

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



August 2025

## Hello August

The Bethel Area heart beats through summer's end & new starts! August in the Bethel Area brings a beautiful blend of lingering summer warmth and the buzz of new adventures. We're cherishing these sun-filled days and also looking forward to the energy that "back to school" brings to our community. It's a month for cherished memories and fresh starts! Dive into this edition to see how we're making the most of every moment, from fun local events to helpful tips for the season ahead.

## 2025 Bethel Area Chamber HarvestFest

At the Common by The Bethel Resort

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 ~ 10 am - 3 pm**

Arts & Crafts, Kids Activities, Live Music, Pie Baking & Eating Contest, Food, Harvest-Time Fun

Thank you Sponsors:



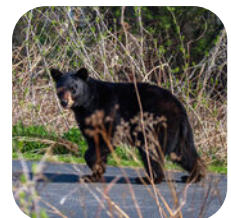
## Chamber 101

### Introducing Chamber 101 Learn, Connect, Grow

We're excited to launch our new Chamber 101 sessions—monthly classes designed to help you build practical skills and get more from your Chamber membership. Each session will focus on a different topic, from mastering Canva and navigating ChamberMaster to leveling up your social media game and more.

Whether you're a new member or a longtime participant, there's always something new to discover. Let's learn together, grow together, and strengthen our community one skill at a time.

[bobbi@bethelmaine.com](mailto:bobbi@bethelmaine.com)



**Do you want to see something in the newsletter?  
Let us Know!**

**Is your business celebrating a special occasion or an anniversary?  
Let's celebrate with a Ribbon Cutting for the event!**

**DO YOU HAVE YOUR BUSINESS CARDS,  
FLYERS OR RACK CARDS AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE?  
LET US HELP YOU PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS!**

# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



MaineHealth

STEPHENS HOSPITAL

MaineHealth Stephens Hospital has been committed to caring since 1957 and has been a cornerstone of health care in Western, Maine. In 2004, a renovation project modernized various departments, emphasizing the hospital's commitment to providing state-of-the-art care. The dedication to innovation and community well-being continued in 2016 with the opening of the MaineHealth Medd Health Center, enhancing patient-centered care in the region. In 2020, Stephens expanded specialty services with the opening of the MaineHealth Bob & Sandy Bahre Health Center, delivering a network of specialists providing high-quality specialty care close to home.

MaineHealth Stephens Hospital primarily serves residents of the Oxford Hills community, which includes Norway, Oxford, Paris, South Paris, Waterford, Bethel, Bryant Pond, Stoneham, Greenwood, North Waterford, Hebron, Harrison, Paris, West Bethel, West Paris, Poland, Mechanic Falls and Sumner.

Located in the beautiful western foothills of Maine, Norway is a scenic, affordable community in the heart of a four-season recreational area. Surrounded by lakes and ponds, Norway is a haven for boating, swimming, fishing and ice skating. The nearby mountains provide hiking with views of Mount Washington and the Presidential Range. Family ski resorts, including Sunday River, are less than an hour away.

[181 Main St, Norway, ME 04268](https://www.stephenshospital.org/locations/norway)  
(207) 743-5933



## Message from Executive Director

### ★ What's Your Business Superpower?

Every business has a superpower—something that makes it stand out, thrive, and survive. Whether you're a bold Visionary, a people-powered Connector, a behind-the-scenes Operator, a creative Creator, or a seasoned Resilient One, owning your strength is half the battle.

Here's the other half: using it wisely.

That means:

- Doubling down on what you do best
- Partnering with people who fill in the gaps
- Asking for help when you need it (your Chamber is here for that!)

Need help building your superpower into something bigger? Looking for collaborators, workshops, or inspiration? That's what we do.

➔ Tell us your business superpower—or tag us with #ChamberSuperpower to be featured in next month's newsletter.

Let's put those powers to work, cape or no cape.

## Welcome New Members

### Bethel Area Business Association

Bethel Area Business Association (BABA) was organized to unify and promote the business community in the Bethel area.

[facebook.com/bethelareabusinessassociation](https://facebook.com/bethelareabusinessassociation)

### Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS)

Free, Confidential, 24-Hour Helpline 1-800-871-7741,  
Language Interpreters and Video Relay Service Available

\*Our Oxford County location also serves the town of  
Bridgton in Cumberland County, Maine.

[sapars.org](https://sapars.org)



ZenBusiness is a company that empowers  
entrepreneurs to start, run, grow, and stay compliant

[zenbusiness.com](https://zenbusiness.com)

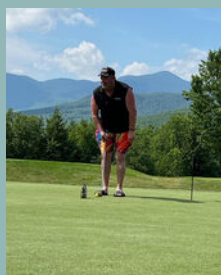
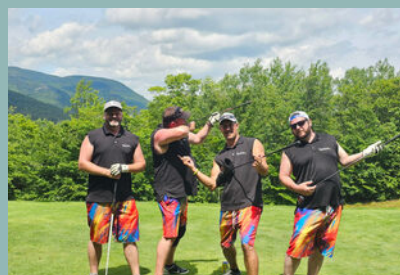
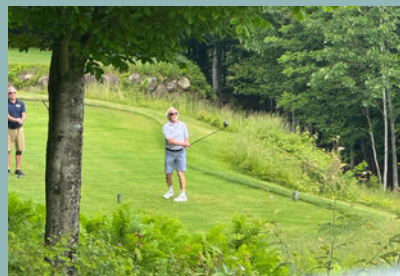
## TRIVIA

What is the oldest running establishment still operating in Maine ?





# 2025 Bethel Area Golf Classic



## Upcoming events



**ROTARY YARD  
SALE 5TH-11TH**  
5<sup>TH</sup> 12PM-4PM  
6<sup>TH</sup> -11<sup>TH</sup> 8AM-  
4PM

**MOLLY OCKETT**

**CORNHOLE  
TOURNAMENT  
AND BEER TENT**

**BEER TENT 12PM**  
**JOIN US ON 8/9**  
**4PM REGISTRATION**  
**\$20 PER TEAM \$10 PER PERSON**  
**JR. TOURNY FREE 12 & UNDER**  
**FEES TO BABA KIDS!**



### Business After Hours

**SUNDAY RIVER GOLF COURSE  
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS  
AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> 4-6 PM**



**COMING SOON**

**2025  
ANNUAL AWARDS  
& MEETING**



**Bethel  
Adventure  
Tours**

**"BEAVERS OF THE  
ANDROSCOGGIN"  
BENEFIT PADDLE ON  
AUGUST 26TH**

**MOLLY OCKETT  
DAY**

Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 am



## Geek Corner

### AI for Writing: Your Content Co-Pilot

Think of AI as your creative assistant, helping you overcome writer's block and streamline your content creation process.

#### Drafting & Brainstorming:

**Content Ideas:** Stuck on what to write for your next blog, post or newsletter? AI can generate a list of topic ideas based on keywords, industry trends, or even your existing content.

**First Drafts:** AI can quickly generate initial drafts for emails, blog posts, product descriptions, website copy, and even longer articles. You can provide a few bullet points or a brief outline, and AI will do the heavy lifting, saving you significant time.

**Headline & Subject Line Generation:** Crafting catchy headlines and email subject lines is crucial for grabbing attention. AI can suggest various options that are optimized for engagement and open rates.



**W.B. UNLIMITED**  
West Bethel, Maine



## SHOUT OUTS

Serving Bethel and Western Maine, W.B. Unlimited is your go-to for handyman work, maintenance, blown-in insulation, and more. Founded by locals John W. and Christian B., "we're all about quality, reliability, and community. Big or small, we treat your property like our own—and if we can't help, we'll find someone who can."

Bethel's Timeless Treasure: The Elizabeth! Step into history and enjoy a wonderful experience at The Elizabeth Guest House and Restaurant. Their unique charm and delicious offerings are a highlight of our village!

## 2025 LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE TEAM:

### CHAIR

STEPHANIE CAYER  
MAINE SKI LODGING  
CO.

### VICE CHAIR

ELLEN WAINWRIGHT  
SUNDAY RIVER RESORT

### SECRETARY

TORI HICINBOTHEM,  
THE BETHEL RESORT &  
SUITES

### TREASURER

REBECCA "BECKY" RECORD  
TAX LOFT

### DIRECTORS:

ROBIN BENNETT  
THE SUDBURY INN

TYLER BENNETT  
BENNETT AUTOMOTIVE  
& POWER EQUIPMENT

AARON BENTLY  
WEST BETHEL MOTEL

NATASHA COLBRY  
ELIZABETH INN &  
RESTAURANT

JANET EVERETT  
EVERETT OIL &  
PROPANE

SARA HEMEON  
ELEMENTS ART  
GALLERY

JAY KIEL  
NORWAY SAVINGS  
BANK

MARGARETTA "MAGGIE"  
KROENKE  
MAINE MINERAL AND  
GEM MUSEUM

STEPHEN S. LEEN, JR.  
HANCOCK LUMBER CO.

ALEXANDRA "ALLIE"  
MASTEN-WILLIAMSON  
MT. ABRAM SKI & BIKE  
RESORT

JENNIFER MERRILL  
FRANKLIN SAVINGS  
BANK

B.J. OTTEN  
MAINE ENERGY  
SYSTEMS

LLOYD SWEETSER  
NORTHEAST BANK

JOHN POOLE  
HOLIDAE HOUSE

### STAFF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BOBBI VANDENBULCKE

EVENTS & MARKETING  
COORDINATOR  
TARA POOLE

OFFICE COORDINATOR  
CATHY HOWE

## Travel

It doesn't seem possible we'll soon be seeing "Back to School" ads. The kids of the families coming to the Center are all clinging to the idea that the school buses are a far away myth. The Snow People fact sheet has been carried away for the End-of-Summer story asked for by seemingly all the teachers.

Speaking of asking, we were recently asked for a list of the most frequently asked questions at the Chamber Visitor's Center, so I thought you'd like to hear some of them:

Where can I see a moose?

What's that brightly painted building next door?

These are my family names. Where is my ancestor buried?

Where can we go to dig for gems? Where are the mines?

What caused the building of so many large ornate homes?

Where can we go fishing?

And by far my personal favorite, referencing the Guinness

Book of World Record Snow People we are known for:

Where do you keep them?

I love my job.

Still looking for our members to give us some business cards or rack cards to hand out to the many people who come here looking for references. Please bring them in!

## HarvestFest: Join the Fun!

Get ready for the vibrant energy of HarvestFest! As the summer sun shines, we're already busy planning an unforgettable celebration. We're on the lookout for talented artists and crafters to showcase their creations, vendors to pour local favorites, and engaging ideas for fun kids' activities to make this year's festival the best one yet. If you're interested in being part of the excitement, please reach out—we'd love to hear from you!

### Support Our Community: Annual Awards

#### & Meeting Silent Auction

While you're enjoying all that summer has to offer, we're hard at work behind the scenes gathering exciting items for the Silent Auction at our Annual Awards and Meeting. This auction is a wonderful way to support our community initiatives, and it's all made possible by generous contributions. If you have an item or experience you'd like to donate, big or small, please let us know. Every donation helps make a difference!

Tara

## Thank you to our Premium Tier Members Cornerstone Members



THE BETHEL  
RESORT & SUITES  
MAINE'S PREMIER GOLF & SKI RESORT



Franklin  
Savings Bank



Norway  
Savings Bank



OXFORD  
CASINO • HOTEL

MAHOOSUC  
REALTY

Sunday River

## Leader Members

Clean Cut Painting Company  
Elements Gallery  
Good Food Store & Catering Company  
Gould Academy  
Leighton's of West Paris  
Mt. Abram Ski Area & Bike Park

Modern Barn/Evergreen Construction 207  
River View Resort  
Smokin' Good BBQ  
Sudbury Inn/Suds Pub  
Sunday River Brewing Company

## Partner Members

Bethel Area Business Association  
Bethel HealthReach  
Carter's XC Ski Center  
Chalmer's Insurance Co.  
Cho Sun/Pok Sun Emporium  
Community Energy/Brooks Bros.  
Dead River Co.  
Friends of Bear Mt. Music Hall

Gem Theater  
Gneiss Spice  
Holidae House Bed & Breakfast  
Lovell Software Consulting  
MEDCO/Barking Dawg Market  
Maine Energy Co.  
MaineHealth Stephens Hospital

Maine Mineral & Gem Museum  
Northeast Bank  
Ripley & Fletcher Ford  
Rumford Hospital  
Sport Thoma  
Varney Agency  
Western Maine Supply  
Wheeler's Insurance Co.

## JOIN US



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