

Summertime in the Belgrades

... Serving the Central Maine Lakes & Kennebec River Corridor



VOLUME 22, NUMBER 9

Where in the World are the Belgrades?

by Esther J. Perne

There are nine Belgrades in the world, ranging from Belgrade, Serbia with more people than the entire state of Maine to Belgrade, Texas - billed as a ghost town.

There are seven Belgrades in the United States, five that were founded in the 1800s, four that are in states that begin with M (Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri), three that were built because of railroad lines, two that are on rivers, and one that may be just an historic building.

Although the other Old World Belgrade, in Belgium (population 4,756), had connections to Austria's royal house of Hapsburg and was named Belgrade in 1718 to commemorate the Austrian empire's conquest of the Serbian city, the towns named Belgrade in the developing New World had far less direct links to the "Balkan jewel" and certainly a lot less age.

Belgrade, Serbia (population 1.398 million) on the Sava and Dunav Rivers, from which originates the name Belgrade for all the other towns, dates back to 7000 BC when it was a neolithic settlement and to 4,800 BC when the prehistoric town of Vinca was established.

According to historical accounts, the Celts founded Belgrade in the 3rd century BC; it subsequently became a Roman settlement called Singidunum; in 878 the Slovene name Beligrad, meaning "white city" was first used; the city became the capital of Serbia in 1405. It had previously been under Serbian rule in 1284. And, it became again the capital of an independent state of Serbia in 2006.

Although the original Belgrade allegedly changed its name 15 times throughout its history



- often to assume designations given by a ruling country - in terms of development under any name the port city thrived, prospered and was rebuilt after the destruction of many wars.

It was the commercial success of the Serbian river location that apparently prompted Belgrade, Texas (population 750), established in 1839 near the Sabine River to adopt the name in hopes it, too, would become a successful river port - a hope which lasted only until the 1880s when river transportation declined due to the expansion of railroads.

Railroads also brought expansion to the name Belgrade. Belgrade, Missouri (population 913), established in 1867, is said to have been named Belgrade to honor Serbian railroad workers or investors. Belgrade, Montana (population 7,389), established in 1881, adopted its name as an expression of appreciation to the Serbian investors who helped finance a portion of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Belgrade, Minnesota (population 773), established in 1881, took the name Belgrade when the railroad was constructed in 1886 and "became one of the little oases strung along the railroad tracks from Minneapolis."

The naming of Belgrade, Nebraska (population 126), established in 1889 has an interesting connection to Belgrade Maine. When the Union Pacific reached that point, the story goes, the town was called Belgrade because the surveyor of the town site named it for his home town in Maine.

Belgrade, Maine (population 3,189; almost double in the summer), which was founded in 1796, long before the other Belgrades in the United States, got its name due to the European travels of a John V. Davis who attended one (or

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Continued from page 1

maybe all) of the five town meetings needed to start the new town and suggested the name. There is no evidence that the popularity of using European capitals and countries as a source of town names in Maine influenced the selection,

but it does give the town a certain niche among its capital-named neighbors.

Of all the Belgrades, Belgrade, North Carolina, founded about 1797, is perhaps the most obscure. It has not been included in past census counts so there is no population information for the com-

munity.

What does count is that a few towns named Belgrade are scattered across the country and that the one in Maine is the heart of a renowned vacation region



...continued from page 14

home on his family farm. Small beginnings like Lincoln from log cabin days and splitting rails. The disciplined life of Coolidge is so very like the disciplined life of Truman, helping their parents at home with the land.

I walked from building to building in Plymouth and was amazed at its smallness in size but largeness in producing our finest writer of his own life story, becoming president and living benevolently after. Many refer to Calvin and Grace Coolidge losing their teenage son while he was president. Such a great loss and yet he persevered in office and did a fine job.

Calvin honored his wife Grace by donating all his funds to her former school where she taught the deaf in Massachusetts. He was not interested in building up his own legacy. Coolidge felt it was her turn after she had lived a life for him. What greater love can there be?

Amity Shlaes' *The Forgotten Man* covers the economy under Coolidge. His policies of conservatism and major strides helped bring about in the US economy great improvements. Amity, who helps run the Coolidge Homestead, brought her family to their home in Maine during the

Manhattan virus scare in April.

President Calvin Coolidge's accomplishments have been underestimated apparently and our only New England president before John Kennedy can be understood by visitors to his hometown in nearby Vermont. Have a good local venture, maybe an overnight in Vermont or New Hampshire.

Trump's *The Art of the Deal* is covered in this history of presidents' books in *Author in Chief*. Craig Fehrman explains the typical usage of ghostwriters for many books written before serving and after serving the highest office in our land. Bestselling blockbusters in the business are recently all too common.

The controversial writing of Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize Profiles in *Courage* has many pages of research with Sorenson as the author of other efforts by President Kennedy as well.

This may shock: "[Peter] Osnos approved the deal, which meant the same editor who signed *The Art of the Deal* also signed *Dreams from My Father*". (page 308)

Bull Moose in Waterville has *Author in Chief* for \$21.97, discounted from \$30.00. They can also order any title available, like most bookstores.

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Snapshot of Belgrade

by Anthony Wilson

So, not quite what I was expecting in my first year as Belgrade’s town manager. But I’m a relentlessly butter-side-up person. If I must endure a pandemic, there’s no place I’d rather do that than in Belgrade, Maine. That’s because of our abundance of blessings that salve the soul despite our being unable to live, play and work as we’d like.

To wit:

- The landscape remains ever beautiful. After plentiful rainfall, we are surrounded at every turn by lush, verdant woods teaming with nature.
- Those same showers have replenished our lakes to healthy and enjoyable levels. They remain a refreshing constant on a warm day.
- That’s right – I said, “warm.” It does not get hot in Maine, says the native Texan. Except for the stray muggy day, the weather is a delight – perfect for hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, deck-sitting, hammock-snoozing, and adult beverage-sipping.
- Some 900 people voted in July’s election. Hashtag Democracy! The vast majority participated safely by mailed or absentee ballot. It was a good trial run for what promises to be a rousing contest this fall.
- Books provide a great escape. Belgrade has TWO terrific book outlets. The Belgrade Public Library is open by appointment and offers handy-dandy curbside service. And the new Oliver & Friends Bookshop and Reading Room on Main Street sports an eclectic selection, an inviting atmosphere and a friendly proprietor.
- Like Oliver & Friends and against all odds, many of our businesses are thriving. Holly at H.J. Blake’s says sales at her food cart have never been better. The breakfast cart at the Lakeside Inn is taking flight. Hello Good Pie, Sunset Grill and Christy’s continue to do a brisk business. The return of Spiro & Company’s delicious Greek fare is welcomed ... and tasty! Day’s and the Village Inn continue to offer stellar fare in a smart, safe manner. Help them all out. Shop and eat local!
- Our summer neighbors have returned. Their ebullient love for Belgrade lifts my spirits and makes me even more grateful to live year-round in a place they eagerly flock to for a few months.
- Our neighbors are displaying great concern for one another by dutifully wearing masks and socially distancing in the Town Office. Ninety-eight percent of our citizens come in sporting a mask. One percent cheerfully put one on when asked. A few old soreheads are invited outside to receive their public services. As a reminder: masks are effective only if they cover chins AND noses.
- Summertime in the Belgrades is back! As a former journalist, I’ve read many small-town newspapers. I can’t think of any that capture sense of place better than Esther’s passion project. I look forward to each weekly edition.
- Even in sleepy little Belgrade, the pandemic has slowed the pace of life. That, too, is a gift. This time allows for greater reflection and for reinvestment in what matters most, including family ... and home.

Anthony Wilson is the Belgrade town manager. Contact him at townmanager@townofbelgrade.com or at 207-495-2258.



Summertime in the Belgrades

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—The Luckiest Boy—

Historical Memoirs from Belgrade Lakes Native Bill Pulsifer

by Rod Johnson

Note: At age 85, Bill Pulsifer and his wife Marie live in the same house in Belgrade Lakes village that he was raised in. His knowledge and sharp memories are often called upon to confirm or deny some historical question. He is always happy to comment on the issue and often expounds about other trivia that we didn't previously know. Long story short, Bill is our Belgrade Lakes expert and knows much about the other Belgrade villages as well. When I asked him about the old boathouse that was on his family property, now torn down, I got more than I could have hoped for. Below are short memoirs of that boathouse and a potpourri of other interesting information, some related, some not.

Concerning his father's boathouse Bill says: "The large boathouse was on the property when my dad bought the place about 1925. In the 1930s, one of the local guides named Fred Ellis lived in an apartment upstairs. Fred later built a house on Skunk Alley (Hulin Road) behind Rosby French's house. The boathouse was torn down around 1960. The cribs that served as underpinning are still visible underwater."

Concerning a boathouse that was on the West facing side of the stream located at the Pentlarge property: "The small boathouse across the stream from ours was moved across the ice in 1945 onto Maggie Damren's property and became known as Maggie's Camp. This is now the LRC property and the camp was torn down when the LRC building was built."

Concerning the Frink boathouse, we will defer to this article in the Belgrade news on March 7, 1906, brought to light and sent to Bill by Linda McLoon. I'll fill in the blank that the Frink cottage is the Cottrell cottage on the West side of Long Pond, somewhat hidden from village view by what we know as Blueberry Island (actually named Frink's island, more on that later) Here's the article from 114 years ago.

Leonard Frink of Boston purchased the henhouse which was on the Foster place, and moved it across the lake to his cottage. He will remodel it



into a boathouse for the accommodation of his gasoline launch and a smaller craft. Mr. Frink was here and personally supervised the moving, which was attended by several mishaps of an annoying but not serious nature. In its progress through the village streets, the building came in contact with several telephone wires with sufficient force to break them and temporarily cripple the service of several instruments. It also lurched into the rail at the side of the bridge near the sawmill and made kindling of the same. It was feared that the building would topple over into the stream, but it was finally landed safely at its destination on the west shore of Long Pond.

And now, to Bill's personal memoirs of Mr. Frink: "As a kid I remember "old man Frink" as we kids used to call him. He would walk the sidewalks of the Belgrade Lakes village with a cane, white pants and jacket, along with a panama style hat. We kids used to holler at him some. He had a pumpkinseed style boat with a single cylinder engine, which he used to travel back and forth across Long Pond. He docked behind Bartlett's store (now Day's). I remember one day he was having trouble starting it to leave the mainland and took out the spark plug to put some gasoline into the plug hole as a primer. When he cranked it over it backfired and some spilled gasoline burst into flames. A bunch of us kids were swimming nearby and we found some buckets and threw water on it to douse the flames. In the meantime, Sherm Clement and Karl Johnson ran up to the firehouse and brought the firetruck. We had the fire out before they got there. Old man Frink finally got the engine going and headed back across the pond. Guess we felt a little sorry for him."

A typical burst of Lakes trivia came from Bill one day in 2013, when I was conferring with him about an old outboard motor that Frank McGill had. "Seems I do remember the Chris Craft outboard that Frank had on his little skimmer. They were forerunners of the Mercs I think, very high RPM. While going over this in my mind, I recall other events in my childhood. We kids would go on the little island in the stream narrows and have BB gun fights across the stream with Skippy Green, who got hit in the eye. My father said they were too dangerous and I never did have a BB gun after that until I was married. From then on we used acorns for ammo and shot them with slingshots. We'd hide our boats on the backside of the island and pelt the boats that went by. Bad boys—never got caught though. As far as the 4.2 horsepower Champion goes, it had a cutout on the exhaust so it was very loud. I drove Georgie Golder nuts for a few summers as she lived right beside the stream in Maggie's camp. Harold Tukey (the warden) gave me hell a few times, but it only slowed us down a little. I had one of the first boats that Harold Webster made, but your father's cedar boats were much faster with the same horsepower. When we would go camping we always took Emil Koref along. His mother would send enough eggs, bacon and loaves of bread to feed us for a week—even though we only stayed one night. We camped out at either Oak Island or sometimes the guide's lunch picnic sites under Bogart's Mountain. On Long Pond we would go to the mouth of Beaver Brook. One time as we were about to land the boat at Beaver Brook, Pug Damren stood up early and tipped the boat over. Good thing the food was in Dick and Emil's boat!"

So goes it with Bill's memoirs. Let's hope we can get him to spill some more beans in the next few years!



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— Take It Outside —

Summer continues to race by. As the State continues to ease COVID restrictions, more and more visitors are returning to our area. Evidence continues to mount that being outside is much safer than being inside. The trailheads at the local trails are showing more and more out-of-state plates and many more families hiking together. Similarly, there are more boats on the lakes every day and more and more people in the water. As the air has warmed to the high eighties and the water into the upper 70's and low 80's, more and more people are swimming, sailing, and tubing. I have been doing some hiking at the local trails and most of the hikers seem to be returning summer residents and out-of-state families visiting parents and grandparents for the first time in a while. Although we missed the annual loon calling contest and the beanhole supper, Comet Neowise provided a bit of novelty that won't return for another 6,766 years. Hopefully we'll be all done with COVID-19 by then. The increased crowds are bringing a bit of normalcy but the fact most people are wearing masks reminds us it's not quite normal yet. I recently met the O'Donnell family from Cape May, NJ, coming down the trail as I was heading up. They were spending the week visiting parents and grandparents on lower Long Pond. Mom has been hiking French Mountain for over 36 years, even longer than the 32 years that BRCA/7-Lakes Alliance has owned the property.

The week has been pretty dry so the mushroom foraging has slowed down, although there is still a pretty good crop of black trumpets if you know where to look. The blueberry picking has been excellent. The timing of the early pollination followed by a bit of rain and then some warm weather has resulted in a bumper crop. The fishing has slowed a bit and the bigger fish have moved down below the warm, mixed layer (hypolimnion). I'm still



O'Donnell Family from Cape May, NJ on French Mountain.



Black ducks on the rocks at sunrise.

Fishing, and Hiking!

by Pete Kallin

catching some nice bass 20 to 25-ft down using either crayfish or alewife imitations. A couple of times this week I have found schools of white perch, also browsing on alewives. We kept enough for a nice fish fry and got some in the freezer.

Take advantage of the rest of the summer and get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. You will be creating memories that will last. Check out the events at the 7-LA web site and the sign in front of the MLRC. Events are being presented as conditions allow and the schedule is fluid. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from 7-Lakes Alliance web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>. One event of special note this week will be a webinar on the "State of the Lakes" presented by Dr. Danielle Wain of 7-Lakes Alliance on August 5th at 4 PM. More information and registration information is at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/events/state-of-the-lakes>. Even if you miss the original broadcast, I believe it will be recorded and available to watch later.



Nice "mess" of Long Pond white perch.



Dock spider.

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Notebook

Skowhegan Lobster Bake Goes Curbside

• The 36th Annual Skowhegan Rotary Club Lobster Bake will be online and to go, with curbside pickup on Friday, August 8, 12 noon to 7 pm, at the Municipal Parking Lot near the Chamber of Commerce in downtown Skowhegan. Single lobster dinners \$17; twin \$27. Online orders only through the Skowhegan Rotary Club Facebook page.

"All Things Blueberry" August 15

• The 49th Annual Blueberry Festival in Winslow will hold a Drive-Through/Take-Out Event on Saturday, August 15, 8 am to 12 noon. Over 700 mouth-watering blueberry pies and baked goods, 4-Lobster Shore Dinner Raffle and an auction on WinslowUCC.org.

Camp Tracy Announces Season Extension

• An extra week of day camp, August 17-21, is being offered by Camp Tracy on McGrath Pond in Oakland. A program of the Alford Youth & Community Center, Camp Tracy has 45 camper slots available. Registration began July 31. For more information contact Abbie Charrier, 465-8366.

Short Outdoor Film Contest for Mainers

• Maine Outdoor Film Festival is holding a short outdoor film contest open to all Maine filmmakers. The deadline is September 10, 2020. Finalists will be announced mid-September with the premiere following shortly after at a venue/screening to be determined. moff@maine-outdoorfilmfestival.com

Movies in the Park(ing) Lot in Augusta

• On Thursday, August 13 at 8 pm the Bangor Savings Bank Movies in the Park(ing)Lot Drive-In will present Aladdin at the Maine Housing Parking Lot in downtown Augusta. Tickets are

\$5; available on line.

NPA Solicits Questions for Zoom Meeting


• North Pond Association is requesting that questions be submitted for a zoom meeting to be hosted by Dr. King of Colby College and Dr. Wain of the 7 Lakes Alliance at a yet to be determined date in the next two weeks. North Pond is currently experiencing an algal bloom which will be the subject of the meeting. In the meantime, volunteers are being sought to join the science committee and property owners are being encouraged to check out the many resources available with information and help for curtail- ing erosion runoff. NorthPondMaine@gmail.com

Colby College Museum Announces Virtual Camp

• The Colby College Museum of Art is excited to announce the second round of its first virtual edition of lively Spaces free summer arts day camp

program. The museum will provide two different themed art boxes, each filled with five days worth of art supplies, materials and instructions. Families are invited to register up to three children entering 3rd through 7th grades per address. Campers may participate in one or both weeks: August 17-21 Elements of Nature; August 24-28 Making the World a More Beautiful Place. Please contact Abigail Newkirk for more information. museum@colby.edu

Bottles and Cans Add Up for North Pond

• Over \$3000 in the summer of 2019. That's what bottle and can redemptions raised through the North Pond Association's "Help Keep Us Afloat Boat" last summer. All funds raised go directly to NPA's Courtesy Boat Inspections. Drops-offs are available at Tri-Pond Variety in Smithfield, Triple D Redemption in Norridgewock - both NPA business members - and at the drop off bin on North Shore Drive. 

Lakeside Live! Music on the Meadow

Remaining Concerts this Summer:

August 8th 6PM-8PM: Katahdin Valley Boys (Bluegrass)

August 9th 6PM-8PM: Ed Desjardin (Tom Petty Tribute)

Ticket Information: Advance Ticket Sales Only. Please call Lakeside Orchards at 207-677-2479 or come to the store on Route 17 in Manchester! Due to crowd size restrictions ticket sales are limited, so jump on it.

Please Note: The event schedule might change with any changes in crowd size restrictions. In addition, more events may be scheduled in August and September. Please stay tuned for updates on Facebook or give Lakeside Orchards a call for current information.

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Tadpole Patrol is the Friends of the Cobbossee's innovative and immersive learning experience aboard the Otter II, our 22' pontoon boat. For 14 years, children and then adults have boarded our "floating classroom" to learn about lake ecology and how to test and protect water quality. Due to COVID-19 in 2020, we are only offering our Family Tadpole Patrol program this summer. We ask that all participants are within the same family unit or bubble.

So, what is Family Tadpole Patrol? First of all, it's FUN for the whole family! Your family will enjoy a 1-hour excursion where "kids of all ages" can observe wildlife above and below the water, share historical lake facts and experience water monitoring with professional equipment. It's a wonderful 'staycation' adventure for the whole family in 2020 as you explore some of the many surrounding local lakes. Even better, you can enjoy a Family Tadpole Patrol adventure for the

amazing low price of only \$50 for up to six family members!

Choose to explore Cobbossee Lake where the beautiful Ladies Delight Lighthouse can be viewed, enjoy a picnic at Norcross Point on Maranacook Lake while visiting and prepare to be amazed at the vast amount of wildlife you will find on the Tacomas. Simply view the schedule on the Friends website at www.watershed-friends.com or Facebook page to choose your lake, date and time and contact Cami Wilbert (Education Director) at: cami@watershed-friends.com or (207) 395-5239 for availability and to register. The Tadpole Patrol programs are graciously sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta Fuel Co., and Clark Marine- without them these programs would not be possible!

FMI about dates and times of the programs and for registration forms, please contact FOCW Education & Outreach Director Cami Wilbert by phone 395-5239 or email cami@watershed-friends.com or visit the Friends' website www.watershedfriends.com.

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FAMILY FUN DAY!!

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY WITH THE FRIENDS ON AUGUST 8TH!

- * Spend time exploring with your family!
- * Put on your boots and go on a pond safari!
- * Enjoy a refreshing swim in Cobbossee Lake!
- * Head out on Cobbossee aboard the Friends pontoon boat to conduct water quality testing!
- * Learn the basics of fishing and cast your line into Cobbossee Lake!
- * Create your own unique shelter in the woods!
- * Keep your boots on and collect and identify critters from the stream!

Family Fun Day Schedule

Enjoy a day of family friendly activities beginning at 10:00 and ending by 2:00.

Relax with a picnic lunch at 12:00 and recharge for your last two adventures!

Stay within your family "bubble" and spend thirty minutes at each station as you rotate between five different learning stations!

On August 8th!

The Friends First Ever **FREE** Family Fun Day is led by the Friend's Education Director, Cami Wilbert, assisted by FOCW staff & volunteers with outdoor, ecology and education experience!

Enjoy:

- Exploring the pond
- Fishing in Cobbossee
- Building shelters
- Exploring the stream
- Otter II adventure
- Swimming in Cobbossee

Registration must be received by August 6th to join in the fun!

Don't delay...register today! Space for the First Ever Free Family Day will fill up quickly!

Start your adventures at 10:00 and end by 2:00! Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy!

Friends of the Cobbossee First Ever Free Family Fun Day is made possible by these area organizations:

Any Questions? Please contact Cami Wilbert, Education Director at (207) 395-5239 or cami@watershedfriends.com.



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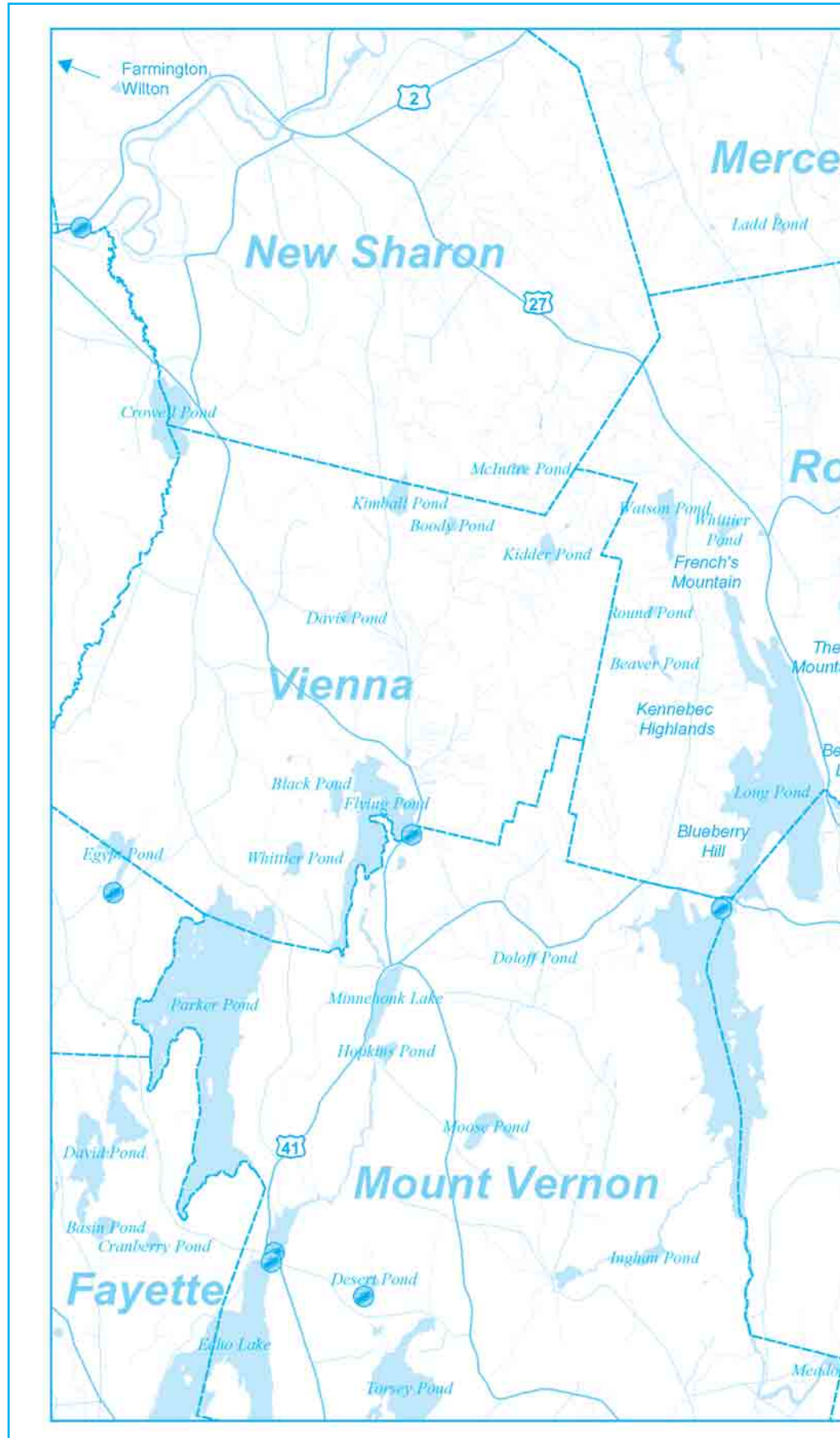
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Registration is Open for 2020-2021!

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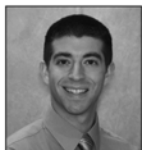
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Nour Maya Haddad, M.D.



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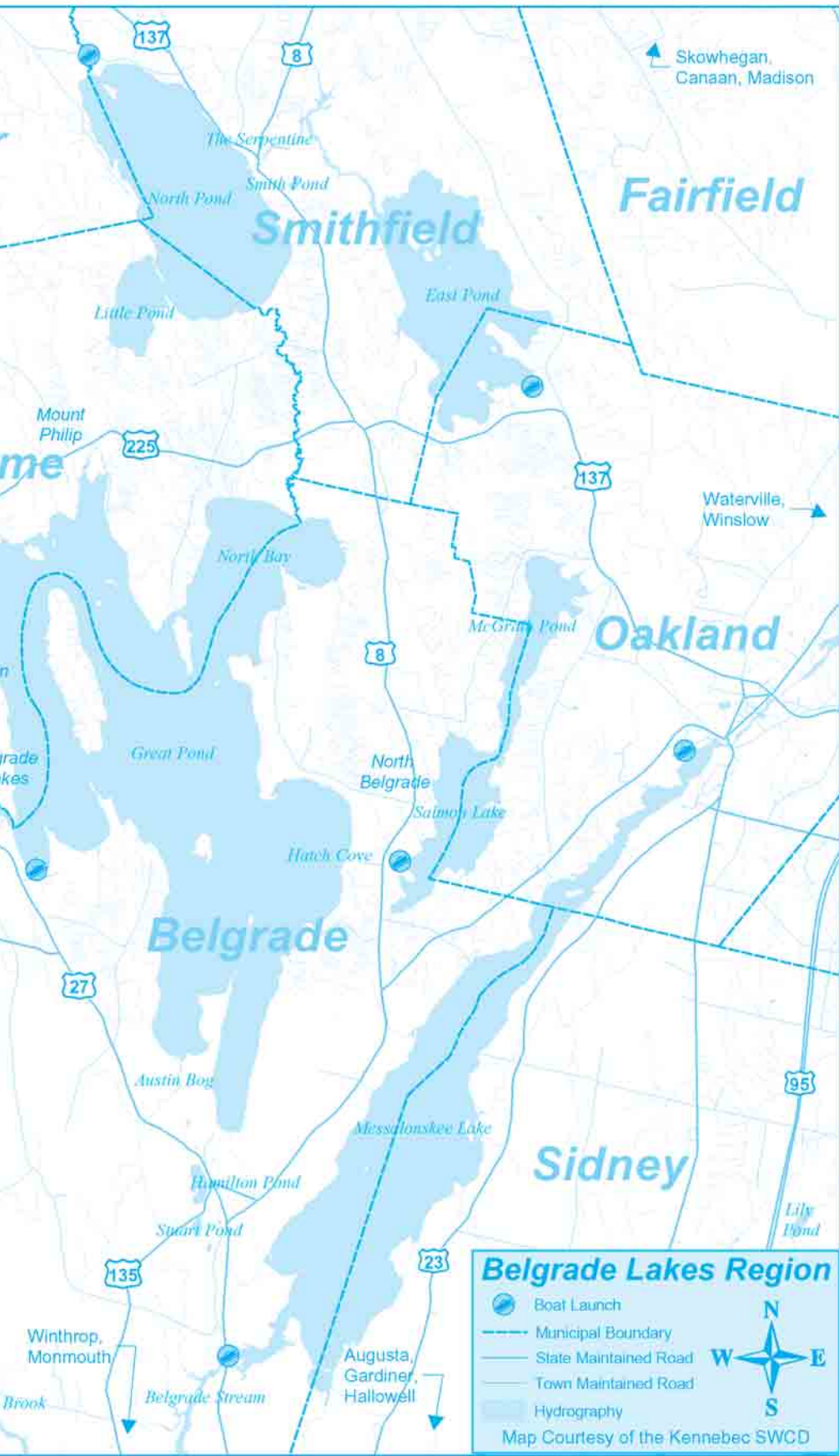
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The Show Must Go On at Lakewood

Despite COVID-19, Maine's oldest summer theater is back, although with a truncated season. Situated on the western shore of Lake Wesserunett in Madison, Lakewood Theater will present four plays, all comedies, over eight weeks in August and September.

Each play will run for two weeks, with a new production opening every other Thursday. Performances will be held Thursday through Saturday at 8 PM; the first Sunday at 4 PM; the intervening Wednesday at 2 PM; and for the first two plays, Wednesday at 7 PM as well. There will be no performances on Mondays and Tuesdays.

When purchased in advance, tickets for most seats will cost \$22 for adults and \$17 for children. Tickets cost \$2 more at the door, if available. Cabaret seating costs \$32 in advance or \$35 at the door.

To buy tickets, call the theater at 474-7176. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on audience size — at press time, the limit for indoor performances was 50 people — it is likely that many of the performances will sell out in advance, and a few already have.

Performance dates and play descriptions, edited and shortened from those on the theater's website, are below. For more information, visit www.lakewoodtheater.org or call 474-7176.

Opening Night

In this comedy by Norm Foster, hailed by many as Canada's Neil Simon, the antics begin as Jack and Ruth Tisdale celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with an evening at the theater. It's a dream come true for Ruth and an imposition for Jack who would rather be at home watching the World Series, but on that fateful night, events both on and off stage irrevocably alter the lives of both Jack and Ruth and all others involved.

Thurs., Aug. 6 - Sat., Aug. 8 at 8 PM

Sun., Aug. 9 at 4 PM

Wed., Aug. 12 at 2 PM & 7 PM

Thurs., Aug. 13 - Sat., Aug. 15 at 8 PM

(The August 8, August 9, and 2 PM August 12 performances have sold out.)

Two on the Aisle, Three in a Van

The Neighborhood Actors Summer Fun Repertory Theatre is a friendly little playhouse where, due to a lack of wing space, the company spends their down time in the parking lot around the van of an aging hippie turned techie. The cast of characters includes a stressed-out artistic director grappling for funding, a wannabe diva realizing that she's getting too old to play the ingénue, a board member's nephew wanting to direct the musicals with a Tarantino spin, and the chorus boy who thinks every show should have a kick line, including Glass Menagerie. These are just some of the egos and obstacles that confront nice-guy director Mike, who ends up with far more than he bargained for.

Thurs., Aug. 20 - Sat., Aug. 22 at 8 PM

Sun., Aug. 23 at 4 PM

Wed., Aug. 26 at 2 PM & 7 PM

Thurs., Aug. 27 - Sat., Aug. 29 at 8 PM

Something Fishy

Presidential candidate Raymond Bream comes back to his hometown of Port Pilchard to make an announcement that will likely win him the election, but the incumbent sends his henchmen to town to keep Bream from making his speech — by any means necessary. The showdown takes place on the stage of the local community center where an amateur theater troupe is about to open its latest production. As the world of politics encounters its natural cousin — the world of farce — everyone is forced to don disguises and take on numerous roles, and suddenly no one is whom they appear to be.

Thurs., Sept. 3 - Sat., Sept. 5 at 8 PM

Sun., Sept. 6 at 4 PM

Wed., Sept. 9 at 2 PM

Thurs., Sept. 10 - Sat., Sept. 12 at 8 PM

But Why Bump off Barnaby?

Barnaby Folcey is murdered at a family gathering at Marlgate Manor, but why? He had a motive to murder everybody else, but no one had a reason to want him dead. He leaves one cryptic clue: While dying, he scrawls the letters "b-a-r." As the bizarre group frantically tries to unmask the murderer, people vanish, the sherry is poisoned, and the police take forever to arrive. Meanwhile, there's a secret treasure to be found, a mystifying limerick to decode, and all sorts of doom to be avoided before the killer is finally unmasked and destroyed using one of the funniest methods ever seen on a stage.

Thurs., Sept. 17 - Sat., Sept. 19 at 8 PM

Sun., Sept. 20 at 4 PM

Wed., Sept. 23 at 2 PM (Sold out)

Thurs., Sept. 24 - Sat., Sept. 26 at 8 PM





Dining

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Mount Vernon

• **Old Post Office Café**, fresh-baked goods and quiches, omelets, homemade soups, specialty sandwiches and salads, 293-4978

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• **Engine 5 Bakehouse**, fresh, from-scratch baked goods including pies, cookies, bars, and gluten free items, *take-out only*, 140 Western Ave, Waterville, engine5bakehouse.com, 616-3772

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7 Lakes Alliance Receives Project Canopy Forestry Grant from the Maine Department of Agriculture



We are very excited to have received the 2020 Project Canopy Assistance Grant! This longstanding grant program supports community forestry projects and programs. Our reward will support education and continued forest management on Kelley, a conservation property on Long Pond.

Pollinator Plants and Busy Bees!



It's is a busy time for bees! Maine is home to a total of 276 species of native bees, including 17 species of bumblebee.

You may have heard about threats to pollinator populations, and it's not just the honeybee that is at risk. Many species of native bees, butterflies, and other critters that pollinate plants are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use, disease, parasites, and climate change,

among other factors.

You can make your garden friendlier to pollinators! Native plants benefit bees in addition to preventing erosion and runoff into nearby lakes. Other ways to make your yard more bee-friendly include minimizing lawn and mowing, reducing or avoiding chemical solutions, providing a variety of flowering plants, and keeping a few weeds. Visit our buffer garden in Belgrade Lakes to see some pollinators! Learn more about Maine's native bees from Kalyn Bickerman-Martens, Pollinator Conservation from UMO. More about buffer gardens at <https://mainelakesociety.org/lakesmart-2/>

State of the Lakes with Dr. Danielle Wain

August 5th, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Why is North Pond blooming? How is the East Pond alum treatment working? What is the water quality like in our lake? In this webinar, Dr. Wain will answer these questions and more, showing the water quality data from the Belgrades so far this year and what we expect for the rest of the summer.

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The State of Maine's *Keep Maine Healthy* guidelines limit gatherings to no more than 50 people. As a result, the BLA Annual Meeting has been cancelled for 2020 and will be replaced by a virtual Zoom meeting.

2020 BLA MEMBER UPDATE

Sunday, August 16th at 4:00 PM

Topics include:

- Loon Preservation Project---Lee Attix
- 7LA and Erosion Control---Laura Rose Day and Charlie Baeder
- Water Quality---Lynn Matson

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Whitney King, will deliver

The 2020 Lake Health Report

Please join us!

Zoom link-<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86931453633>
Full Zoom invitation including phone-in options can be found on our website <https://belgradelakesassociation.org>

Once again, *Great Pond Wealth Management* is generously sponsoring this meeting.

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 931-7710, www.7lakesalliance.org

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Amy Bernatchez, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 314-2353, abernatchez@cbplourde.com

LakeHome Group, 75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2500, www.lakehomegroup.com

Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, www.belgradelakepoint.com

Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199, gail@gailrizzo.com

Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331, pldcamp@msn.com

Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Sprague & Curtis Real Estate, 75 Western Avenue, Augusta, 623-1123, www.spragueandcurtis.com



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, it's not Dams related but there is some real good news out of Great Pond! In the recent Audubon Loon Count our dedicated volunteers had counted 42 or so adults on Great Pond but not a single loon chick - on all of Great Pond! But an astute resident, just this past week, discovered a single loon chick with two very proud adults foraging around in the north end of the Pond. Definitely a silver lining in an otherwise gloomy forecast. Fortunately the Belgrade Lakes Association is in its second year of their Loon Project in an effort to get a handle on what is happening with our loon population on all of our ponds so stay tuned.

Well, as I write this week's column, we have received a paltry .33" of rain in the past ten days and are forecasted to receive 1.25" of precipitation for the next 10 days, if it does happen. We'll

take anything that we get at this point because we really need it. Great Pond is currently 2.04" above full pond with Long Pond holding right at full pond. Although our neighbors on Snow Pond are in still relatively good shape at 2.5" below full, Salmon is really feeling the effects of this heat and is now 6" below full. Hopefully the rain this coming week will help us all.

The repairs on the Wings Mill dam should finally kick in mid-week with installation of the new and innovative floating cofferdam to deter the water flow while they do the reconstruction. If you are out and about, you may want to take a drive by to check out the operation. Google Wings Mill Road in Belgrade and when you see the bridge, you're there.

Enjoy the family, your vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather! And remember, the occasional showers are a blessing!

Dick Greenan

Secretary, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND TRAILER STORAGE

Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc, 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com

RESERVATIONS

Belgrade Vacation Rentals, lakeside camp and cottage rentals throughout the area long and short stays many size accommodations ad rates, 1-800-760-1503, www.belgradevacationrentals.com

Lakeside Cottage Rentals, featuring over 70 private homes, 24/7 customer-friendly service, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 592-5577 or 495-4046, www.lcrentals.com

RESTAURANTS

See Dining Directory on page 11

RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Granite Hill Estates, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell, 626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, www.granitehillstates.com

SCHOOLS

St. Michael School, grades pre-K 3-year-old through 8th, 56 Sewell Street, Augusta, 623-3491, www.smsmaine.org

SECURITY SYSTEMS

Cayer Security Services, Inc, 208 College Avenue, Waterville, 453-9177, www.cayersecurity.com

SURVEYING

Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-408, 1800-778-408, www.acmelandsurveying.com

TREE REMOVAL

Paradis Landscape Construction, Tree Service, 3675 Middle Road, Sidney, 547-4867

WINDOWS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 21 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

WINE AND SPIRITS

Tree Spirits, 152 Fairfield Street, Route 23, Oakland, 861-2723 or 465-3007, www.treespiritsofmaine.com



Join the McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake

Association Annual Meeting on

Thursday, August 6 at 6 pm on Zoom

at: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OUpdvdeoTYevrivte

OSMA.

Guest Speaker will be Susan Gallo,

Executive Director of Maine Lakes

Society on "Maine's Loons and How

We Can Help Them Prosper."



Paris, Maine and Plymouth, Vermont

by Martha F. Barkley

Two places to visit with outdoor tramping grounds and rural life at its best, Paris and Plymouth, not that far away.

The McLaughlin Lilac Gardens in southern Maine was in full bloom one May. We went to hear the annual reading of Walt Whitman's iconic poem "When lilacs last by the dooryard bloom'd..." Most lilacs were transplanted from France and thrive all over New England. Their heart shaped deep green leaves with pastel lacy flowery petals of pink, white and every shade of deep purple to light lavender add fragrances strong in almost every yard along many Main Streets.

The poet Whitman spent his Civil War years caring for soldiers in Washington, DC hospitals. Many a family received a personal letter about their son's last days under Walt Whitman's poetic pen dictated by the dying youth. He took frequent dictations from boys who wished to write home. Little things, like a special apple or pudding were provided by the daily visits of a caring Whitman who was successful at finding his brother in Virginia after so many were killed at Fredericksburg. George with a minor injury was still alive and well enough for Walt to bring home safely to their mother in New York.

Hannibal Hamlin was born not far from these lovely lilac gardens in South Paris, Maine. He is best known as Vice President for Abraham Lincoln during our country's worst war-torn years. Notorious Andrew Johnson from Tennessee was Lincoln's second term Vice President. Balancing the ticket was all important for Lincoln's two successful runs.

The beautiful large white mansion with grand circling driveway is where Hannibal grew up in Paris, Maine. We did not go inside for a tour, but we did find the old prison turned library/museum nearby. Access was free and the second floor of this odd looking library, prison architecture is plain, is a Hamlin Museum full of Lincoln memorabilia. Very intriguing to view with librarian available for any questions you may have. Hamlin served more on the ground in a Maine militia than at the White House dur-

ing his vice presidency.

I once attended a book group at the Edgar Allen Poe Public Library in Mount Pleasant, SC, part of Fort Moultrie. It was a palmetto timbered fort built during the Revolutionary War. Our book group met in a prison cell. Now that was very interesting! All fifteen of us squeezed into the small space with no windows. Our discussion was open and tantalizing, quite different from our claustrophobic surroundings.

Bangor, Maine has various Hannibal Hamlin spots to visit since he lived there and practiced law. The historic home, his burial location and a grand statue of Hamlin are places of interest. He died on July Fourth in 1891. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both dying on the same July Fourth without realizing it was momentous because it was the fiftieth anniversary of our country. Hamlin was 81 at his death and had served in Spain briefly, recommended by Blaine.

Yes, the same Blaine who gave Blaine House for our governor's mansion in Augusta. That would be a grand local tour if open, otherwise look up the C-SPAN archived program held there with Earle Shettleworth, Maine historian, and Elizabeth Leonard, Colby history specialist on the Civil War.

Leaves of Grass was the Whitman required reading for my English major in college. It included the famed lilacs poem honoring the April death of Lincoln and Song of Myself made my heart sing as I read it the first time. "When lilacs last by the dooryard bloom'd" took many years for me to read a full reading and understand its great significance verse by verse. Flowering lilacs each spring make me think of Lincoln.

Leonard generously presented her history books at our Belgrade Public Library the year she received the Lincoln Prize for her Lincoln's Forgotten Ally. Spring Gallery in The Village shared their Lincoln bronze bust and four Civil War soldier bronzes. Very beautiful.

That building in The Village is on the market now, but you can buy bronzes from Spring Gallery through Susan McPherran in Farmington. She came for a swim at our dock the other day.

Plymouth, Vermont is the Calvin Coolidge Homestead and burial site. A journey over to Vermont is worthwhile, since "Silent Cal" has gained a fine reputation in politics in recent years. As it turns out, Coolidge has written one of the finest autobiographies in print. The new history book Author in Chief by Craig Fehrman, 2020, convinced me to pull my small autobiography by Coolidge off the shelf and reread it more carefully.

Haven't you read a book and then years later find it better to reread? Jane Eyre was a classic in high school and I fell in love with it again when our SC book group reread it decades later. Good writing is good writing and a mature reader sometimes benefits from going through the precious pages again. I had bought my Coolidge biography when we visited Plymouth quite a few years ago.

Anyways, the second reading of Calvin Coolidge's simple and brief life story was well worth it for me. Of all the presidents, from Jefferson's masterful eloquence to Obama's literary life story in Dreams from My Father, I was struck by Coolidge being lifted so very high by Craig Fehrman who studied the writings by every US president for ten years.

Truman's autobiography is also a short one like Coolidge, but Fehrman maintains that the style of Coolidge is far superior. Perhaps it is, but I also recommend Truman's short autobiography. Sometimes I really enjoy a brief book for a change. Both Truman and Coolidge helped on their family farms and knew the time and effort required 24 hours a day.

Carter's An Hour Before Daylight is a beautiful sharing of growing up on his family peanut farm. After his presidency, he and Rosalynn returned to their Plains, GA peanut farm and teaching Sunday Bible School. In a 2020 interview on CSPAN, Carter looks so very healthy in his 90s after several health crises.

Craig Fehrman really goes into the blockbusters of David McCullough's huge histories of John Adams and Truman along side Danielle Steel's novels, of all authors. So very different with such a contrast of appeal in novels produced yearly and histories taking years to write.

Just the fact that Calvin's father, a notary, swore his son into the presidency right there in the tiny town of Plymouth is so very unique to New England history. President Harding's unexpected death found Coolidge at

Continued on page 2...



Sprague & Curtis
Real Estate

s p r a g u e a n d c u r t i s . c o m

6 2 3 . 1 1 2 3

75 Western Ave. • Augusta, ME 





AUGUSTA - An exceptional Augusta property - a Royal Barry Wills design - a classic Cape Cod home. Impressive 4,000+ SF, 3-4 BR, 3 BA home on a beautiful 1.7 acre neighborhood lot. Extensive updates, outstanding craftsmanship, wonderful amenities, and a picturesque setting. Spectacular kitchen w/ bar/island, cozy vaulted sunroom, gracious DR and LR, both w/ fireplaces. HW floors throughout, great master suite, fabulous BA, 3 fireplaces, exceptional yard, expansive deck & brick patio w/ outdoor fireplace, family room and rec room, 1st fl. den/office/guest room, more. Heated breezeway, attached 2 car. **MLS #1461074 \$675,000**





WASHINGTON - Beautiful ranch Washington - Half way between Augusta & Rockland. Home features 2 BR and 2 BA on 1 floor. Beautiful kitchen. Entry area room & laundry area. Open floor plan. Daylight walkout basement. Large attached garage with storage above. Large 5+ acre lot. Work has just been completed on this home; move in ready. **MLS #1461088 \$209,900**



MANCHESTER - Features a spacious LR w/oak hardwood floor, DR w/hardwood floors, an updated applianced kitchen w/granite counter tops, FR w/ brick fireplace. Half BA, office, backyard sunroom/porch all on the 1st floor. 2nd floor offers 4 BR and two full BA which have been beautifully updated. Primary BR w/private bath and is very spacious. A lovely lot with heated in-ground pool for summer fun! Great neighborhood for walking and riding bikes. **MLS #1461405 \$359,900**



WINTHROP - A beautiful home, well maintained, pretty setting, with a right of way to Cobossee Lake. Lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA Dutch Colonial w/lots of extras: attached 3-car garage. A wonderful Cherry kitchen w/breakfast nook, hearth w/ propane stove and a door to the back patio and yard. Formal DR and a front to back LR w/fireplace/propane insert. 1st floor den/office and a cozy 1st floor FR. 3 BR up, master BR w/ private BA. Lots of storage, a full basement w/lots of options, attic storage over the garage. **MLS #1461546 \$379,000**





AUGUSTA - Nice in-town cape style home, completely updated & in move right in condition! Many nice features: kitchen w/ granite counters & all new stainless steel appliances, hardwood flooring, very bright & sunny, 3 BR (one on 1st level), 1 full BA, spacious LR w/exposed beams, 1st level laundry, front sun-room, new natural gas BBHW boiler, back deck w/nice fenced in yard, paved driveway, walk-out full basement. **MLS #1461556 \$145,000**



PALERMO - 4 BR, 3.5 BA colonial on 2 acre. 14 rooms incl 3 full floors of living space. 1st floor w/open kitchen/DR w/propane stove, a formal DR, front to back LR. Full mud room w/laundry upon entry from the attached garage. 4 BR upstairs including a master suite w/lg walk-in closet. Finished walk-out basement has a separate kitchen, BA and 2-3 additional rooms. **MLS #1461874 \$275,000**



AUGUSTA - Exquisite 4 BR Garrison. Eat-kitchen w/granite counter-top and a pantry. Formal DR w/built-ins shelving and storage. Open LR w/wood burning fireplace. Stunning sun room w/beautiful views of the private fenced in back yard. Master BR w/updated BA. Finished FR in the basement. Spacious entry-way that connects the home to the 3 car garage/workshop area. **MLS #1461879 \$350,000**



– Real Estate Update –

A Grand Retirement Plan



Retiring to Maine is great but not original; Maine is the "oldest" state in the country. Owning a vacation home in Maine is great but not uncommon; Maine has the highest percentage of vacation homes in the country. Combining retirement and a vacation home is great and very rewarding, too.

Now is a good time to make a retirement plan. From the complete, comfortable, year-round home to the small, streamlined summer-use cottage there are many options to consider. There are also many retirement communities and facilities to complement time spent at a camp to consider. Add in downsizing, simplifying, requirements for balancing seasonal lifestyles and the plan is almost ready. Just start looking at ads and talking with brokers and imagining a grand retirement.

Staying Active after Retirement

What does it mean to maintain independence, as we age? In truth, it looks different for everyone. For some it's a desire to play with grandchildren without feeling fatigued. For others it's the idea of living with minimal assistance whether it be from other people or devices. Granite Hill Estates Fitness Instructor, Jayne Labbe, shares her tips for maintaining independence through exercise and more about the importance of staying active as you age!

Living an active lifestyle is so important because the benefits include:

- Disease prevention
- Decrease in fall risk
- Increase in social engagement
- Weight management
- Better sleep
- Improved mental health

Exercise is key to maintaining an active lifestyle. It is recommended to get 150 minutes of exercise a week. What those exercises are will depend on you and your interests, so choose activities that you enjoy! When thinking of exercises that help to maintain independence focus on these four components: cardiovascular, flexibility, balance, and strength. Here are just a few ideas:

- Walking
- Yoga
- Gardening
- Aerobic classes
- Stretching
- Strength training
- Seated fitness
- Biking
- Swimming
- Housework
- Playing with pets

Don't be afraid to switch up your routine and keep a journal of your progress to look back on.

Looking for exercises to try at home? Here are 6 exercises you can do right from your own chair! When doing these exercises make sure you are seated in a firm armchair, then complete 8-12 repetitions of each exercise:

- Deep Breathing - take a deep breath through your nose and slowly exhale through your mouth.
- Shoulder Rolls – roll your shoulders forward making small circles. Repeat the exercise by rolling your shoulders backward.
- Knee Lifts – slowly lift one knee while leaving the knee bent. Then, slowly lower your foot back to the floor. Alternate legs until you have completed your repetitions.
- Leg Extensions – slowly straighten one leg, bringing your heel slightly off the floor. Alternate legs until you have completed your repetitions.

- Chair Push-ups – put your hands on the arms of the chair and push your body up to a standing position. Sit and repeat.

- Neck Stretch – slowly lower your right ear toward your right shoulder. Hold it for 20 seconds, feeling the slight stretch in your neck. Alternate sides until you have completed your repetitions.

Jayne has been the Fitness Instructor at Granite Hill Estates for 18 years and loves watching her residents develop their own active lifestyles. Her favorite classes to teach are seated aerobic and toning with weights. Fun fact: every Friday is Fun Friday at Granite Hill Estates where all exercise classes include a social component from stories to songs and even dance!

For more information about the active and wonderful way of life at Granite Hill Estates contact Steve Roy at 207.626.7786 or email SRoy@granitehillestates.com

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Belgrade Lakes Region Real Estate Market Update

We have all experienced a summer different than any before. As a result, our local towns, businesses, visitors and locals have adapted to try and bring a sense of normalcy to everyday life in the Belgrades.

The real estate market has reacted with a high demand for lakefront properties.



Great Pond, Rome
 \$649,900

Here's a quick look at what our market has seen since May 1:

**57 Lakefront Properties Sold
 50% More than 2019
 40% Increase in Property Values
 Only 25 Average days on Market**

This is a market our area has never experienced. This demand, and historically low mortgage rates make this a great time to sell your waterfront property.



Belgrade Lakes Village
 Long Pond | \$747,000

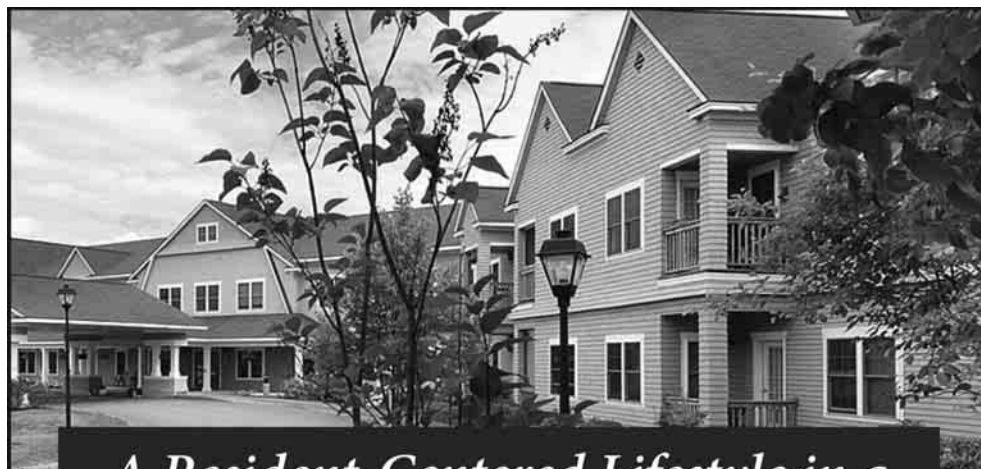
If you're thinking about selling, wondering what your property is worth, or just want to understand the market better, give us a call.

No obligation, completely confidential.

We are local. We are experienced.

We look forward to helping our community through these times.

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