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SEPTEMBER 25

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Shawn Michaud, chair of the board
Kimberly N. Lindlof, president & CEO



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ★ Message from MMCC President's chair
- ★ Events Calendar
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Navigating the legislative landscape in Augusta can often feel like deciphering a complex puzzle, and frankly, it can be confusing for everyone. The recent legislative session, with its regular and special sessions, and varying effective dates for new laws, certainly exemplifies this.

Despite the complexities, the Chamber remained actively engaged throughout the session, advocating for policies that support our local businesses and communities. We want to be transparent about where we stood on key issues and the outcomes of those efforts.

- **LD 194, An Act to Improve the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act:** We **opposed** this bill, and it was ultimately recommended ought-not-to-pass (ONTP) out of committee.
- **LD 487 Resolve, Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor:** We were strong advocates for this initiative, submitting testimony and directly contacting local legislators multiple times. The Chamber even raised funds for a study that confirmed what many of us already believed: a significant demand exists for passenger rail among residents, students, and tourists. While our Board and Public Policy Committee saw strong economic potential for Waterville, the proposal was ultimately defeated. Despite this outcome, we remain committed to exploring opportunities that can enhance our region's economic vitality.
- **LD 1210, An Act Regarding Renewal Electricity Generation by Hydropower Projects:** We **supported** this bill. Although it passed in the House, it was unfortunately defeated by a single vote in the Senate.
- **LD 1755, An Act to Increase the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit in Rural Areas:** We **supported** this bill, submitting written testimony. We are pleased to report that this bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on July 7, 2025. This is a positive step for rural economic development.
- **LD 1792, An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State (NEB):** We **supported** this important energy policy. I testified in-person, and we're glad to see it passed and was signed into law.
- **LD 1809 An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue:** We **opposed** this measure and sent in written testimony. It was reported ONTP out of committee.

MMCC MTG CALENDAR

Aug. 1	KV Connect Steering	8:00-9:00AM
Aug. 8	Marketing Committee	8:00-9:00AM
Aug. 13	Executive Committee	12:00-1:30PM
Aug. 15	Membership Committee	8:00-9:00AM
Aug. 19	Board of Directors'	7:45-9:15AM

(continued)

- Additionally, the Chamber introduced **LD 833, An Act to Expand the Earned Paid Leave Exception**. Our aim was to reward companies offering generous paid leave benefits with less burdensome reporting requirements. Unfortunately, this bill was voted ONTP out of committee. While this was a setback, we continue to believe in recognizing and supporting businesses that go above and beyond for their employees.
- Regarding proposed Data Privacy legislation, I personally authored a **Community Compass** piece published in the Portland Press Herald and Bangor Daily News. This article highlighted the potential unintended consequences of these proposals, bringing a critical perspective to the public discussion. We also signed onto a joint testimony letter with the Maine Merchant Association and Maine State Chamber on **LD 1224** (voted ONTP) and **LD 1832** (which passed and was signed into law on June 17th).
- Mid-Maine Chamber proactively signed onto the Maine State Chamber's Housing Policy Recommendations Letter, demonstrating our commitment to addressing the critical housing challenges facing our state.

The legislative process can be complex and at times, frustrating, but please know that Mid-Maine Chamber is consistently working to represent the interests of our community and advocate for policies that foster a thriving environment for businesses and residents alike.

Kimberly N. Lindlof
President, CEO

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<p>Checking Account Our checking accounts are designed to make it easy to manage your finances - wherever you're at in life.</p>	<p>Digital Banking Our online and mobile banking make managing your finances easy, intuitive and simple.</p>	<p>Home loan Whether you are a first-time home buyer or an experienced homeowner, we are here to help you achieve your dreams.</p>	<p>Personal Loan Get the money you need for whatever is next in your life with help from Maine lenders.</p>
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NEW MEMBERS

Bickford Property Solutions

24 Redington St.,
Waterville, ME 04901
207.313.2934 | Milan Bickford
E: bickfordpropertysolutions207@gmail.com

Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad

212 Depot St.
Unity, ME 04988
888.317.2142 | Finn Kelly
E: fkelly@maineswitching.com

Head of Falls Village LLC

Temple St.
Waterville, ME 04091
207.749.7257 | Todd Alexander
E: talexander@renewalhousing.com

No Negatives Photography

9A Getchell St.
Waterville, ME 04901
207.458.9688 | Amy Irwin
E: nonegativesphoto@gmail.com

Tea & Lobster Productions

941 South St.
Dayton, ME 04005
207.577-1214 | Benjamin Santos
E: Benjamin@tea-lobster.com

Welcome New Members!

PEOPLE NEWS

Congratulations to Craig Larrabee, president of **Jobs for Maine's Graduates**, who won the Maine School Superintendent's Asso. Distinguished Service award for statewide impact.

Rachel Fuller celebrated 20 years of dedicated service with **SKILLS, Inc.** Rachel began as a direct support professional and after growing her skills and knowledge, has become a residential manager and board-certified behavior analyst. Great job, Rachel!

Congratulations to **KVCAP** employees, Adam Cullivan and Andrew Pellerin on their 5 year anniversaries!

MaineGeneral Health's Veronica Richardson, Community Health Worker (CHW), was recently recognized as the Community Health Worker of the Year at the Maine Community Health Worker Initiative (MECHWI) Summit. Congratulations, Veronica!

Big congratulations to Dr. Katie Rybakova, chair of the Lunder School of Education at **Thomas College**, for being published in the Maine Policy Review!

Kennebec Savings Bank announced the promotion of Amanda Cooley to Senior VP & Chief Marketing and Communications Officer. KSB also welcomed Stevan Stromsky as VP & Senior Relationship Manager and Jim Edwards as Director of Cash Management. Congratulations, Amanda, Stevan, and Jim!

Dominion Law, LLC PA welcomed two fantastic new team members: Cheryl Coffin as Legal Assistant and Kaitlin Carter as Legal Receptionist.

Maine International Trade Center (MITC) Board of Directors recently elected the following new officers: Chair-Jason Lundy, Vice Chair-Shelia Adams, Treasurer-Doug Sisko, and Secretary-Jonathan Wilcox.

Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) has appointed 4 persons to its board of trustees: Joe Perry, ME's former treasurer; Michael Duguay, commissioner of the **ME Department of Economic and Community Development** and former VP for innovation and executive director of the Harold Alfond Institute for Business Innovation at **Thomas College**; Simon Ferland, director of data systems and student financial services at UMaine; and Michael Foley, Jr., chief growth officer and senior VP of support services at Five County Credit Union.



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Main Street Provisions
62 Main St., Waterville



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Did you know?

Staples recycles school supplies. Head to the Waterville store with your old crayons, markers, backpacks, calculators and more!

Colorgraphics offers 25% off InTouch newsletter insert printing for Mid-Maine Chamber members?

Champions Fitness Club currently has 3 pickleball pros!

Creative Hair Solutions' Michelle Dugal plans to volunteer at the new Harold Alford Center for Cancer Care in Augusta to help patients with hair insecurities.

CALENDAR NEWS

- Aug. 1:** **Concert: Waterville Rocks-Atlanta Rhythm Section, 7 PM**
Head of Falls, Front St., Waterville
- Aug. 1-3:** **China Community Days**
China Town Ballfields, 26 School St., China
- Aug. 4:** **Black Travel Maine-Summer Garden Party, 4-7 PM**
105 Botanical Gardens Dr., Boothbay
- Aug. 5:** **Concert: Oosoola Park Music Series, 5-7 PM**
Oosoola Park, 20 Ferry Rd., Norridgewock
- Aug. 7:** **Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament, 9 AM**
Natanis Golf Club, 735 Webber Pond Rd., Vassalboro
- Aug. 7:** **MMCC Ribbon Cutting: Emerald Aura Beauty, 3:30 PM**
295 Kennedy Memorial Dr., Waterville
- Aug. 8:** **Concert: Waterville Rocks-Mallet Brothers Band, 7 PM**
Head of Falls, Front St., Waterville
- Aug. 9:** **Waterville Elks #905 Chicken BBQ, 4:30 PM**
76 Industrial St., Banquet Center, Waterville
- Aug. 9:** **Missoula Children's Theatre-Treasure Island**
Waterville Opera House, 1 Common St., Waterville
- Aug. 11:** **UWKV's 55th Annual Golf Scramble**
Augusta Country Club, 19 Hammonds Grove, Manchester
- Aug. 12:** **KV Cap's National Night Out Festival, 4:30-7:00 PM**
Green Street Park, South End, Waterville
- Aug. 14:** **MMCC: Leadership Luncheon-Dr. Uzzi, 11:30-1:00 PM**
Amici's Cucina, 137 Main St., Waterville
- Aug. 16:** **Central Maine ATV Glow Ride, 3 PM**
WalMart, 80 Waterville Commons Dr., Waterville
- Aug. 16:** **Story Songs of the 70's: Lightfoot, Chapin, Stevens, 6-9 PM**
The Playhouse at Waterville Station, RR Square, Waterville
- Aug. 16-17:** **Maine Highland Games & Scottish Festival**
Windsor Fair Grounds, 82 Ridge Rd., Windsor
- Aug. 18:** **Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tourney, 10 AM**
76 Waterville Country Club, 39 Country Club Rd., Oakland
- Aug. 18:** **Waterville Elks #905 BINGO, 6 PM**
76 Industrial St., Banquet Center, Waterville
- Aug. 20:** **MMCC Ribbon Cutting: TBL Aesthetics, 3 PM**
21 College Ave., Waterville
- Aug. 23:** **Concert: Jul'ia LIVE (Julia Gagnon), 7:30-9:30 PM**
The Playhouse at Waterville Station, RR Square, Waterville
- Aug. 23 - Sept. 1:** **2025 Windsor Fair**
Windsor Fair Grounds, 82 Ridge Rd., Windsor
- Aug. 25:** **MMCC Ribbon Cutting: Creative Hair Solutions, 4 PM**
237 Main St., Waterville
- Aug. 28:** **Main Street Provisions Wine Tasting, 5 PM**
62 Main St., Waterville

JULY 2025

CHAMBER ENERGY SOLAR OFFSET

1.5 TREES PLANTED

9.3 PHONES CHARGED

155 LBS CO2 REDUCTION

6 Jefferson St., Waterville ME
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Keep the fun coming with business and fun, after hours!



Join us for our next Business After Hours:

WEDNESDAY, September 17

5:30 - 7 p.m.

Hosted by: AYCC and

Held at Camp Tracy

302 McGrath Pond Rd., Oakland

Great food, great networking, 50/50, and door prizes

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Submit your 2026

**BAH Application – Reserve a
Spot Now!**



Looking for a way to bring attention to your business in 2026?

**Hosting a Mid-Maine Chamber Business After Hours event
should be one of your goals!**

**Be creative: if you don't have the space, or the budget, plan to partner with another
Chamber member business.**

A Business After Hours event:

- Offers great exposure for your business
- Improves networking opportunities
- Brings your business top of mind with prospective customers
- Identifies you as a major participant among area businesses

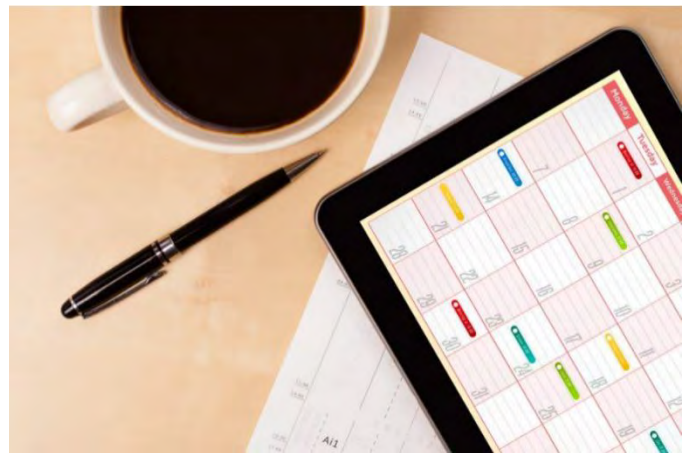
**Complete your application now - slots will
fill up quickly!**

Go to

**[www.midmainechamber.com/Business
After Hours](http://www.midmainechamber.com/BusinessAfterHours) for the application form.**

**Please specify desired dates and submit prior to
September 5, 2025.**

You will be contacted with an assigned date following the
BAH Committee meeting at the end of the month.



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**For more details on this exciting
opportunity, contact:**

**Cindy Stevens, Program Director
at 873-3315 or
cindy@midmainechamber.com.**



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Business Breakfast



Mark Ford, CBEC (Former Principal at Great Pond Consulting, LLC)

Joined by Susan Scherbel, Esq., President BAS Financial Holdings/Bellview Associates, LLC

When:

Thursday, September 11

7:15 - 9:00 a.m.

Where:

**Best Western Plus –
375 Main St., Waterville**

What is Business Exit Planning, and What is the Buzz About ESOP's?

Join us for another educational presentation to benefit you and your organization.

Mark Ford CBEC (Former Principal at Great Pond Consulting, LLC) and Susan Scherbel, Esq., President BAS Financial Holdings/Bellview Associates, LLC will help you better understand the business exit process. They will cover different exit options, including a focus on Employee Stock Option Plans.

Please come prepared with your questions for these two knowledgeable individuals.

Join us to hear from Wyatt LaVerdiere, Luresmith Wyatt, our September Entrepreneurial Spotligher, a program sponsored by:



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September Business Spotlight Booths include Cedarwood Financial Partners, Dominion Law and Oliver & Friends Book Shop.

Pre-register today. Cost per person: \$25 for members,

\$30 at the door and for non-members. Registration includes breakfast.

**Special thanks to our
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TO REGISTER: cindy@midmainechamber.com, www.midmainechamber.com or 873-3315.

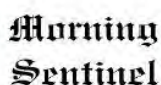
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welcomes**

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Thursday, August 14 | 11:30 - 1 PM

Amici's Cucina, 137 Main St., Waterville

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Tickets are on sale soon for \$135, which includes dinner for two and a prize. Enjoy delicious food, a cash bar and some new and exciting entertainment.

Prizes start with \$25 gifts or certificates and continue to cash prizes of \$500, \$750, \$1500 and \$3,000. Best of all, you do not need to be present to receive your winnings. However, you will want to experience the whole evening as there is a 2nd Chance Prize drawing for those tickets pulled before the top prizes are drawn. (You must be present to win the \$500 in cash.) With all of these great winnings, this won't necessitate a 'gamble' on your part in purchasing a ticket.

There will be a 50/50 (generally exceeding \$1K), and a chance to win a beautiful piece of jewelry for yourself or a special someone.

Prizes will also be awarded for the best themed costume – so come experience Waterville's version of Monte Carlo and join a night of fun you won't soon forget.

Reserve your tickets or a full table today (seats 8), by calling 207.873.3315 or emailing Cindy@midmainechamber.com.

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What is Chamber Chatter?

Chamber Chatter is a professionally produced video segment featuring local businesses, shot by Epic Vue Studios. It's your chance to spotlight what makes your business special and share your story with the community.

Why Participate in Chamber Chatter?

- **Incredible Value** - Normally a video shoot could cost hundreds, but with shared costs through the Chamber, businesses only pay \$225 for a high-quality production.
- **Professional Production** - Filmed by the experts at Epic Vue Studios, ensuring your business looks its best with sharp visuals and clear sound.
- **Boost Your Online Presence** - Great content for social media, YouTube, and your website – increase your visibility and credibility.
- **Support from the Chamber** - Your video will be promoted by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, increasing your reach across its network and beyond.
- **Tell Your Story** - Use your voice to explain what sets your business apart. Whether you're new, expanding, or celebrating something big – this is your platform.
- **Community Connection** - Show customers the people behind the business and build relationships that lead to long-term support.

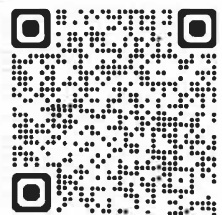
Ready to get started? Reserve your spot in the next Chamber Chatter!

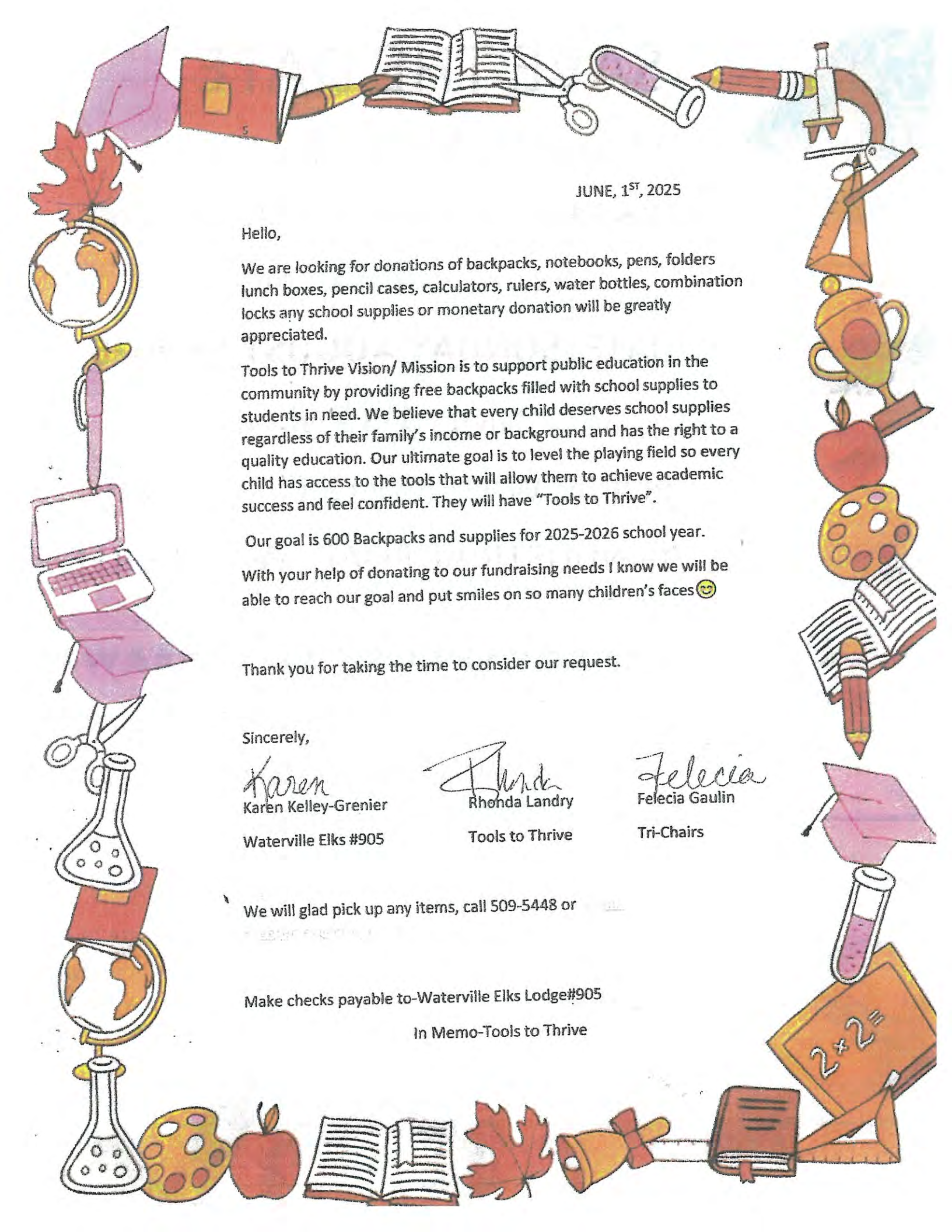
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JUNE, 1ST, 2025

Hello,

We are looking for donations of backpacks, notebooks, pens, folders lunch boxes, pencil cases, calculators, rulers, water bottles, combination locks any school supplies or monetary donation will be greatly appreciated.

Tools to Thrive Vision/ Mission is to support public education in the community by providing free backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need. We believe that every child deserves school supplies regardless of their family's income or background and has the right to a quality education. Our ultimate goal is to level the playing field so every child has access to the tools that will allow them to achieve academic success and feel confident. They will have "Tools to Thrive".

Our goal is 600 Backpacks and supplies for 2025-2026 school year.

With your help of donating to our fundraising needs I know we will be able to reach our goal and put smiles on so many children's faces 😊

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,

Karen
Karen Kelley-Grenier

Waterville Elks #905

Rhonda
Rhonda Landry

Tools to Thrive

Felecia
Felecia Gaulin

Tri-Chairs

We will glad pick up any items, call 509-5448 or info@tools-to-thrive.org

Make checks payable to-Waterville Elks Lodge#905

In Memo-Tools to Thrive

EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE 2025 WINDSOR FAIR!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1



Black Cat Hell Driver's Stunt Auto Thrill Show
 Runnin' Down a Dream Tom Petty Tribute Band
 Peter Allen & Hurricane Mountain Band • Lexi James and Wildheart Band
 Demolition Derbies • Maine State Truck & Tractor Pulls • Giant Midway
 Miss Windsor Fair Apple Queen • Giant Pumpkin/Squash Contest
 Woodsman's Field Day • Maine State Holstein Show • Beano
 Sheepdog Demos • Pig Scrambles • Horse & Oxen Pulls
 Ladies Fry Pan Throwing Contest • AND LOTS MORE!

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SUMMER GLOW RIDE

SATURDAY: AUGUST 16, 2025

MORE INFO:

MEETING PLACE: WATERVILLE WALMART PARKING LOT
 DOWNTOWN MAIN ST. ATV PARADE!
 VISIT THE EVENT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SAVE THE DATE

ATV GLOW RIDE
 AUGUST 16

MAINE BOOK FEST
 SEPT. 6-8 OR 12-15

KENNEBEC RIVER
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 SEPTEMBER 13

MAINE FERMENTATION
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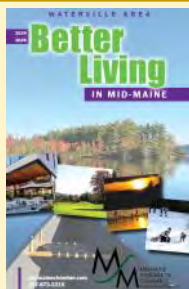
THE GREAT WATERVILLE MARATHON & HALF

SUNDAY, OCT 19!

HOSTED BY THOMAS COLLEGE



It's that time again! The Chamber is gearing up for the next publication of our Better Living in Mid-Maine guidebook.



If you would like to be featured in our 2026-2027 guidebook, contact Sabrina for additional information.

Sabrina@midmainechamber.com

Free copies of the Better Living in Mid-Maine guidebook can be picked up at the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, 50 Elm St., Waterville.

MEMBER NEWS

For editorial coverage and design in '24, **Mainebiz** took home 8 awards, 5 of those were 1st place, from the Alliance of Area Business Publishers at an event in Ottawa recently.

MaineGeneral Medical Center recently achieved certification as a Gold Cribs for Kids® National Safe Sleep Hospital. This certification recognizes their health care team members' commitment to best practices in infant safe sleep, ensuring the highest standards of care for their youngest patients.

Bryden Up My Day Salon & Spa announces rebranding as **Emerald Aura-Beauty & Wellness**.

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust employees presented a total of \$20K in donations collected through the bank's employee-driven charitable giving program, Casual for a Cause, to 10 organizations serving communities in ME, NH and VT.

Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH) has officially become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), which enables KBH to offer 24/7 crisis services, enhanced care coordination, and expanded access to peer support and integrated treatment all with a strong focus on achieving better health outcomes for individuals with mental health and substance use needs. FMI: www.kbhmaine.org

The Beauty Loft Salon opened an additional location on College Avenue in Waterville. The new space is called TBL Aesthetics Day Spa and will offer massage therapists, estheticians, lash techs and a permanent jewelry artist.

Thomas College announced a partnership with Washington Academy, a co-ed independent high school in East Machias, to extend professional and graduate education offerings to academy employees at a discount.

Waterville Creates and Ticonic Gallery + Studios proudly present *Dark the Night and Bright the Stars*, a powerful new exhibition curated by Lights Out Gallery, which explores the theme of ancestry through visual art, sculpture, textiles, and traditional craft. The exhibition will be on view from July 9 – October 12.

Central Maine Power, an Avangrid Inc. co., announced the addition of more than 100 smart devices on the company's grid to provide more reliable service to customers.

Kennebec Valley Tourism Council is launching a new platform to host its digital assets, and it wants you to be part of it. It's looking for photography to use in print, social media, digital ads, website, and more. Sharing your best vacation, downtown, foodie, fair and festival, and other fun images from our tourism area (Somerset and Kennebec Counties) helps to promote the region—and gives your business more visibility, too. To submit, reach out to tanya@kennebecvalley.org for a link.

New Dimensions FCU successfully raised over \$18K for the Maine Children's Cancer Program through their 11th Annual Cruisin' for a Cure Car Show, held on June 7th.

CHAMBER CHATTER



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JULY CHAMBER CHATTERS

Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) - Mike Perreault



Watch Now:



Red Claw Media - Shawn Packard



Watch Now:



Snow Pond Center for the Arts/NEMC - Matthew & Kim Wiggins



Watch Now:



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NEW LOOK – SAME GREAT EDUCATION

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ELKS “TOOLS TO THRIVE” CAMPAIGN



The Elks have long been dedicated to serving their community, with a mission rooted in compassion and commitment—especially toward children, veterans, and those in need. This year, the Elks are preparing to give away 700 backpacks filled with essential school supplies to students in the central Maine region during its “Tools to Thrive” campaign.

For many students, receiving a fully-stocked backpack means starting the school year with confidence. These backpacks have everything from notebooks and pencils to rulers and folders—tools that help children feel prepared and supported in the classroom.



The event takes place on **Sunday, August 17, 2025, from 1–3 PM at the Waterville Elks Lodge # 905**, and each child must be accompanied by an adult.

While about 50 Elks will be on-hand the day of the event to distribute the backpacks, the effort is truly year-round. Many generous individuals, including the Waterville (noontime) Rotary Club, support the program by donating supplies or funds throughout the year, and volunteers gather in the days leading up to the event to carefully pack each bag.

Want to get involved? Here's how:

- **Donate Supplies or Funds:** Donations of backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, lunch boxes, pencil cases, calculators, rulers, and combination locks are welcome anytime. Monetary donations also go a long way in making this event possible.
- **Volunteer:** Whether it's helping pack backpacks or lending a hand on the day of the giveaway, the Elks welcome anyone looking to support the effort.
- **Spread the Word:** Help raise awareness about the “Tools to Thrive” program so more families and supporters can get involved.

FMI: 207.509.5448 or email kkggrenier@gmail.com



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