfed by the already obscene contributions both Democrats and Republicans are getting from corporations, lobbyists, and other special interest groups already financing the ceaseless attack ads every American who’s not a hermit living off the power grid will be getting swamped with between now and Nov. 3.

But if this army of partisan scroungers (both human and robotic) will take my advice, I’ll give them something of equal or greater value.

Stop pestering people like me for donations. Continuously attempting to shake us down is wasting everyone’s valuable time.

And as Ben Franklin sagely pointed out, time is money. <

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

SITE WALK:

Monday, September 28 • 5:00PM

Meet across the street from 32 Anglers Road

- #26-19 Sandbar Apartments Tax Map: 18, Lot: 32A-3 Major subdivision and site plan review to construct two buildings with a total of 24 residential apartment units

REGULAR MEETING:

Monday, September 28 • 6:00PM

Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- #26-20 The Windham Mall Tax Map: 70, Lot: 14 Franklin Drive Major subdivision plan amendment to create one lot, and revise infrastructure.
- #26-05 North Windham Public Safety Building Tax Map:70, Lot: 14 Franklin Drive Major site plan review for a new public safety building and associated infrastructure.
- # 26-18.1 Walmart Supercenter Expansion Tax Map: 18A, Lot: 48A – Landing Road Major site plan amendment for a building addition and associated infrastructure.

FMI go to windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or contact (207) 894-5960 ex. 2. Written comment may be submitted to the Board at PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us. Please notify us if you need accessibility accommodations.



2026 Fall **HOME** and **GARDEN** Guide

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

10 ways homeowners can prepare for winter

Fall is the ideal time for Maine homeowners to prepare their homes and property for the cold, snow and winter storms that are just around the corner. Taking care of routine maintenance before temperatures drop can

help prevent costly repairs, improve heating efficiency and reduce the chance of problems during the coldest months of the year. From servicing heating systems and sealing drafts to preparing snow removal equipment and protecting pipes from freezing, a little attention now can make a home safer, warmer and better prepared for whatever a Maine winter brings.

1. **Service the heating system** — Have furnaces, boilers, heat pumps and other heating equipment inspected and serviced before temperatures drop.
2. **Clean and inspect the chimney** — Woodstoves and fireplaces should be checked for creosote buildup, blockages and other potential problems before heating season.
3. **Seal windows and doors** — Replace worn weatherstripping and caulk gaps to reduce drafts, heat loss and energy costs.
4. **Clean gutters and check the roof** — Remove leaves and debris from gutters and look for missing or damaged shingles before snow and ice arrive.
5. **Prepare snow removal equipment** — Service snowblowers, inspect plows and shovels, and make sure ice

melt and traction materials are ready before the first storm.

6. **Protect plumbing from freezing** — Disconnect garden hoses, shut off and drain exterior faucets when appropriate, and insulate vulnerable pipes in colder areas of the home.
7. **Schedule generator maintenance** — Test portable or standby generators and have them serviced as needed so they're ready for winter power outages.
8. **Prepare the yard and outdoor spaces** — Store or cover outdoor furniture, clean up leaves, protect vulnerable plants and make sure decks, stairs and railings are secure before snow arrives.
9. **Check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** — Test alarms throughout the home and replace batteries or expired units. This is especially important as heating systems, fireplaces and generators return to use.
10. **Stock up for winter storms** — Keep flashlights, batteries, blankets, basic food and water supplies, medications and other essentials on hand in case a storm causes an extended power outage or makes travel difficult.



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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

A fresh coat: Exploring interior painting trends

As homeowners begin thinking about indoor projects for the colder months, painting remains one of the easiest ways to give a home a fresh appearance. Interior color trends for 2026 and 2027 are moving away from the cool grays and stark whites that dominated homes for years and toward warmer, richer and more nature-inspired colors.

Warm neutrals remain popular, but beige, taupe, cream and warm off-white are increasingly replacing cooler shades of gray. Earthy greens are also making a strong showing, ranging from light, subtle greens to deeper olive and moss tones. Browns, clay-inspired shades and other colors drawn from nature can bring warmth to living rooms, bedrooms and gathering spaces.

Homeowners are also becoming more comfortable with color. Rather than limiting stronger shades to a single accent wall, color is appearing on entire walls, cabinetry, built-ins, trim and even ceilings.

One trend continuing into 2027 is “color drenching,” where walls, trim and sometimes the ceiling are painted the same color or variations of one shade. The technique can give a room a cohesive, enveloping appearance. Painted ceilings are also gaining attention as homeowners begin treating the “fifth wall” as another opportunity to add character.

While trends can provide inspiration, choosing colors that complement a home’s lighting, furnishings and architectural style is usually more im-

portant than following a particular fad.

So, how often should the inside of a home be painted?

There is no single schedule because wear varies considerably from room to room. As a general guideline, many interior walls can go approximately five to seven years between painting when the existing finish remains in good condition.

High-traffic areas may need attention sooner. Hallways, kitchens, bathrooms, entryways and children’s rooms often collect fingerprints, scuffs, moisture and other signs of wear. Bedrooms and less frequently used rooms may go considerably longer.

Ceilings typically require painting less frequently than walls and may look good for 10 years or more. Kitchens, bathrooms and rooms with fireplaces or woodstoves may need ceiling paint refreshed sooner because of moisture, cooking residue, soot or discoloration.

Homeowners should also watch the condition of the paint rather than relying entirely on the calendar. Fading, stains, peeling, cracking, excessive scuffing and damaged drywall can all indicate that it is time for a new coat.

Although painting is a popular do-it-yourself project, hiring a professional can make a noticeable difference, particularly when painting multiple rooms, high ceilings or areas requiring repairs.

Much of a successful paint job happens before the first coat is applied.



Professionals can properly prepare surfaces by filling holes, repairing cracks, sanding imperfections, caulking gaps and addressing stains. They can also help determine the appropriate primer, paint type and sheen for kitchens, bathrooms, trim, ceilings and other surfaces.

Professional painters also have the equipment and experience to create clean lines and consistent coverage while safely reaching stairwells and high ceilings. They also help keep the project cleaner and less disruptive. Experienced painters take steps to protect floors, furniture, fixtures and surrounding surfaces with drop cloths, coverings and careful preparation before the job begins. Because professionals handle painting projects regularly, they can complete the preparation, painting and cleanup much faster than the average homeowner.

Fall and winter can be an ideal time to tackle interior painting. With more time spent indoors, fresh walls and ceilings can make familiar spaces feel new again while protecting surfaces for years to come.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Simple ways to stretch your heating fuel this winter

Heating a home through a Maine winter can consume a significant portion of a household budget, particularly when heating oil prices are high like they are today. While homeowners cannot control the price of fuel, they can take steps to reduce consumption, improve heating efficiency and make every gallon go further.

One of the best places to start is with a professional heating system tune-up. Oil-fired boilers and furnaces work more efficiently when they are clean and properly adjusted. Routine service may include cleaning the burner and heat exchanger, replacing filters and nozzles as necessary, checking combustion and inspecting the system for problems.

Even a heating system that appears to be operating normally may lose efficiency over time. Fall maintenance can help identify small problems before they become expensive midwinter repairs while helping the equipment operate as efficiently as possible.

The thermostat also plays an important role. Lowering the temperature when everyone is sleeping or away from home can reduce fuel use. A programmable or smart thermostat can make those adjustments automatically, although homeowners with certain heating systems should ask a heat-



ing professional about the best settings for their equipment.

Stopping heat loss is equally important. Weatherstripping around doors, caulking drafty windows and sealing other air leaks can keep heated air inside. Adequate attic insulation can make a particularly noticeable difference because warm air naturally rises.

Homeowners with hot-water baseboards or radiators should avoid blocking them with furniture, curtains or other objects. Keeping heating areas unobstructed allows warmth to circulate more effectively.

Domestic hot water can also account for a portion of household fuel consumption. Shorter showers, fixing dripping hot-water faucets and washing clothes in cold water when appropriate can reduce the amount of ener-

gy needed to heat water.
Is it time to consider propane?

For some homeowners, high oil consumption may raise the question of switching fuels. Propane can be an option when an aging oil boiler, furnace or water heater is already approaching replacement, but switching simply because one fuel is temporarily

cheaper may not make financial sense. Fuel prices fluctuate, and homeowners should consider the cost of new equipment, installation, fuel storage and expected energy use. A heating professional can compare the efficiency and operating costs of the existing system with potential replacements.

Homeowners also don't necessarily have to convert the entire house to begin using propane.

A propane water heater may be an option for households looking to separate domestic hot water from an oil-fired boiler, particularly during warmer months when the boiler otherwise runs primarily to produce hot water.

Propane can also be used for clothes dryers, cooking ranges and fireplaces. Depending on household energy costs

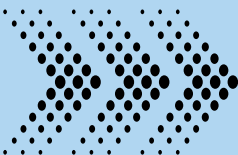
and usage, these appliances may offer advantages over their electric counterparts. Propane fireplaces can also provide supplemental heat to frequently used areas, although they should not be viewed as a substitute for properly sizing and maintaining the home's primary heating system.

Another consideration is replacing older heating equipment with a newer high-efficiency system. Whether the homeowner stays with oil, converts to propane or combines different heating sources, equipment efficiency can have a major effect on annual fuel consumption.

There is rarely one solution that works for every home. The age and size of the house, insulation, existing equipment, fuel availability and household habits all affect heating costs.

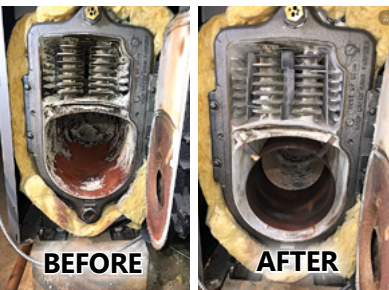
The most immediate savings often come from using less of the fuel already being purchased. Professional maintenance, reasonable thermostat settings, sealing drafts and improving insulation can all help stretch the heating budget. When major equipment reaches the end of its useful life, that can also be the right time to compare oil, propane and other heating options and determine which makes the most sense for the home and household budget.

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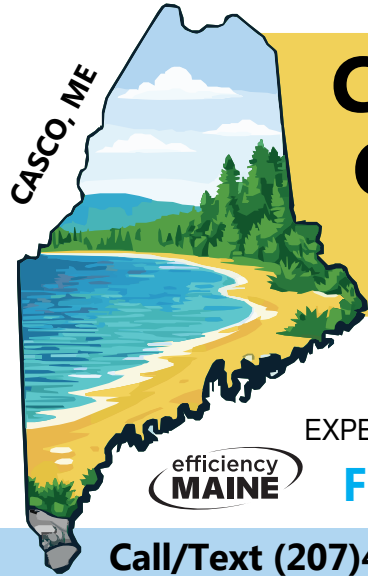


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Fall 2026HOME & GARDENGuide

Protect your home’s exterior with a professional cleaning

Maine’s damp climate can create ideal conditions for moss, mildew, algae and other organic growth to take hold on roofs and exterior surfaces. While dark streaks, green patches and staining can make a home look neglected, the concern goes beyond appearance. A regular cleaning (recommended every 3 to 5 years and more frequently if your home stays shaded or in a very damp area) helps protect roofing, siding and other materials while extending their life.

Moss can be particularly troublesome on roofs. It thrives in damp, shaded areas and can gradually grow

beneath and between shingles. As moss thickens, it may lift shingle edges and trap moisture against the roof. Repeated exposure to moisture can contribute to deterioration and potentially create conditions for leaks and rot.

Algae, mildew and other growth can also leave roofs discolored. Removing buildup before it becomes extensive helps preserve the roof while restoring a cleaner appearance.

The same principle applies to the rest of the home. Siding, trim, decks, porches and other exterior surfaces are constantly exposed to rain, pollen, dirt, insects and airborne debris. Mil-

dew and algae often develop in areas that receive limited sunlight or remain damp. Over time, this buildup can stain surfaces and contribute to premature deterioration.

Professional exterior washing can remove contaminants while avoiding some of the problems that can occur when homeowners attempt the job themselves. Using excessive pressure on shingles, siding or painted surfaces can cause damage. Water can also be forced behind siding, beneath shingles or into openings around windows and doors.

Professionals can determine the appropriate cleaning method for each

surface. Roofs, for example, often require a gentler approach than concrete walkways or other durable surfaces. Soft-washing techniques use cleaning solutions and lower water pressure to treat organic growth without relying on aggressive pressure.

Safety is another reason to leave roof cleaning to professionals. Wet shingles can become extremely slippery, and working from ladders or on pitched roofs carries a significant fall risk. Professionals have equipment and experience for working in these conditions.

Keeping the exterior clean can also improve curb appeal. A freshly cleaned roof and siding can make an older home look noticeably brighter without the expense of renovations.

Homeowners should periodically inspect roofs and exterior surfaces for dark streaks, green growth, mildew and heavy staining. Addressing these problems early can make cleaning easier and help prevent buildup from becoming established.

Professional washing is more than a cosmetic improvement. Done properly, it is preventive home maintenance that can help protect exterior materials, reduce deterioration and keep a home looking cared for through Maine’s changing seasons.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Fall leaf cleanups help protect lawns before winter

Fall foliage may be one of the best parts of autumn in Maine, but once those colorful leaves hit the ground, cleaning them up is more than a matter of keeping the yard looking tidy.

A thick layer of leaves left on a lawn can block sunlight and restrict air circulation, trapping moisture against the grass. Over the winter, leaves can become matted beneath snow, creating conditions that may contribute to mold,

lawn diseases and dead patches that become noticeable when the snow melts.

Removing leaves also helps prepare lawns for a healthier start in spring. Grass continues to benefit from sunlight and air during the fall, even as growth slows. Raking or blowing away heavy leaf cover gives turf a better opportunity to enter winter in good condition.

Leaf cleanup can also help around

the home. Wet leaves piled against foundations, decks, steps and siding hold moisture and may contribute to staining or deterioration. Leaves can also clog gutters and downspouts, preventing melting snow and rain from draining properly. With Maine's frequent freeze-and-thaw cycles, proper drainage becomes especially important as winter approaches.

Leaves do not necessarily have to go

to waste. They can be shredded with a mulching mower and left in a thin layer on the lawn, added to a compost pile or used as mulch around garden beds when appropriate.

Taking time to clean up leaves before snow arrives can protect lawns, improve drainage and reduce spring cleanup. If you are not up for the task yourself, there are plenty of local professionals ready to help!

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Fall 2026
HOME & GARDEN

Repurpose rooms to breathe new life into your home

Homeowners do not need to get hung up on room labels as they explore ways to reinvent their spaces. Just because a floor plan labels a space as a formal dining room doesn't mean the area has to remain that way.

Repurposing rooms in a home comes down to aligning the space a person has with their lifestyle needs. Here are a few ways to rethink interior spaces and make a switch to improve utility.

- **Identify unused or under-used rooms.** Take note of spaces that are cleaned but rarely used. For many people, this is a dining room or a guest suite. Either of these rooms can be transformed into something new.



- **Claim dead space.** The area under the stairs or another small spot often is used to collect junk. Instead, it can be turned into a built-in wine rack, a reading nook for kids or even a pet sanctuary with just a few modifications. Analyze areas around the home that seem like they don't serve a



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Fall 2026 HOME & GARDEN Guide

Why heat pump maintenance and cleanings are important

Like furnaces and boilers, heat pumps need regular maintenance and cleaning to operate efficiently, maintain good airflow and provide dependable performance throughout the year. Because heat pumps move air through filters, coils and indoor units, dust and other debris naturally accumulate over time. A dirty filter restricts airflow, forcing the system to work harder to maintain the desired temperature. That can increase energy use, reduce heating and cooling performance and place additional strain

on equipment. Homeowners should check and clean or replace filters according to the manufacturer's recommendations. How often this is necessary depends on the system, household and conditions inside the home. Homes with pets, considerable dust or frequent heat pump use may require more frequent attention. Filters, however, are only part of the system. Indoor heat pump heads can collect dust and debris on coils, blower wheels and other internal components. Moisture produced during air-conditioning and dehumidification can also create conditions where mold or microbial growth may develop if drainage systems and internal surfaces aren't properly maintained. When contaminants accumulate inside a unit, they may contribute to musty odors and reduced indoor air quality as air moves through the system. People with allergies, asthma or other respiratory sensitivities may be particularly bothered by airborne dust or mold. Regular professional cleaning can remove buildup in areas homeowners cannot easily reach and can help keep condensate drains flowing properly. The outdoor unit needs attention, too. Leaves, grass, snow and other debris can restrict airflow around the equipment. Homeowners should keep the area surrounding the unit clear and make sure snow doesn't accumulate around it during winter. Outdoor units should never be enclosed tightly in an attempt to protect them from snow because adequate airflow is necessary for operation. Periodic professional maintenance provides an opportunity to inspect electrical components, refrigerant lines, coils, drains and overall system performance. A technician may also identify developing problems before they lead to a breakdown during very hot or cold weather.



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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Know the signs of a home repair emergency

Southern Maine’s climate presents homeowners with challenges that can turn routine maintenance issues into urgent repairs overnight.

Knowing how to identify urgent damage, having an emergency plan and knowing when to contact a professional can make a stressful situation more manageable. Recognizing problems early can also prevent minor damage from becoming a costly repair.

Signs of Urgent Home Repair Needs

- Water leaks and roof damage: Water problems always require prompt attention. Watch for brown or yellow ceiling stains that grow or feel damp, dripping during or after rain, missing shingles, bare roof patches or shingles that curl, buckle or flap in the wind.

- Soft or spongy areas on ceilings or around skylights can indicate water trapped within the structure. Active dripping, bulging drywall or water near electrical fixtures requires immediate attention to help prevent structural damage and mold growth.
- Broken windows and siding after storms: Wind, falling branches and ice can damage a home’s exterior quickly. After a storm, look for cracked or shattered glass, loose panes, damaged window frames or gaps where daylight or drafts can be felt.

Check siding for missing or lifted pieces and exposed sheathing. A sudden cold draft or temperature change in one room can also signal storm damage. Openings allow moisture, pests and cold air into the home and

should be repaired promptly.

- Basement or crawlspace flooding: Water problems below ground can begin subtly. Look for standing water, damp lines on foundation walls, peeling paint, crumbling masonry or white, chalky deposits known as efflorescence.

A persistent musty or earthy odor can also indicate excessive moisture. Even without a major flood, ongoing dampness can weaken materials and encourage mold growth.

- Heating system failures and strange smells: During winter, heating problems can quickly become safety concerns. Complete loss of heat during freezing weather requires immediate attention.

Other warning signs include banging, grinding or screeching noises from a boiler or furnace, burning or electrical odors and a system that repeatedly turns on and off in short bursts. Strong fuel odors, burning smells or visible scorch marks around heating equipment should be professionally evaluated without delay.

- Electrical warning signs: Electrical problems can create a serious fire hazard. Watch for outlets or switches that feel unusually hot or appear discolored, breakers that repeatedly trip under normal use, and sparking, buzz-

ing or crackling sounds from outlets, fixtures or electrical panels.

The smell of melting plastic near an outlet or light fixture is another warning sign that should never be ignored. Acting quickly can protect your home and family.

Once you determine a problem needs immediate attention, choosing the right professional is important. A qualified contractor can limit damage, protect your household and provide a lasting repair instead of a temporary fix.

For emergency work, proper licensing should be a priority, particularly when structural, electrical or heating systems are involved. Code-compliant repairs can also help protect the home’s value during future inspections or appraisals.

Insurance is another important consideration. General liability and workers’ compensation coverage can protect homeowners if an accident or damage occurs during a project.

Experience with Maine homes is also valuable. Contractors familiar with local conditions understand how freeze-thaw cycles, snow, ice, heavy rain and coastal moisture affect building materials. Experienced professionals may also be better able to identify hidden water paths and other problems that are not immediately visible.



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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Building or repairing a deck that can handle Maine weather

A deck can add valuable outdoor living space to a home, but in Maine it must withstand snow, ice, rain, moisture and repeated freezing and thawing. Whether building a new deck or maintaining an existing one, choosing

appropriate materials and paying attention to structural details can help extend its life.

Pressure-treated lumber remains popular because it is relatively affordable and readily available. With periodic cleaning, sealing or staining, it can provide years of service. Cedar offers a natural appearance and resistance to decay but also requires maintenance to protect it from the elements.

Composite and PVC decking are increasingly popular for homeowners seeking less maintenance. Unlike traditional wood, these materials don't require regular staining or sealing and resist many problems associated with moisture, insects and rot. The initial cost is generally higher, but reduced maintenance can make them attractive long-term options.

Whatever material is used on top, the structure underneath is equally important. Footings, posts, beams, joists, fasteners and connections must be capable of handling Maine weather, including the weight of heavy, wet snow. Footings should also extend below the local frost depth to help prevent movement caused by freezing and thawing soil.

Proper drainage, ventilation and flashing are important because trapped moisture can accelerate deterioration of framing and connections.

Existing decks should be inspected regularly, particularly after winter. Cracked, badly splintered, soft or rotting boards should be repaired or replaced. Railings should feel secure, stairs should remain solid underfoot, and loose fasteners, protruding nails or rusted hardware should be addressed.

Homeowners should also look underneath the deck. Soft or discolored wood around posts, beams and joists may indicate rot. Sagging, shifting or separation where the deck connects to the house can signal more serious structural problems requiring professional evaluation.

Minor problems such as damaged boards or loose railings can often be repaired. If deterioration affects multiple joists, beams, posts or major connections, rebuilding may be safer and more cost-effective.

Age alone doesn't determine when a deck needs replacement. Construction, drainage and maintenance all affect longevity. An experienced professional can evaluate existing framing and determine what can safely remain while ensuring repairs or rebuilding meet current requirements.

Regular inspection and maintenance can help homeowners catch problems early and keep decks safe and attractive for many more seasons.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

A clean chimney is an important part of home safety

As colder weather approaches and fireplaces and woodstoves return to regular use, chimney maintenance becomes an important part of preparing a home for heating season. A chimney may appear fine from the outside while buildup, debris or deterioration inside creates potential fire and ventilation hazards.

One of the greatest concerns is creosote, a combustible substance that develops as byproducts of burning wood cool and collect inside the chimney. Over time, deposits can accumulate along the flue. If they ignite, temperatures can become extremely high, potentially damaging the chimney or allowing fire to spread to surrounding areas of the home.

Buildup can also interfere with airflow. Creosote, soot, animal nests, leaves and other debris can restrict the draft needed to carry smoke and combustion gases outdoors, potentially allowing smoke or carbon monoxide to enter the living space.

Moisture creates additional problems. Water combined with soot and other deposits can contribute to deterioration of chimney liners, masonry and metal components. Maine's repeated freezing and thawing can worsen existing cracks and moisture damage.

How often should a chimney be checked?

The Chimney Safety Institute of America recommends annual chimney inspections and cleaning as necessary. How often cleaning is required depends on the fireplace or stove, frequency of use, fuel being burned and condition of the chimney. Homes relying heavily on wood heat may need more frequent attention.

Burning properly seasoned firewood can also help. Wet or unseasoned wood burns less efficiently and can contribute to greater creosote accumulation.

Know the warning signs

Strong smoky odors, excessive soot, difficulty maintaining a fire and black or sticky deposits around the damper or flue opening can indicate a chimney needs attention. Smoke backing into a room or noticeable changes in draft should also be investigated.

What does professional cleaning involve?

Professional chimney service goes beyond removing visible soot. A chimney professional can inspect the flue, firebox, damper and accessible components for buildup, blockages and deterioration. Specialized brushes and equipment remove soot, creosote and debris, while inspection can uncover

damaged liners, deteriorating masonry, moisture intrusion or animal nests.

Although do-it-yourself cleaning equipment is available, hardened deposits can be difficult to remove, and sweeping alone may not reveal hidden structural or ventilation problems.

Maine's long heating season makes

prep especially important. Scheduling chimney inspection and cleaning before regular use begins allows time to address problems before the coldest weather arrives. A clean, properly maintained chimney can improve draft and reduce chimney fire risks when lighting the first fire of the season.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Can a heat pump reduce heating oil use?

For Maine homeowners who rely on heating oil, adding one or more heat pumps can help reduce oil consumption and provide another option for controlling winter heating costs. Modern cold-climate heat pumps

are designed to operate at temperatures well below freezing, allowing them to provide heat throughout much of Maine's winter. Rather than relying exclusively on an oil boiler or furnace, homeowners can use heat

pumps as a primary source of heat in the areas they serve, reducing how frequently the oil system operates. How much a homeowner saves depends on several factors, including electricity and heating oil prices, the

efficiency of the existing heating system, insulation and air sealing, the home's layout, outdoor temperatures and how thermostats are managed. A well-insulated home will generally require less energy to maintain comfortable temperatures regardless of the heating source. Heat pumps offer another advantage because the same equipment can provide air conditioning and dehumidification during warmer months, making the system useful year-round. Some homeowners choose to keep an existing oil boiler or furnace, particularly when it also provides domestic hot water or is available as an emergency backup. However, homeowners considering rebates or incentives should understand that program requirements may determine how an existing heating system can be used. Proper sizing and placement are especially important. Homeowners should have a qualified professional evaluate the home's heating needs, insulation, layout and existing equipment. A licensed professional familiar can help determine which equipment and installation approach makes the most sense. They can also help you understand the most current Efficiency Maine rebates and incentive guidelines.



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HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Why proper tree maintenance matters before winter

As autumn winds pick up and the first frost settles on the ground, Maine homeowners often shift their focus to raking leaves, stacking wood, and sealing up windows. One task that sometimes gets overlooked, however, is tree maintenance. Those tall maples, oaks, and pines that provide summer shade can quickly become hazards once snow, ice, and blustery winter storms arrive.

Regular tree care isn't just about aesthetics, it's about safety. Overhanging branches, weakened limbs, or trees too close to houses or power lines can cause costly damage when heavy snow and ice weigh them down. A limb that seems harmless in October could crash down in January, taking out a roof, car, or utility line in the process. Even smaller branches can cause injuries or damage landscaping if they break unexpectedly.

Pruning and inspection in the fall are essential. Professionals can spot dead, diseased, or structurally unsound branches the average homeowner might miss. They can thin out



canopies to reduce wind resistance, shape trees for healthier growth, and remove hazards before winter weather takes its toll. Timely pruning also encourages stronger growth in the spring and prevents the spread of disease.

DIY tree trimming may be tempting, but it's one of the most dangerous home maintenance tasks. Climbing ladders with chainsaws or working near live wires isn't just risky—it can be life-threatening. Professionals bring specialized training, safety gear, and the proper equipment to do the job correctly. They also know how to make cuts that allow the tree to heal properly, reducing disease risk and preventing future breakage.

Liability is another concern. If a tree on your property falls and damages a neighbor's home, you could be held responsible. Preventive maintenance protects both your property and your wallet by avoiding costly insurance claims or disputes.

Tree health is also a major reason to call the experts. Maine's trees are vul-

nerable to pests, fungal infections, and other diseases, some of which spread quickly. Certified arborists can detect early signs of trouble and recommend treatments that preserve trees for decades. Healthy trees not only add beauty and shade but also enhance property value and curb appeal.

As winter approaches, don't let tree

care fall to the bottom of the list. A thorough inspection and preventative pruning now can save thousands in repair costs later. By hiring a professional, you protect both your property and your personal safety. After all, winter in Maine is harsh enough, no one needs a fallen tree adding to the workload or threatening their home. <

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Fall 2026 HOME & GARDEN Guide

Your guide to successful outdoor home improvements

When it comes to boosting your property's curb appeal and value, outdoor home improvements are a fantastic place to start. Whether you're looking to refresh your vacation rental, maintain a business property, or simply enhance your own home, a well-planned exterior update can make a huge difference. Here are some practical tips and insights to help you navigate your next project.

Planning Your Outdoor Home Improvements:

Before you pick up a hammer or call a contractor, it's essen-

tial to have a clear plan. Outdoor home improvements can range from simple landscaping tweaks to major structural changes. Here's how to get started:

- Assess your property's current condition. Walk around your home and note areas that need attention. Are the gutters clogged? Is the paint peeling? Are the walkways cracked?
- Set a budget. Knowing how much you can spend helps you prioritize projects and avoid surprises.
- Define your goals. Are you aiming to increase property value, improve en-

ergy efficiency, or just make your home more inviting?

- Research local regulations. Some towns have rules about fences, decks, or paint colors. Check with your local municipality to avoid costly fines.
- Choose materials wisely. Opt for durable, weather-resistant materials that suit your climate.

By taking these steps, you'll create a roadmap that keeps your project on track and aligned with your vision.

Key Outdoor Home Improvements That Add Value: Certain upgrades consistently deliver great returns and enhance your property's appeal. Here are some top outdoor home improvements to consider:

- Exterior Painting & Siding Repair

A fresh coat of paint or new siding can transform your home's look instantly. It also protects your structure from weather damage. Choose colors that complement your neighborhood but add a touch of personality.

- Landscaping and Lawn Care

Well-maintained lawns, flower beds, and shrubs create a welcoming atmosphere. Adding native plants can reduce water use and maintenance.

- Decks and Patios

Outdoor living spaces are highly desirable. Whether you build a new deck or refresh an existing patio, these areas

extend your usable space and encourage relaxation.

- Roof and Gutter Maintenance

Don't overlook the roof and gutters. Repairing leaks, cleaning gutters, and replacing damaged shingles prevent costly water damage.

- Driveways and Walkways

Repair cracks and consider resurfacing to improve curb appeal and safety.

Deciding whether to hire professionals or tackle projects yourself depends on several factors:

1 Skill level: Some tasks, like painting or planting, are manageable for most homeowners. Others, like electrical work or roofing, require licensed professionals.

Time: Do you have the time to commit? Don't start a project you can't finish.

Tools and equipment: Certain jobs need specialized tools. Having to purchase these tools can add up quickly.

Safety: Some projects involve risks that are better handled by experts.

If you decide to hire help, look for reputable contractors with good reviews. Ask for detailed quotes, valid insurance and timelines. Clear communication upfront can prevent headaches later.

*This article was brought to you by
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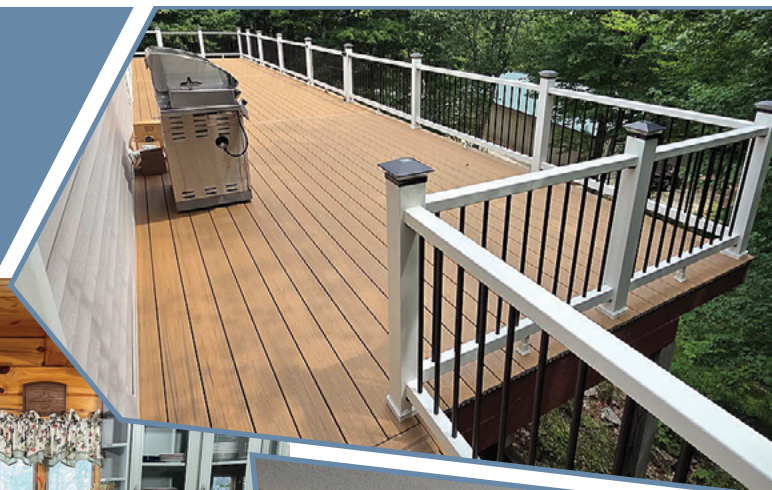
The advertisement features a collage of autumn-themed items. On the left is a circular logo for 'Maine FLAG & BANNER Co.' with a blue background, white stars, and a red and white striped border. To its right is a mailbox with a cover depicting a pumpkin patch. Above the mailbox is a banner with the word 'Welcome' and a pumpkin theme. To the right of the mailbox is a sign with the word 'Welcome' and a tree and pumpkins theme. The background is decorated with autumn leaves.

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HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Regular service keeps small engines ready to work

As colder weather approaches, homeowners often turn their attention to furnaces, vehicles and other winter preparations. Small engine equipment deserves a place on that checklist, too. Servicing snowblowers, portable generators and summer power equipment in the fall can help prevent inconvenient breakdowns and extend the life of valuable equipment.

For snowblowers, fall is the ideal time for a preseason inspection. Waiting until the first significant snowfall to discover a machine will not start can

leave homeowners scrambling when repair shops are at their busiest.

A snowblower that has been sitting since last winter may have old fuel, a weak spark plug, worn belts or other issues that are not obvious until the machine is needed. A service typically includes checking or replacing the spark plug, inspecting belts and cables, changing the engine oil and examining the fuel system.

Augers, scraper bars and skid shoes should also be inspected for wear. Tire pressure should be checked on wheeled

models, while tracked machines may require inspection of the track system. Controls, safety features and moving components should operate freely.

Fuel deserves particular attention. Gasoline can deteriorate during extended storage, potentially creating deposits that interfere with carburetors and fuel systems. Owners should follow the manufacturer's recommendations for fuel and storage and avoid leaving untreated old gasoline in equipment for long periods.

Fall is also an important time to inspect portable generators. Maine winters can bring heavy snow, ice and strong winds that result in power outages, and a generator is only useful if it starts when needed.

Generators should be test-run before winter, with oil, air filters, spark plugs, fuel systems and batteries inspected as applicable. Extension cords and connections should also be checked for damage. Homeowners should review safe operating procedures before an outage occurs. Portable generators should always be operated outdoors and well away from doors, windows and other openings to prevent carbon monoxide from entering the home.

Fall maintenance is not limited to equipment needed during winter.

Lawn mowers, string trimmers, leaf blowers, pressure washers and other seasonal equipment benefit from proper service before being stored.

Cleaning grass, leaves and debris from equipment helps prevent corrosion and deterioration. Mower blades can be sharpened or replaced so they are ready for spring, while oil, filters and spark plugs can be serviced according to manufacturer recommendations. Fuel should be handled properly for long-term storage, and batteries on electric-start equipment should be maintained.

Chainsaws and leaf blowers that may continue to see use through fall and winter should receive similar attention. Air filters, spark plugs, chains, bars and other wear items can be inspected and serviced before cold weather makes outdoor repairs less convenient.

Taking care of small engines in the fall accomplishes two things: It puts summer equipment away properly and gets winter equipment ready to go. A little preventive maintenance now can mean easier starts, better performance and fewer surprises later. When the snow begins falling or the power suddenly goes out, equipment that has been properly serviced is far more likely to be ready when it matters most.

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HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Fall is the time to keep pests out of your home

As temperatures begin dropping across Maine, people aren't the only ones looking for a warm place to spend the winter. Mice, rats and other nuisance wildlife begin seeking dependable sources of food, water and shelter, making fall an important time to pest-proof the home.

Rodent activity has become an increasing concern in Maine in recent years, including in more populated areas of Southern Maine. Pest control professionals have reported growing problems with rats, which can thrive anywhere they find dependable food and shelter. Milder winters may help more rodents survive and allow additional breeding, while backyard chickens, hobby farms, bird feeders, compost and improperly stored animal feed can provide an easy food supply.

Fall is when homeowners should pay particular attention to potential entry points. Mice can squeeze through remarkably small openings, while rats need only a slightly larger gap. If they see an opening not big enough they are known to chew until they can squeeze in. Once inside, rodents may settle into basements, crawlspaces, garages, attics, wall cavities and even rarely used drawers.

Prevention should begin with a walk around the exterior of the home.

Look closely at the foundation, siding, roofline, vents, utility penetrations, doors and windows. Gaps around pipes and wires, damaged screens, deteriorated weatherstripping and openings where different building materials meet can provide an entrance.

Garages deserve attention as well. Check weather seals around garage doors and avoid leaving doors open unnecessarily. Pet food, birdseed and livestock or chicken feed should be kept in secure containers. Garbage and food waste should be contained, while firewood, brush and other materials that provide hiding places should be kept away from the house.

Signs of a mouse or rat problem include droppings, gnaw marks, shredded nesting materials and scratching or scurrying sounds in walls and ceilings. Rodents can damage insulation, wood, plastic, pipes and electrical wiring, making an infestation more than an inconvenience.

Bats require a different approach. Maine is home to several bat species, and these animals play an important role in controlling insects. They can, however, become unwanted occupants of attics and other areas of a home.

Timing is especially important when excluding bats. In Maine, exclu-



sion should generally be avoided from mid-May through mid-August because young bats may not yet be able to fly. Mid-August through mid-October can provide an opportunity for exclusion after young bats are able to fly and before winter hibernation.

Bats aren't the only wildlife that may require professional attention. Squirrels, raccoons, skunks, porcupines and other animals can take up residence in or around homes, garages, sheds, chimneys, crawlspaces and attics. Wildlife can damage insulation, wiring, vents, soffits and other building materials while creating potential health and safety concerns. Attempting to remove a frightened or trapped wild animal can also put homeowners at risk of bites or scratches. A nuisance wildlife professional can determine how the animal is entering, remove or exclude it appropriately and recommend repairs that help prevent another

animal from using the same opening.

Professional help becomes particularly valuable when homeowners hear persistent activity, discover numerous droppings, repeatedly trap rodents without resolving the problem or suspect animals are living in inaccessible areas. Simply removing or trapping an animal may not solve the underlying problem if entry points remain open.

A pest or nuisance wildlife professional can identify what is getting inside, find less obvious entry points and develop an exclusion plan to help prevent animals from returning. Professional assistance is particularly important when dealing with wildlife where incorrect removal or exclusion methods could trap animals inside the structure or put people and animals at risk.

Fall pest prevention ultimately comes down to getting ahead of the problem. Sealing openings, removing easy food sources and responding to signs of activity early can help keep mice, rats, bats and other unwanted guests outside before a warm Maine home becomes their winter home.



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HOME & GARDEN

Guide

Water and air testing protects your home and health

For Maine homeowners who rely on a private well, turning on the faucet may seem simple, but knowing what is in that water requires regular testing. Unlike public water systems, private wells are the responsibility of the property owner, making routine testing an important part of home maintenance.

Even water that looks clear and tastes and smells normal can contain contaminants that cannot be detected without laboratory testing. Maine wells can contain bacteria as well as naturally occurring substances such as arsenic, uranium and radon.

The Maine CDC recommends that private well owners test their drinking water every year for coliform bacteria, E. coli, nitrates and nitrites. A more comprehensive test is recommended every three to five years and can check for arsenic, radon, uranium, lead, manganese, iron and other substances.

Additional testing is a good idea whenever something changes. Homeowners should consider testing if the water develops an unusual taste, odor or color, after work is performed on the well, when a well runs dry and returns, after installing or changing a water treatment system, when buying a home or when expecting a baby.

Radon deserves special attention in Maine. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can enter a home through the ground, but it can also be present in private well water. Radon dissolved in water can be released into indoor air during everyday activities such as showering, washing dishes and doing laundry.

For homes with private wells, testing both the home's air and well water for radon is important. Maine recommends radon water testing for drilled wells as part of periodic well testing, generally every three to five years.

Indoor air should also be tested for radon. If a home has never been tested, there is no reason to wait for a particular problem because radon cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. Maine health officials note that radon levels are typically higher during winter, making the heating season a particularly useful time for testing. If an initial air test was performed during summer, homeowners may want to retest during winter.

Even a previously low result doesn't necessarily mean radon levels will always remain low. Changes to a home, its foundation, ventilation or surrounding conditions can affect radon levels over time, making periodic retesting worthwhile.

Homeowners who already have water treatment equipment should not assume the system continues to perform properly indefinitely. Treated water should be tested regularly to confirm that the system is still addressing the problem it was installed to correct.

Testing a private well is a relatively small home-maintenance task, but it provides valuable information. Making annual water testing part of the household calendar, along with periodic comprehensive and radon testing, can help identify problems early and provide greater confidence in the water a family uses every day.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

How to establish a home renovation budget

Whether updating a kitchen, replacing a bathroom or tackling a major addition, determining what the project will really cost is an important first step. Renovations have a way of becoming more expensive once work begins. Establishing a realistic budget before signing contracts or purchasing materials can help homeowners avoid financial surprises and make better decisions throughout the project.

Don't over-improve

One mistake is investing significantly more in a renovation than makes sense for the home and neighborhood. While improvements should meet the homeowner's needs, those planning to sell in the future may want to consider whether the project is likely to add comparable value.

Kitchens and bathrooms frequently receive significant renovation dollars because they are used every day and can influence buyers. However, homeowners should balance personal preferences with the home's overall value rather than assuming every dollar spent will be recovered when the property is sold.

Understand where the money goes

Materials, fixtures, appliances, cabinets and flooring can consume a large portion of a remodeling budget, but homeowners shouldn't overlook la-

bor, permits, design fees, demolition and disposal costs.

Older homes can bring additional surprises. Opening a wall or removing flooring may uncover water damage, rot, outdated wiring, plumbing problems, mold or structural issues. That makes it important to leave room in the budget for unexpected expenses rather than spending every available dollar on the original estimate.

Get at least three quotes

Obtaining three estimates gives homeowners an opportunity to compare more than the bottom-line price. Each contractor should be bidding on the same scope of work and similar materials so estimates can be compared fairly.

Be cautious about automatically choosing the lowest bid. A substantially lower estimate could indicate that certain work, materials, permits or cleanup costs have been omitted. It also could involve lower-grade materials or unrealistic labor expectations that lead to additional charges later.

The highest estimate isn't automatically the best choice either. Homeowners should ask why it is higher and determine whether the price reflects better materials, stronger warranties or something else of value.

Before hiring anyone, research the



contractor. Verify appropriate credentials, ask about experience with similar projects and make sure the company carries adequate liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage when applicable. Ask for references and review previous projects. Homeowners should also be wary of contractors who pressure them into making an immediate decision or request unusually large upfront payments.

A detailed written estimate should spell out materials, labor, permits and other major costs. A written contract should also establish payment schedules, approximate timelines and how changes to the original project will be handled.

Know where to save and splurge

Spend strategically. Items used and touched every day, such as faucets, cabinets and flooring, may justify spending more for durability. Deco-

rative items such as some lighting fixtures, hardware or backsplashes can often be replaced more easily later.

Don't overlook improvements hidden behind the walls. Insulation, electrical upgrades, ventilation and other efficiency improvements may not provide an immediate visual transformation, but they can improve comfort, safety and operating costs.

Keep a financial cushion

A remodeling budget should include money for the unexpected. Setting aside roughly 15 to 20 percent above anticipated project costs can provide breathing room.

Homeowners should also consider what happens if the project takes longer than planned. Delays involving materials, subcontractors, inspections or unexpected repairs can affect both the schedule and household expenses.

Before beginning, ask whether the project would still be affordable if it costs more or takes longer than expected. If not, reducing the scope before construction begins may be the safer choice.

A home renovation is a significant investment. Careful budgeting, comparing contractors and leaving room for the unexpected can help keep the project, and the homeowner's finances, on solid ground.

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Fall 2026 HOME & GARDEN Guide

Autumn is a great time to plant perennials and shrubs

Spring may get most of the attention when it comes to gardening, but fall can be one of the best times to plant trees, shrubs and many perennials in Maine. Cooler temperatures, warm soil and more dependable moisture create favorable conditions for plants to establish roots without the stress of summer heat.

During early fall, soil retains warmth long after daytime air temperatures begin dropping. Roots can continue growing even as above-ground growth slows. Instead of putting energy into producing new leaves and flowers, newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials can concentrate on establishing their root systems.

Cooler weather also means less moisture is lost through leaves, reducing stress on new plantings. Fall rain can help, although homeowners should continue watering when conditions are dry.

For much of Maine, September through mid-October is an ideal planting window for many trees and shrubs. Planting several weeks before the ground freezes gives roots an opportunity to become established before winter. Hardy perennials can also be planted during this period, although earlier is generally better as fall progresses.

Fall is also the time to plant many

spring-flowering bulbs. Tulips and crocuses are favorites of gardeners, but they can also attract hungry chipmunks, squirrels and deer. Daffodils, alliums and snowdrops are generally less appealing to these animals and can be good choices where wildlife is a persistent problem. Gardeners who want tulips can protect newly planted bulbs by placing wire mesh or hardware cloth over the planting area before covering it with mulch. Avoid using potentially harmful substances or household remedies that could injure wildlife, pets or plants.

Visit a local garden center to be sure you are choosing plants suited to Maine's climate and conditions. Also consider sunlight, soil drainage, mature plant size and cold-hardiness before deciding where it should go.

Start with the soil

Proper soil preparation can make a major difference in whether a new planting succeeds. Before digging, determine whether the location drains well. Most trees, shrubs and perennials don't perform well when their roots remain in standing water.

For trees and shrubs, dig a hole wider than the root ball but generally no deeper than the root system. Planting too deeply is a common mistake. The point where the



trunk begins to widen into the roots should remain near the soil surface.

Loosen compacted soil around the planting area and backfill primarily with the existing soil. Adding large amounts of rich material only to the planting hole can sometimes discourage roots from spreading into the surrounding native soil.

Perennial beds can benefit from incorporating compost or other appropriate organic matter into a larger planting area, particularly when soil needs improvement. A soil test can help determine pH and whether additional nutrients are necessary.

Once planted, water thoroughly to settle soil around the roots and eliminate large air pockets. Continue water-

ing as needed until the ground freezes, especially for newly planted trees and shrubs.

A layer of mulch can help conserve moisture and moderate soil temperatures. Keep mulch several inches away from tree trunks and shrub stems rather than piling it against them.

When is it too late?

There isn't one exact cutoff date because Maine's fall weather varies from year to year, but as a general rule, trees and shrubs have a better chance of success when planted several weeks before the ground freezes. By late October and into November, the window becomes less predictable. If the soil is frozen, saturated or too hard to work properly, planting should wait.

Some hardy, dormant trees and shrubs may tolerate later planting, but tender plants and many perennials benefit from more time to establish roots. Spring-flowering bulbs can generally be planted later in fall than many perennials, as long as the ground remains workable.

Fall planting can also mean less work when spring arrives. With proper plant selection, soil preparation, watering and timing, trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs planted now can be ready for stronger growth and plenty of color when Maine warms up again.

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Fall 2026 HOME & GARDEN Guide

Know when it's time to replace windows and doors

Windows and exterior doors do more than provide light, views and access to a home. They are also an important part of the barrier between the living space and Maine's cold winters, wind, rain and changing temperatures. When windows and doors begin to deteriorate, homeowners may notice higher heating costs, uncomfortable drafts and even moisture damage.

One of the easiest warning signs to recognize is a noticeable draft. Feeling cold air around a closed window or door may indicate deteriorated weatherstripping, failed seals or gaps around the frame. During a Maine winter, even small air leaks can make a heating system work harder.

Condensation between panes of glass is another sign to watch. In double- or triple-pane windows, moisture or fogging between the panes often indicates that a seal has failed. The window may no longer provide the insulating performance it once did.

Homeowners should also pay attention to windows and doors that are difficult to operate. Windows that stick, won't remain open or no longer lock properly may have worn hardware, damaged frames or problems caused by years of expansion and contraction. Exterior doors that become difficult to close, have large gaps or allow daylight to show around the frame may have

similar issues.

Visible deterioration is another reason to consider replacement. Rotting wood, peeling or soft frames, cracked glass and water stains around openings can indicate that moisture is getting where it shouldn't. In Maine, repeated freezing and thawing can make small moisture problems worse over time.

Not every problem requires a complete replacement. Weatherstripping, caulking, hardware and isolated areas of damage can sometimes be repaired. However, older windows throughout a home that are consistently drafty, difficult to operate or showing widespread deterioration may make replacement a better long-term investment.

Choosing the right replacement is important. Energy-efficient windows with insulated glass can help reduce heat loss, while properly fitted exterior



or doors can eliminate drafts and improve comfort. Materials should also be selected with Maine's temperature swings and moisture in mind.

Just as important as the product is

how it is installed. Even an expensive, energy-efficient window or door can perform poorly if the opening isn't properly prepared, flashed, insulated and sealed.

A professional installer can check for hidden rot or water damage once the old unit is removed and make sure the replacement is square, properly secured and weather-tight. Correct flashing and sealing help prevent rain and melting snow from entering around the opening, where moisture can damage framing, insulation and interior finishes.

Replacing aging windows and doors can improve more than appearance. When products are properly selected and professionally installed, they can reduce drafts, improve comfort and help keep Maine weather where it belongs...outside.

GUIDE TO FALL LAWN MAINTENANCE

- **Keep mowing:** Continue mowing until grass growth slows, gradually lowering the cutting height without scalping the lawn.
- **Remove fallen leaves:** Rake, mulch or collect heavy leaf cover so grass continues receiving sunlight and air.
- **Aerate compacted soil:** Core aeration helps water, oxygen and nutrients reach grass roots before winter.
- **Overseed thin areas:** Early fall is ideal for filling bare or thinning spots, although seed needs enough time to germinate and establish before cold weather.
- **Apply fall fertilizer:** A properly timed fertilizer application can encourage root development and help turf enter winter stronger.
- **Control weeds:** Fall can be a good time to address perennial broad-leaf weeds while they are actively storing energy in their roots. Repair bare patches — Loosen soil, add appropriate topsoil or compost if needed, and reseed damaged areas.
- **Continue watering:** Lawns still need moisture during dry fall weather, particularly newly seeded areas.
- **Clean up thatch and debris:** Remove sticks, excessive thatch and other material that can trap moisture beneath winter snow.
- **Edge lawn areas:** Clean up borders around walkways, gardens and driveways before the ground freezes.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

10 simple ways to freshen your home before winter

As the temperatures drop and homeowners begin spending more time indoors, familiar rooms can start to feel a little stale or uninspired. Fortunately, giving a home a fresh look doesn't have to involve expensive renovations or new furniture. A few simple and inexpensive changes can make rooms feel brighter, warmer and more comfortable before winter settles in.

1. Rearrange furniture – Changing the layout can completely transform how a room feels. Move sofas, chairs, tables or rugs to improve traffic flow or open cramped spaces. Try positioning seating to take advantage of a fireplace, window or other focal point. Sometimes simply moving a chair or removing an unnecessary piece of furniture can make a room feel considerably larger.

2. Add seasonal textiles – Soft throws, cozy blankets and new pillows instantly add warmth. Choose seasonal colors and textures such as warm earth tones, deep reds, greens, plaids, knits or faux fur. Changing a few pillow covers rather than purchasing entirely new pillows is an inexpensive way to update a room from season to season.

3. Bring in greenery – Houseplants can add color and life when the landscape outside becomes bare. If natural

light is limited, choose plants suited to lower-light conditions. Fresh flowers, potted herbs or arrangements made with evergreen branches, pinecones and other natural materials can also bring a touch of the outdoors inside.

4. Update the lighting – Maine's short winter days can make rooms feel dark earlier in the afternoon. Replace dim or burned-out bulbs and add table or floor lamps to darker areas. Rather than relying on one overhead fixture, use several light sources throughout a room to create a warmer and more inviting atmosphere.

5. Refresh with scent – A home's fragrance can contribute to its overall atmosphere. Simmer cinnamon sticks, cloves and orange peels on the stove, or use seasonal candles and other home fragrances. Pine, apple, vanilla and spice scents can make rooms feel particularly welcoming during colder months.

6. Add small decorative touches – New artwork, seasonal wreaths, decorative bowls, table decor, framed photographs or even a table runner can change a room without a major investment. Shop around the house first. Moving artwork or accessories from one room to another can make familiar items seem new again.

7. Declutter and reorganize –

Sometimes the best makeover involves taking things away. Clear crowded countertops, organize bookshelves and remove items that are no longer used. Decorative baskets and bins can provide convenient storage for blankets, toys, magazines and other everyday items while making rooms feel cleaner and more spacious.

8. Touch up paint – Scuffed walls, doors, trim and baseboards can make otherwise attractive rooms look tired. Touching up these areas provides an inexpensive refresh. For a more noticeable change, paint an accent wall, interior door, bathroom vanity or older piece of furniture.

9. Create a cozy winter corner – Turn an unused corner into a comfortable reading or relaxation spot. A favorite chair, small table, lamp, blanket and basket for books or magazines may be all that is needed. Creating a



dedicated space to relax can make spending more time indoors feel a little more enjoyable.

10. Refresh the entryway – The entrance helps set the tone for the rest of the home. Clean up shoes and coats, add hooks or baskets for winter gear and replace a worn doormat. A small rug, mirror, wreath or

seasonal arrangement can make the area more welcoming while providing practical storage for Maine's hats, gloves, boots and scarves.

None of these projects requires a large budget or weeks of work. Tackling just a few over a weekend can noticeably change the way a home looks and feels.

With a little creativity, homeowners can head into Maine's longest season with spaces that feel organized, bright, comfortable and refreshed, making those cold days spent indoors considerably more enjoyable.

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Fall 2026

HOME & GARDEN

Guide

10 things you should never flush or pour down the drain

If your home runs on a septic system, what goes down your drains matters a lot more than it does for homes on municipal sewer. Your septic tank is a living ecosystem with billions of beneficial bacteria working around the clock to break down waste. Introduce the wrong things, and you can kill those bacteria, clog your drain field, and end up with a very expensive problem on your hands. Here are 10 things that should never go near your septic system.

1. “Flushable” Wipes: This one surprises a lot of people. Despite what the packaging says, so-called flushable wipes do not break down the way toilet paper does. They hold together in your tank, accumulate over time, and are one of the leading causes of septic clogs and pump failures we see in the field. Baby wipes, makeup wipes, and cleaning wipes are equally bad. If it isn't toilet paper, it doesn't belong in the toilet.

2. Grease, Fats, and Cooking Oils: Pouring bacon grease or cooking oil down the kitchen sink might seem harmless — it's liquid, after all. But once it cools, grease solidifies and coats the inside of your pipes and tank. Over time, it builds up into a thick layer that interferes with the natural separation of solids and liquids your tank depends on. Let the grease cool in a container and toss it in the trash instead.

3. Antibacterial Soaps and Cleaners: Your septic system runs on bacteria. Antibacterial products — certain hand soaps, dish soaps, and household cleaners — are specifically designed to kill bacteria. Used in large quantities or too frequently, they can seriously disrupt the microbial balance in your tank and slow down or stop the breakdown of waste. Look for septic-safe cleaning products, and use them in moderation.

4. Bleach and Harsh Chemical Drain Cleaners: A small amount of diluted bleach — like what's in laundry — is generally tolerable for a healthy septic system. But pouring bleach directly down the drain, or regularly using chemical drain cleaners like Drano, is a different story. These products are highly caustic and can quickly kill the bacterial population in your tank. If you have a slow drain, call a professional rather than reaching for the chemicals.

5. Medications and Pharmaceuticals: Flushing expired or unused medications is a common habit, but it's a bad one for septic owners (and for the environment). Medications — particularly antibiotics — can pass through your system and kill the beneficial bacteria in your tank. They can also leach into the groundwater through your drain field. Most pharmacies and many local health departments offer medication take-

back programs. Use them.

6. Paper Products Other Than Toilet Paper: Paper towels, tissues, cotton balls, and feminine hygiene products are designed to be absorbent and durable — which means they don't break down in a septic tank. They accumulate in the solids layer, fill up your tank faster, and can cause blockages in your inlet or outlet pipes. Toilet paper — and only toilet paper — belongs in the toilet. Keep a wastebasket in the bathroom for everything else.

7. Coffee Grounds: Coffee grounds seem harmless enough, but they are one of the sneakiest contributors to septic buildup. They don't dissolve, don't break down biologically, and sink to the bottom of your tank, accumulating as sediment. Over time they contribute to faster-than-normal tank filling and can clog your system.

8. Cat Litter: Even brands labeled “flushable” or “biodegradable” should not go anywhere near a septic system. Cat litter is designed to clump and absorb liquid, the exact opposite of what you want in your pipes and tank. It can create serious blockages and add non-biodegradable material to your system.

9. Paint, Solvents, and Household Chemicals: Latex paint, paint thinner, solvents, pesticides, and motor oil are

all toxic to the bacterial environment in your septic tank — and they can contaminate your drain field and nearby groundwater. Even small amounts can cause lasting damage. These products should never go down any drain. Check with your local municipality for hazardous waste disposal options; many Maine towns offer seasonal collection events.

10. Food Scraps and Garbage Disposal Waste: If you have a garbage disposal and a septic system, use it sparingly, or consider not at all. Garbage disposals introduce large amounts of solid food waste into your tank that takes much longer to break down than human waste. This significantly increases how fast your tank fills up and how often it needs to be pumped.

The Bottom Line: A little awareness about what goes down your drains can add years of life to your system and save you from costly repairs or emergency pump-outs. A good rule of thumb: if it isn't human waste or toilet paper, think twice. And when was the last time you had your tank pumped? Most systems serving a family of four should be pumped every 3 to 5 years, but usage, tank size, and system age all factor in. If you're not sure where you stand, it's worth a call.

This article was brought to you by Arkie Rogers Septic Service.

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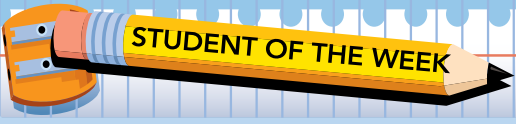
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Beatrice Slabbinck-Unser



Name: Grade: 5
School: Manchester School
Teachers: Jennifer Breton and Andrea Beaulieu
Favorite subject(s) in school: Writing
Parents' names: Jennifer Slabbinck and Mary Unser
Reason for selection: Beatrice has been chosen as Student of the Week for numerous reasons. This is her 2nd year in this ELA class, and she remains consistently focused, self-driven, and disciplined with her work. Bea has a witty sense of humor and makes deep connections with her reading and writing. She is one of the hardest-working students you will ever meet! She loves to write rich, meaningful stories with great depth, which shows her amazing imagination. She always loves to share her work, which keeps us riveted. Bea is a Harry Potter expert, and there isn't a trivia question she can't answer. She often stumps us all! She is an avid reader and loves to share her knowledge and interpretations. She is a gentle presence in our classroom and treats everyone with kindness and respect. She cares deeply about her work and is a wonderful role model with her tenacity and determination. We appreciate the drive and enthusiasm she always brings every day. It's for these reasons that Beatrice has been chosen for this month's Student of the Week! Keep up the great work!

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Rocktoberfest returns to Naples

Fall festivities will take over the Naples Causeway when the third annual Rocktoberfest brings live music, fireworks, tethered hot air balloon, food and family activities to the heart of the Lakes Region.

The free event will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 3 to 9 p.m. along the historic Naples Causeway. In the event of rain, visitors should check the Facebook page for an updated date.

Timed to coincide with Maine's colorful fall season, Rocktoberfest will stretch from the east side to the west side of the Causeway between Long Lake and Brandy Pond. Visitors are encouraged to bring their wagons and shopping bags and even dress in their best lederhosen for an autumn evening overlooking the water.

Activities will include live music at multiple locations, artisans, demonstrations, amusements, interactive family activities and friendly competitions. Tethered illuminated hot air balloon rides will add to the evening atmosphere, while a fireworks display will light up the Causeway at dark.

Several Naples businesses and venues will join the celebration with entertainment, food and drink specials and other activities. Music will be a major part of the festival, with performances planned at the Union Stage, Causeway Amphitheatre and participating establishments.

Among the scheduled performers are Julia Gagnon Haven, C-Dot 416, Chase Jobe, Toby McAllister and Road Crew. Rigometrics will perform aboard the Songo River Queen II while it is docked at the Causeway. Other festivities will include outdoor biergartens, competitions, face painting and special menus. Captain Jack's will serve as an official after-party location, with Road Crew scheduled to perform from 8 to 11 p.m.

The Songo River Queen II, Freedom Cafe, Beacon Bar & Bistro, Brother Flecker's, Hamilton House, Sun Sports+ and Randy's Wooster Street Pizza are among the locations participating in the celebration.

Rocktoberfest is designed as a communitywide celebration that combines the feel of an autumn festival and night market with the scenery that has made Naples a popular destination. With peak foliage season underway, organizers are inviting residents and visitors alike to enjoy a sunset along the Causeway before staying for music, activities and fireworks.

The event is sponsored by Q-Team Tree Service, LRE Electric, Randy's Wooster Street Pizza, Sun Sports+, The Barn Presents Music Heals, Captain Jack's, the Town of Naples and the Naples Events Committee.

For information about participating, becoming a market vendor or sponsoring the event, email Events@TownofNaples.org. If you plan to go, RSVP on their official Facebook page to help vendors with their planning. Scan here to take you to the page. <



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Give Your Body and Your Brain a Break This Fall

Fall in Maine is beautiful but it certainly isn't restful.

One weekend you're hiking to enjoy the foliage. The next you're raking leaves, stacking firewood, cleaning gutters, washing windows, putting away patio furniture, winterizing the house, closing up camp, or trying to squeeze in those last outdoor projects before the temperature drops.

Add in the end of summer sports, fall activities, work, family and everyday life, and suddenly your body is reminding you about muscles you forgot you had.

This is exactly the time of year when giving both your body and your brain a break can be especially valuable.

One way to do that is floating.

Float therapy takes place in a private float tank filled with skin temperature water and a high concentration of a magnesium solution. The salt makes the water extremely buoyant, allowing you to float effortlessly on the surface.

"Effortlessly" is an important word.

Think about what your body does all day. Whether you're standing, walking, sitting at a desk, carrying groceries, or spending Saturday afternoon raking your entire yard, your muscles and skeletal system are constantly working against gravity and supporting your body.

When you're floating, the water does the supporting for you.

That feeling of weightlessness reduces the normal pressure placed on the body, giving muscles an opportunity to relax without having to continuously stabilize and support you. After a weekend of hiking, yardwork or tackling the annual "we really should get this done before winter" list, that can feel pretty incredible.

Then there's the other part of us that rarely gets a break: our brains. Even when we sit down to relax, are we actually relaxing?

We're watching television while scrolling through our phones. We're answering a text while thinking about tomorrow. We're making a grocery list while remembering that the gutters still need to be cleaned.

Floating removes many of those outside distractions. No phone. No television. No emails. No conversations. No household project staring at you from across the room.

Research into Floatation: REST (Reduced Environmental Stimulation Therapy) has examined how this low-stimulation environment may support deep relaxation and reduce feelings of stress and anxiety. And while everyone's experience is different, there's something remarkably simple about spending time somewhere that asks absolutely nothing of you.

For some people, the first several minutes of a float are still filled with thoughts. Did I finish that project? What am I doing tomorrow? When am I going to rake those leaves?

Eventually, though, there's nothing to respond to, nothing to check and nowhere else you need to be. You just float.

We spend a lot of time maintaining our homes, our yards, our vehicles and everything else that needs to be ready before another Maine winter arrives.

Maybe it's worth remembering that our bodies and brains need a little maintenance, too.

Sometimes the most productive thing we can do for our mind and body is to give it permission to do absolutely nothing.



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Completion of single-use plastic initiative marks NSB sustainability achievement

Earlier this year, Norway Savings Bank was proud to release the Responsible Neighbor Report, a comprehensive presentation of the ways the bank is creating, encouraging, and overseeing socially responsible and sustainable environmental practices. In addition, the report details how NSB is improving our communities through giving and service; maintaining a culture of inclusion, respect, and kindness; and promoting team member development and good corporate behavior.

In that spirit, the NSB Impact Team, which is comprised of over 40 team members who help the bank be good stewards of financial, natural, and social capital, has completed its Single-Use Plastic Initiative across the bank's facilities and branches. Settings of reusable metal utensils and porcelain plates and bowls were delivered, with the leftover stock of plastic utensils set to be donated to Ruth's Reusable Resources in Portland which will utilize the items for students' arts and crafts projects.

Along with the Single-Use Plastic Initiative, NSB's other recent programs

include:

CLYNK – NSB has collected over 23,000 bottles and aluminum containers since 2024. Earlier this year, proceeds from the program allowed NSB to make large donations to four local nonprofits (Camp Sunshine of Maine, Pink Feather Foundation, ProsperityME, Junior Achievement of Maine) which were selected by team members.

JUST Water – NSB supplies branches with JUST Water 100 percent Spring Water, sustainably sourced water in plant-based cartons. Nearly 90 percent of the materials used to make the cartons start out as plants, creating almost 80 percent less carbon emissions than plastic bottles.

Docusign – Docusign allows NSB to manage electronic agreements by receiving electronic signatures on the device of a customer's choosing. Since 2024, nearly 9,000 pounds of carbon emissions have been reduced through the program, totaling around four tons of wood and over 58,000 sheets of paper saved.

Giving Closet – The NSB Giving

Closet features a large amount of professional and business-casual clothing donated by NSB team members. Men's and women's shirts, pants, and more fill the racks with a wide variety of shoes in assorted sizes lining the floor. The Giving Closet is always open, and NSB team members can stroll through the collection and take what they need. By extending the lives of these garments, the Giving Closet promotes reuse and a greener future.

Norway Savings Bank also promotes electronic banking with new and existing customers as a way in which they can assist the bank in its efforts to reduce the amount of paper it uses. In addition, a commitment to solar panels at the Kennebunk branch has

helped electricity costs decrease by 42 percent and renovation and construction projects like NSB's new North Conway branch include energy-efficient and conservation features such as LED lighting, energy-recovery units, heat pump technology, three-phase power for HVAC equipment, and a smart ATM.

"We hope many of the worthy initiatives being carried out at NSB will inspire other individuals and organizations to adopt similarly impactful programs in their own daily activities and operations," said Dan Walsh, President and CEO of NSB. "Only working together can we make Maine, New Hampshire, and the world, better places to work and live." <

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LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

SITE WALK

Saturday, September 26, 2026 • 9:00 AM

You are hereby notified of the Raymond ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS will conduct a Site Walk at the following location **Saturday, September 26th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** regarding the information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Eric Kollman-Furnish

LOCATION: 90 Tenney Hill Road; Map 18/Lot 15
Zone Rural

DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Notice of Violation dated August 7th, 2026 in connection with cannabis cultivation on the premises.

The site walk will commence at 9:00 a.m. meeting at 90 Tenney Hill Road, Raymond

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Last-minute goal lifts Windham varsity boys' soccer team to 1-1 tie against Kennebunk

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham varsity boys' soccer team traveled to play Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk on Friday, Sept. 18 and after the Eagles trailed for most of the game, a goal by freshman Callum Crockett with less than 40 seconds remaining tied the game 1-1. Windham held off Kennebunk for two overtimes to end the game in a 1-1 tie.

"Caleb (Hayman) ... crossed the ball, I was right there and headed it in and yeah," said Crockett on scoring his first varsity goal. "We came out with intensity and just kept it the whole game, the bench and everyone just kept the intensity the whole game. Our passing was pretty good; our through-balls are decent, our defense not letting up and headers. Finishing (needs work); we had lots of plays where we could have finished like breakaways. Other than that, I think we played really good."

The game began with both teams exhibiting strong defenses in these two evenly matched teams. Windham moved the ball and had multiple shots at goal.

Goalie and Windham senior Jackson Goodwin had several nice saves in the first half. Goodwin had six saves over the course of the game.

The Eagles's offense got turnovers and pressured until the first buzzer. Midway through, the game was scoreless.



Windham freshman Callum Crockett, far left, celebrates after scoring and tying the game during a prep boys' soccer game against Kennebunk. PHOTOS BY KRISTA GERRITY

Goodwin kept up the aggressiveness with three solid saves at the start of the second half. Ten minutes into the half, Kennebunk scored. While the Rams led 1-0, there was plenty of time left.

Windham's defense made sure that one goal was all Kennebunk would score and they succeeded. Windham offense's intensity and hustle really moved Kennebunk's goalie around quite a bit, as the Eagles worked to find the back of the net.

"We just came off our first win of the season (against Bonny Eagle on Sept. 16), we always have confidence," said Windham junior Sean LeBel. "We always have the same intensity, the ball doesn't always find the net, we had a lot of great opportunities,

we trust our backline, our goalie too. We took advantage of their weaknesses, we were able to play the ball over the topline more, we made a couple formation changes, and I think we've settled in and know where we are at now as a team – that's just going to help us moving forward."

Less than 40 seconds remained when Windham's aggressiveness paid off when Crockett headed the ball into Kennebunk's net to tie the game 1-1 and send it into overtime.

The battle continued through two 5-minute overtime periods with neither team scoring.

LeBel said the team remaining calm needs work. If there's a guy on a Windham player's back, they need to be able to play through that. He also said winning 50-50 balls could be improved on.

"Against Bonny Eagle we panicked a lot," said Windham varsity boys' soccer coach Cole Washburn.

"I thought tonight we just played our game, we played calm and composed, that helped us a lot. When we had possession of the ball, we didn't rush anything, moved the ball quicker and it gave us a lot more success. Our determination was a lot better, we won 50-50 balls in the air, we competed in the mid-field. The first half was the best half all season, and then we took that ... and bounced back. Overall, I think the 80 minutes as a whole were more composed and we played our game. It shows the grittiness and the fitness of our team; they didn't give up which is really nice to see. I think the compete level was what really impressed me. For us, it's all the little things (that need work); clearances out of the back, winning headers the first time, all the super tiny little things that require more mental determination. Overall, we played a full 90-minute game and I'm pretty proud of that." <

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Evelyn Small

Age: 12
Team: Seventh & Eighth Grade Youth Cheerleading
Coach: Stacy Davis, Sarah Daigle, Elle Archibald
Parents' names: Christina and Ryan Small
Reason for selection: Evelyn has been part of the Windham youth cheerleading program for several years. Coaches enjoy watching her continued commitment and growth in cheering. She is motivated, willing to try new things, driven to advance her skills and demonstrates sportsmanship. Though quiet, she leads by example and is respected by her peers. Her dedication shows by showing up to every practice and for games ready and eager to participate no matter the skill or activity. She leads by example by demonstrating respect, kindness, drive and eagerness to learn. She encourages her teammates, makes impactful and insightful suggestions based on observations and her teammates' strengths.

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(Top to bottom)
Junior Sean LeBel charges toward the goal.
Senior Caleb Hayman holds onto the ball.
PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA



Girls' soccer holds Gorham scoreless in win over rival

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

The Windham varsity girls' soccer team's defense rose to the occasion and prevented Gorham from scoring during a varsity girls' soccer game at Gorham High School on Tuesday, Sept. 22, winning 3-0.

Windham's offense scored multiple goals in handing Gorham its second consecutive loss.

“We knew we were going to have to work hard,” said Windham junior Emily Wardwell. “It’s always a tight game with them. It’s always going to be an intense and hard game. Our crosses were a lot better ... we got a lot of chances and some goals from that today. In the second half we had some more energy. We needed to come out with more energy and start taking shots on net. Working on our crosses (needs work). It’s honestly just a boost, knowing that we came in and worked hard and got a clean sheet against Gorham. It gives us motivation to keep going.”

Windham took the field with intensity and went hard after ball. They had spectacular offense and defense, as they held back Gorham and took multiple shots at goal. They continued to pressure and with 19 minutes left in the half, Wardwell scored.

Junior Windham goalie Jennifer Schwarz had a nice save at the end of the half. After 40 minutes of play, the Eagles led, 1-0.

Schwarz continued with quick hands in the second half and collected eight saves over 80 minutes.

“We started taking more of our opportunities the second half, we took everything we had and fought for everything,” said junior Morgan Clark. “I think tonight we did a really good job of covering each other and bringing that energy as a team. Our spirits were high and we saw each other in places where we haven’t been able to see each other throughout the season, and it was a really good growing point for us as a team. Working on our crosses and connecting through the midfield (needs work). Those are some easily fixable things, and I think

we have a really good shot to go far this season.”

There was no stopping the Eagles as they weren't going to get the win. Clark scored roughly 16 minutes into the second half.

A few moments later, Wardwell took a shot at goal that bounced just right off one of the goalposts and into the net.

As the game progressed, Windham worked hard to deny Gorham any possible scoring opportunities and succeeded.

"You come here (Gorham) and you win, you build confidence," said Windham varsity girls' soccer assistant coach Jim Stewart. "A lot of these kids haven't been in these situations ... these are the kind of games that we need to play. Nobody's going to quit; I thought there was a chance at the end there, Gorham was going to pop one in. When you play against well-matched teams ... it's a good, clean, crisp game. That's the kind of game the kids got to play in, and when they

do it, they just grow more confident. Then we're doing things that we want to do because we're not thinking about it, we're just doing it."

Stewart said the team needs to head the ball better and win balls in the air as well as win balls on corner kicks. Stewart also said they are communicating better, but he'd like to see them talk confidently to each other. Stewart said the way Windham scored the goals,

the way they defended this game, it's hard to find a lot of bad things.

"The kids ... have come so far from Aug. 17 when we started with them," said Windham varsity girls' soccer head coach Deb LeBel. "It's really unselfish play; they are starting to trust each other and play to everybody; the younger kids are stepping up and it's really fun to see. Any win at Gorham is a good win ... it feels so good." <



(L to R) Windham senior Denali Momot goes to steal the ball from a defender during a girls' varsity soccer game against Gorham at Gorham High School on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Junior Emily Wardwell sets up to send the ball directly into the goal. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA



(L to R) Junior Morgan Clark races to be first to the ball. Junior Anna Bowie maneuvers the ball.



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The success behind commercial real estate sales and leasing

► **By Larry Eliason**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Larry Eliason
Butts Commercial Brokers

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cializing in the Greater Sebago Lakes Region, which includes, Windham, Raymond, Casco, Naples, Fryeburg, Bridgton, Gray, Standish, and Westbrook.

For over 45 years, we've been representing buyers, sellers, banks, towns and cities, tenants, and landlords in all sectors of Commercial, Investment, Multi-Family, Industrial Real Estate and Land, as well as Leasing and Consulting. We have a long and successful track record of closing commercial real estate sales and leasing transactions.

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Selling a business is a big decision. The process can be intimidating and complex. Usually, business owners are so busy with their daily operations that they are not able to put forth the time and effort to sell their own business for a reasonable price. All too often, the owner that attempts to sell their own business ends up with much less than its actual worth or worse...can't sell it at all.

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My service area is the Greater Sebago Lakes Region. I do go where a client needs me to travel sometimes, hours away from my home base. In the Greater Sebago Lakes Region, the property may be zoned commercial, however, it could also be a residentially zoned Multi-family or an Income Producing Property with Lakefront, a Sales and Service business like a Marina, a Waterfront Campground or other 4 Season Property with Lakefront amenities.

If you are looking to Sell, Buy or Lease Commercial Real Estate, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to help you meet your Commercial Real Estate Goals.

This brief column is just an introduction to make you aware of the services provided by Butts Commercial Brokers and Butts Financial Group. Please feel free to contact us for a confidential conversation about your commercial real estate and/or business at 207-892-5668. <

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4 Fire Prevention Week	5 AL Aux 148 Mtg 6pm WVC	6 TACO DAY OCTOBER 6	7 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC AL Post 148 Mtg 6pm WVC RSU 14 Board of Directors Meeting	8 Library Board of Trustees Meeting 4:30PM	9 Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30PM	10 Veterans Family Cookout 10am-2pm WVC Library Closed
11	12 No School Town offices, library closed Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	13 Council Meeting 6:00PM	14 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC VFW Mtg at WVC	15	16 Parks & Recreation Family Trivia Night Boss's Day	17 AL Bean Supper 5:00pm WVC
18 National Friends of the Library Week	19 WVA Meeting 6pm WVC	20	21 Parks & Recreation Creative Kiddie Craft 8:30AM Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm WVC RSU 14 Board of Directors Meeting	22	23	24 Parks & Recreation Trunk or Treat 5:30PM
25	26 Planning Board Meeting 6:30PM	27 Council Meeting 6:00PM	28 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC DAV Mtg 6pm WVC	29 Late Night for Absentee Voting & Voter Registration 4:00-7:00 PM	30	31 Happy Halloween Parks & Recreation Trails Passport Ends

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PUZZLES & GAMES

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☾ ♀ ✱ ☿ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

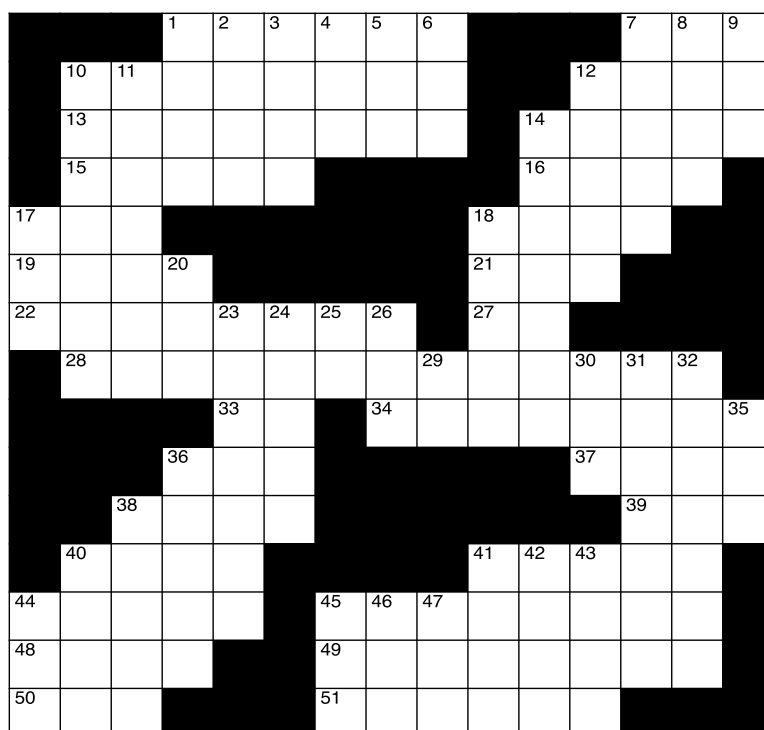
Clue: Punishment

Answers: A. helmet B. gear C. rules D. penalty

B	A	T	A			P	U	P			E	C	U
C	L	E	G	G		E	N	E		M	A	L	L
E	A	G	A	N		S	L	R		A	G	U	E
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C	A	D				Y	E	S			E	B	B



.....CROSSWORD PUZZLE.....



1. A place for worship
7. Referee declaration
10. Torsos
12. Used to introduce something
13. Healing method
14. Takes to the sea
15. Make law
16. French coastal city
17. Hawaiian dish
18. Young of domestic cattle
19. Women's undergarments
21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
22. One after another
27. It's a hot topic these days
28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C
34. Heavenly
36. Fiddler crabs
37. Major Hindu deity
38. Hebrew given name
39. Cost per mile
40. __ Romeo, car
41. Rural municipality in Manitoba
44. Narratives
45. "A tragedy had __ him"
48. Iranian city
49. Praises publicly
50. Founding Father Franklin
51. Herbal tea

1. Indian unit of mass
2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton
3. Part of a sailing vessel
4. Part of (abbr.)
5. Polynesian garland of flowers
6. Keyboard key
7. One who steals
8. Large oven
9. Former CIA
10. Idea
11. Solomon Islands capital
12. Afrikaans
14. Remove thatch
17. Television network
18. Jalen Brunson is one
20. Title of respect
23. Flowering trees
24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists
26. Woman (French)
29. Expression of doubt
30. NHL legend Bobby
31. Accomplished
32. Makes slightly wet
35. National Assn. of Manufacturers
36. Not sated
38. Poe’s middle name
40. Swiss river
41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
42. “Shane” actor Ladd
43. Popular whodunit board game
44. Bar bill
45. Ballplayer’s tool
46. Indicates near
47. Feet per second

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

9	6	8	1	3	4	7	5	2
1	4	2	7	6	5	3	8	9
7	5	3	9	2	8	6	1	4
3	8	1	4	5	6	9	2	7
5	9	4	8	7	2	1	6	3
2	7	6	3	1	9	5	4	8
4	3	7	5	8	1	2	9	6
8	2	5	6	9	3	4	7	1
6	1	9	2	4	7	8	3	5

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

For more than a century, Duck Pond Variety at 463 River Road in Windham has been supplying the community with food, gas and everyday essentials, remaining a familiar stop for generations of area residents.

Owned and operated by Derek Footman, the store traces its roots to 1917, when Charles and Grace Thayer founded the neighborhood business. Over the years, customers could stop in for everything from molasses, flour and grain for animals to shoes, gasoline, penny candy, garden seeds, beer, wine and soda. As times changed, so did the store, eventually becoming known for pizza, sandwiches and other freshly prepared foods.

Footman, who has owned the business for the past four years, has continued that tradition while expanding what the store offers. Today, Duck Pond Variety features a full kitchen along with gasoline, liquor, beer, wine, convenience items and everyday essentials. The store also carries tobacco products, offers propane exchanges, lottery tickets and an ATM, and recently added diesel fuel.

Keeping prices reasonable is a priority for Footman, whether customers are filling their gas tanks or ordering a meal from the kitchen. He said providing good portions and quality ingredients at prices local families can afford is an important part of operating a neighborhood store.

What distinguishes Duck Pond Va-



riety from its competitors is simple, Footman says.

“The quality of our food comes with a price that can’t be beat,” he said. “Our chicken is fresh, never frozen, and twice breaded. Our pizza is made with all top-quality products but sells for the most reasonable prices in town. Many items are hot and ready to go so you can be in and out fast.”

Duck Pond Variety’s specialties include Italian sandwiches, fresh chicken, pizza, breakfast pizza and breakfast sandwiches.

“We take immense pride in serving the best food at the best price while never compromising on quality,” Footman said.

That focus on hearty, affordable food becomes especially noticeable during the colder months. Throughout the winter, Duck Pond Variety prepares hot comfort-food meals to go Monday through Friday, giving customers an easy option without having to cook at home. Selections change from week to week and may include favorites such as shepherd’s pie, stuffed shells with meatballs and mac-

aroni and cheese topped with meats such as buffalo chicken or pulled pork. The meals are served hot and ready to go, with generous portions designed to provide a filling meal at a reasonable price.

Customers can also take advantage of different food specials each weekday. Mondays feature a 10-inch, one-topping pizza for \$8. Tuesdays bring The Godfather Sub for \$8, while Wednesdays feature chicken tenders for \$1 each. On Thursdays, customers can purchase a large sandwich for the price of a small, and Fridays feature a Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap for \$8.

Footman said he is humbled to continue the tradition of serving the community that began with the Thayer family more than 100 years ago. Today, Duck Pond Variety employs between 12 and 15 people.

“I used to work for a vendor and met the previous owner through that,” Footman said. “I ended up buying it from him and building upon what he had already started. It has been known as Duck Pond Variety for eight years and before that it was called Thayers,

which the town cherished and loved for many decades.”

More recently, improvements to the exterior have helped bring new attention to the longtime neighborhood store.

“We have almost completed an outside remodel which has led to amazing growth, and we would love people to try our food and store that have not been in before,” Footman said.

Online reviews echo the enthusiasm for the store’s food, service and affordable gas.

“Came here around 4 p.m. on a Monday. I got the steak bomb sub, and husband got the meat pizza. Omg! Best food in a long time. Nothing was skimped on, ratios on everything perfect, all tasted fresh. Definitely our go-to place when we’re back in the area. Also, service- 5 stars!!! Thank you so much, we will be back!” ~ A. Files.

“I have had two Italian sandwiches from here in the last three weeks and they are by far the best Italians I have had. And to top it off, the staff is extremely friendly regardless of how busy the store is! Hats off to Duck Pond! Keep it up!” ~ J. Clifford.

Duck Pond Variety is proud to serve this community and looks forward to continuing to be the area’s go-to place for good food and convenience.

To place an order ahead and have it ready for pickup, call 207-892-5146. To learn more about Duck Pond Variety, find the store on Facebook. <

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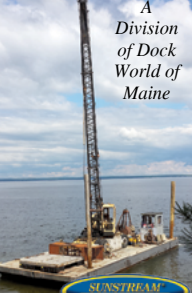
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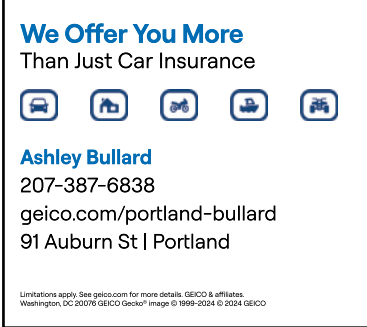
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