

What's Up



DOWNTOWN



Quarterly

A quarterly publication featuring local Downtown Alliances, Main Street Programs and other Downtown Organizations within our communities

Special Advertising Supplement to the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel | Wednesday, June 26, 2019



Website makes it easy to find unique downtown spots and shops

BY MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER AND BONNEVILLE CONSULTING

Special to the Downtown Quarterly

Maine's ten nationally designated Main Streets have teamed up to create a web site and social media presence celebrating these historic downtowns. Check out mainstreetmaine.org to see what this is all about. Or find them on Facebook or Instagram.

With the arrival of the summer travel season, it is a wonderful time to slow down and browse in downtown antiques and second-hand shops. Mainstreetmaine.org has highlighted a number of lovely antiques shops for all your home decor needs and crafted a trail that will let you experience several nationally-recognized, Maine historic downtowns in the process.

Main Street Maine also provides a curated list of unique places and local life events right in these downtown areas. The idea behind this trail is to save you time and help you locate the great local spots right away. So plan your visit and get ready to enjoy a locally-brewed beer in a restored mill, savor American comfort food in a classic chrome dining car, discover Maine's downtown architectural jewels, mingle with the locals, and so much more!

Maine Downtown Center Affiliate Program welcomes city of Hallowell

The Maine Downtown Center (MDC), a program of Maine Development Foundation (MDF), has announced that Hallowell has joined its Maine Downtown Center Affiliate Program.

Hallowell (Vision Hallowell) went through an extensive application process including an online application, a site visit and interview conducted by professional downtown revitalization experts that serve on the MDC Advisory Council. Hallowell also submitted a written commitment to the program.

"We are excited to be chosen as a Maine Downtown Affiliate," says Jamie Houghton, President of Vision Hallowell. "Downtowns are the heart of any community, and our little city has a big, creative heart that we wish to protect and promote using the tools and training that the Main Downtown Center program offers."

The Maine Downtown Center Affiliate Program (MDA) currently supports 17 member communities throughout Maine. All are in the early stages of downtown revitalization and many are working toward achieving "Main Street" designation. MDA offers access to training by state and national downtown development experts, best practices in the field and a network of peers from around the state, but with less rigorous resource and financial investment than the Main Street Maine program.

Over the last several years, MDF has worked with communities such as Hallowell to develop organizational structure, cultivate local leaders and pursue a four-pronged approach laid out by the National Main Street Center.

"I had the opportunity to attend every site visit this year," says Anne Ball, Program Director, Maine Downtown Center. During those site visits, she said, "communities demonstrate good energy, a clear vision and pride in their downtown areas that have made these designations a reality."

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BY WATERVILLE CREATES!
Special to the Downtown Quarterly

Warm breeze, sunshine, the sweet smell of flowers and fresh-cut grass... yes, it is finally summertime in Maine! With summer comes adventure and new experiences, so enjoy the bright schedule of events that Waterville has for this season.

If you haven't been to the Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market, you're missing out on some amazing products. This season, the Farmers' Market will be outside soaking up the sun at Head of Falls next to the RiverWalk. Each Thursday from 2 – 6 p.m., you can shop for fresh and local goods directly from the producers while enjoying the fresh air and the warm breeze.

While you're at the market, don't miss out on the free festivities at Art in the Park, a program of Common Street Arts. On Thursdays from 4 – 6 p.m. Art in the Park will feature different activities for all to enjoy. Indulge your imagination with popcorn art, felted finger puppets, watercolor planets, paper airplanes,

planning your garden, and more. Art in the Park runs June through August 29. Just look for the cute animal sprinklers and you'll find the activities.

If you want to explore professionals' works of art, visit the summer exhibitions at the Common Street Arts gallery at 10 Water Street. Experience the black and white photographs of the Maine landscape in Lost + Found: Photographs by Susan Metzger – now showing through June 29. Beginning on August 12 through September 7, the Maine Open Juried Art Show (MOJAS) will showcase selected artists from across the state. An awards ceremony and opening reception will be held on August 15 from 5 – 7 p.m. From September 16 through October 26, I Am Not a Stranger: Portraits by Sean Alonzo Harris will be available for the public to enjoy. All exhibitions at Common Street Arts are free.

The Colby College Museum of Art also has fantastic summer exhibitions and events planned for the warm months ahead. From Theaster Gates: Facsimile Cabinet of Women Origin Stories to Horse Power: American

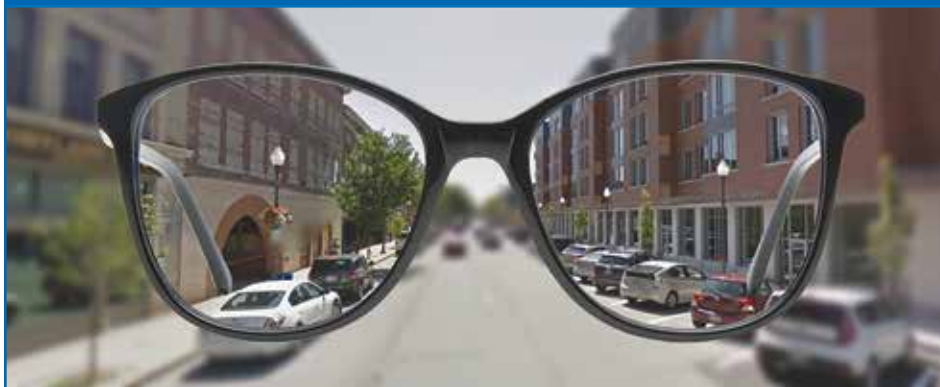
More WATERVILLE, **PAGE 4**



Contributed photo

Art in the Park runs June through August 29 and will feature different activities for all to enjoy. Indulge your imagination.

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Waterville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Weathervanes from a Distinguished New England Collection and Intersecting Lines: Etchings by Rembrandt, Whistler and Picasso. The Colby Museum is sure to keep you fascinated. For a complete list of exhibitions and activities, visit Colby.edu/Museum.

As the evenings cool off, things heat up in Castonguay Square for Waterville Rocks!, the free summer concert series. Each of the family-friendly concerts will feature an opener and headliner. Highlights include a beer garden, outdoor dining at The Proper Pig, an ice cream truck from Stone Fox Farm Creamery and free family-friendly art activities. The beer garden opens at 5:30 p.m. for those of age. The first of the Friday night concerts is June 28 with The Mallett Brothers Band and Hymn For Her! Save the date for these free concerts: July 5, July 26 and August 2.

For many Waterville citizens, summer in Waterville means The Taste of Waterville. This year's Taste, held on Wednesday, August 7, promises to be the best yet. Those tasty "Bite Booths" will be back starting at 11a.m. in downtown Waterville as will local non-profits holding family-friendly events throughout the daytime hours.

Things kick into high gear at 5 p.m. when the Beer Gardens and dining on Main Street open to the public. For a list of all activities, times and details, visit tasteofwaterville.com.

If you love live music and entertainment, you can also enjoy events at the Waterville Opera House throughout the summer – they've got an incredible lineup planned. Upcoming events include the jaw-dropping Peking Acrobats, the melodic intonations of Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn, the amazing Jonny Lang, the incredible jams of Keller

Williams and more. For a full schedule of events or to reserve your spot at an upcoming show, visit OperaHouse.org.

Summer isn't summer unless you have a good book to enjoy. If you want to explore new books and add to your reading resume, you're in luck. The Waterville Public Library has tons of options. The Library also hosts different kid-friendly events throughout the summer. For a complete list of activities, visit WatervillePublicLibrary.org.

If you prefer to listen to stories rather than read them, PechaKucha Night Waterville is for you! Now hosting its 32nd event, PechaKucha Waterville Volume 32 will feature a fascinating variety of community presenters sharing their stories and passions with an enthusiastic audience. With only 20 seconds for each of the 20 slides, presenters will fly through their stories. This free creative networking event is on Thursday, July 11 beginning at 6:20 p.m. in Castonguay Square.

Want to see stories brought to life through film? Learn about all film things and even have the chance to connect with remarkable directors, writers, actors and more from around the world at the 22nd Annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF). MIFF22 will showcase 100 premier releases of American independent and international cinema, classic revivals, inspiring performances, exhibitions and community workshops in Waterville. With locations like the historic Waterville Opera House and the iconic Railroad Square Cinema, you're sure to have a good time. For more information, visit miff.org.

As slowly as summer arrives, it passes by in a blink of the eye. Make the summer of 2019 unforgettable. Experience something new, build more memories with friends and explore all Waterville has to offer this summer. You can find all of these events and so many more listed on our free community calendar at WatervilleCreates.org.



Free outdoor recreation activities now offered in Skowhegan

BY MAIN STREET SKOWHEGAN
Special to the Downtown Quarterly

In May, Main Street Skowhegan enrolled three full-time AmeriCorps members as outdoor recreation coaches. Under Main Street's guidance, they are spearheading implementation of the Skowhegan AmeriCorps Outdoor Recreation Program which provides free outdoor recreation activities and trainings to Skowhegan residents.

The outdoor recreation coaches – Alanna Wacome, Travis Basora and Monica Sonner – are planning, developing and leading the

activities which kicked off at the beginning of June. Planned activities so far include trail runs, downtown walks, yoga and meditation in Coburn Park and a family scavenger hunt. Future activities and trainings will also include mountain biking, paddling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and more.

Later this year Wacome, Basora, and Sonner will work to establish a gear library so Skowhegan residents can borrow equipment including mountain bikes, kayaks, cross-country skis,

More SKOWHEGAN, PAGE 5

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Skowhegan

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helmets and more free of charge.

This program is a result of a collaboration between Main Street Skowhegan and the Outdoor Sport Institute (OSI). It is made possible thanks to funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service and the Corporation for National & Community Service. Learn more at mainstreetskowhegan.org/calendar.

Kneading Conference and Bread Fair

The Maine Grain Alliance will celebrate bread and everything related to it with the annual Kneading Conference and Artisan Bread Fair at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds July 25-27.

The bread fair is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 27. Admission is free; parking is \$5. With more than 60 vendors, the fair will offer Maine-made breads and pastries, wood-fired pizza, honey, granola, cheeses, pottery, wooden utensils, kitchen linens and much more. There will also be live music, professional bakers to answer questions, demonstrations and a kids' area.



Raft rides are one of the many activities you will find at the Skowhegan River Fest event that happens July 30 to August 3rd.

Slated for July 25-26, the Kneading Conference is an annual gathering of bakers, farmers, millers, scientists, food writers and anyone interested in craft breads and local food networks. Kimberley Bell, founder of Small Food Bakery in Nottingham, England, is this year's keynote speaker. Small Food won the 2018 BBC Award for Best Food Producer in the UK.

Contributed photo by Brandi Burrill

Preregistration is required for the conference. To register, or for more information on both the conference and bread fair, visit KneadingConference.com.

River Fest

For five days this summer, Skowhegan will

celebrate recreation and life on the sparkling Kennebec River with its annual – and ever-growing – River Fest event.

From Tuesday, July 30 to Saturday, Aug. 3, Skowhegan's historic downtown will be buzzing with activities both old and new community meals, vendors and a culminating fireworks display on Saturday night. Activities will include raft rides, a glow-stick river run, other river and outdoor programming and events, a craft fair, kids' activities, a golf tournament, the annual Rotary Club lobster bake and Lions Club chicken barbecue, the iconic bed races when teams race beds on wheels down Water Street and more.

Main Street Skowhegan will again host Dinner in the Park, a locally sourced meal that debuted last year at Skowhegan's beloved Coburn Park. The event will take place Saturday, Aug. 3, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person, \$110 per couple, or \$400 per table of eight. Tickets will be available in July at dinnerinthepark.com and at the Skowhegan Fleuriste (93 Water St.).

River Fest showcases the downtown Kennebec River Gorge as the future home of the Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area. Run of River will include a whitewater park with wave features for paddling, surfing, tubing, stand-up paddle boarding and more;

More SKOWHEGAN, **PAGE 6**

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Skowhegan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

an approximately 50-mile four-season trail system on 300 acres in the heart of town; a riverfront promenade and pristine fishing waters with improved fish habitat.

The park will serve as a venue for river festivals and events, attracting significant regional and national whitewater paddling competitions and drawing recreation aficionados, spectators, sightseers and adventure travelers. Fundraising is currently underway for the first phase of the recreation area. For more information, see runofriver.org

Sponsored by Skowhegan Savings Bank, River Fest is organized by the Run of River Committee, the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce, Skowhegan Parks & Rec and Main Street Skowhegan.

A full schedule along with sponsor and vendor information will be available soon at skowheganriverfest.com.

Craft Brew Fest

On Saturday, Aug. 31, a block in the heart of downtown Skowhegan will close to vehicular traffic for the fourth annual Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival – one of the only festivals in the state to feature all Maine purveyors of beer, wine, cider, spirits and food.

Last year the festival drew approximately 1,200 attendees from across the country and Canada. VIP tickets have sold out each year and this year General Admission tickets will be capped to ensure the festival retains the small-town vibe attendees love.

With 34 brewers anticipated, the event will kick off with a VIP hour featuring free local food samples and specialty brews not available during the general session. The general session will include an array of Maine-crafted libations, while merchants will offer farm-to-table fare including organic tacos, chicken wings and more.

Live music by Skowhegan's own Connor Reeves and Maine band Papa Tim and the Desperate Man's Blues Explosion will enhance the festival atmosphere.

The Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival is coordinated by Main Street Skowhegan, and all proceeds benefit ongoing revitalization efforts in Skowhegan.

Leading sponsors include Skowhegan Savings Bank, Kennebec Valley Tourism Council, Maine Grains, Butler's Car Wash, Damon's, DuBois Construction, Franklin Printing, Franklin Savings Bank, Hight Family of Dealerships, Short Circuit Electric and Redington-Fairview General Hospital.

Tickets are on sale now at skowhegan-craftbrewfest.com at a discounted rate from at-the-door prices.



Colonial Theater Concerts

BY AUGUSTA DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE
Special to the Downtown Quarterly

Augusta Colonial Theater just announced their summer concert series and the talent from the headliners could not be more on point. From The Ballroom Thieves to the Rustic Overtones, this series to benefit the Colonial Theater's restoration project kicks off June 29 at 7 p.m., with the Jamie McLean band (right), whose trio oozes raw emotion fused with drops of southern roots rock, blues, R&B, funk and soul.

The Ballroom Thieves will perform on Saturday, July 13, the Mallett Brothers Band on Saturday, July 27 and the Rustic Overtones on August 24. Visit augustacolonialtheater.org to purchase your tickets.



DATE NIGHT JULY 11TH	THROWBACK JULY 18TH	FAMILY NIGHT AUGUST 1ST	FAMILY NIGHT 2 AUGUST 8TH

Movies in the Park

The Augusta Downtown Alliance and the Children's Discovery Museum are hosting our annual summer Movies in the Park at Waterfront Park this year. The line-up includes: July 11, Date Night: Bohemian Rhapsody July 18, Throwback Night: The Goonies August 1, Family Night 1: Big Hero 6 August 8, Family Night 2: How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World

All movies are free with a suggested \$5 donation. Movies start at dusk (about 8 p.m.) at the Waterfront Park in downtown Augusta. Stay tuned for more details about food, prizes, sponsors, and movie titles.

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It's a lively summer for all ages and interests in Gardiner



BY GARDINER MAIN STREET

Special to the Downtown Quarterly

Gardiner comes alive with activities through the summer and fall months. The beautiful Waterfront Park welcomes visitors and boaters from around the area.

Gardiner Farmers' Market

Wednesdays through October from 3-6 p.m. on the Common.

Classic Car Cruise-in

Thursday nights the park fills with classic cars and music from days gone by. Happening now through September from 3-7 p.m. in the Waterfront Park.

Gardiner Art Walk

This year is the fifteenth season of Artwalk Gardiner. On August 16th from 5-8 p.m., artists will fill downtown locations with pop-ups featuring a variety of creative mediums. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll through downtown, people watch from the outside dining at Two Gramps Brewing or Gerard's Pizza and listen to live music throughout the evening.

Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert Series

Friday nights from June until August feature Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concert Series. There will also be food on site for purchase or pick up food from a local business on the way to enjoy while listening to the music.

There will be children's activities at each concert, so bring the whole family!

Summer Schedule:

June 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Muddy Rukus
 July 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Calypso Soldiers
 July 12, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Borderland Express
 July 19, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Juke Joint Devils
 July 26, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Ale House String Band
 Aug. 2, 6 - 7:30 p.m. The Working Dead
 Aug. 9, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Junco
 Aug. 16, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Half Moon Jug Band
 Aug. 23, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Sound Off - Battle of the Bands #2,
 with fireworks to follow!



Swine & Stein Oktoberfest

Hold on to your Lederhosen - It's the 10th Anniversary of Swine & Stein Oktoberfest!

The 10th year promises to be the best yet with a new format, new activities and with the same charm that put this event on the map. On Saturday, October 12, Water Street in historic downtown Gardiner will transform into an open-air beer garden.

Gardiner Main Street's annual fundraiser celebrates Maine craft beers, all things pork and music to get you dancing in the street. Sign up for the Gardiner Main Street newsletter at gardinermainstreet.org to be the first to know when pre-sale tickets go on sale.



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JUNE - AUGUST 2019



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June 28, July 5, July 26, August 2



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July 6



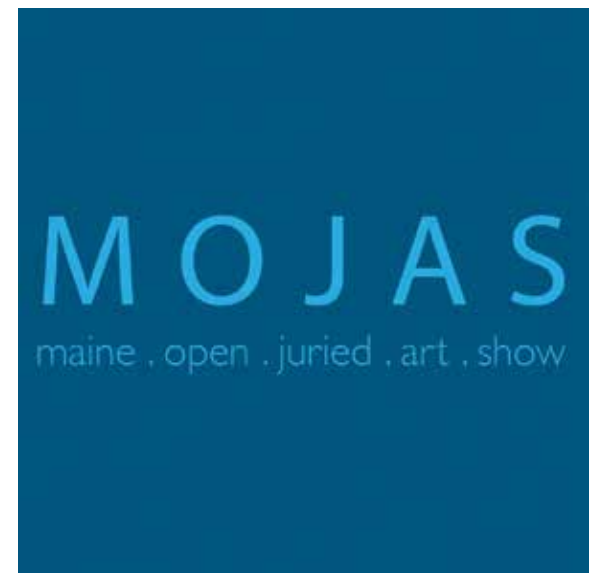
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