

# Carrabassett Valley Connections

Fall 2023

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**Select Board:** Robert Luce, Chair • John Beaupre • Lloyd Cuttler • Karen Campbell • Jay Reynolds

## Comprehensive Plan Announcement

## Proposed Par 3 Walking Golf Course Concept Plan

Submitted by Dave Cota



Town of Carrabassett Valley

...from here on your life will never be the same

### Comprehensive Plan Committee

The town of Carrabassett is currently updating our Comprehensive Plan, see the Comprehensive Plan Committee page for more information.

## TOWN OF CARRABASSETT VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT

This fall Carrabassett Valley is kicking off a comprehensive plan update. The project will revise the previous comprehensive plan, approved in 2004, to provide updated data on topics such as demographics, housing, transportation, economics, and natural resources, as well as an updated 10-year vision for Carrabassett Valley. Guided by the Comprehensive Planning Committee, this project will engage community members, business owners, boards and committees, area non-profits, landholders, and other stakeholders in both the data gathering and planning process. Currently, the Town is collaborating with a planning consultant, The Musson Group, who has experience facilitating municipal comprehensive plans. Part of the Musson Group's work will include data gathering and mapping, facilitating comprehensive planning meetings, conducting outreach to the Carrabassett Valley community, public presentations, and pulling together the final plan document.

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## NINE-HOLE WALKING GOLF COURSE PROJECT BEING DISCUSSED

*A proposed collaboration between the Town of Carrabassett Valley and Sugarloaf Mt. Corp.*

A proposed 9-hole walking golf course, to be built adjacent to the Town-owned Sugarloaf Golf Course is currently being discussed. The concept is for Sugarloaf to donate approximately twenty acres to the Town, build the course, and for the Town to pay for and own the course similar to what happened in 1985 with the Town owning the Sugarloaf golf course. It is thought that the additional property taxes that will be generated from Sugarloaf's West Mountain development project including real estate, over time, will be substantially more than the annual amortization payment to pay for the walking golf course. It is anticipated that voters may be asked to consider approval of this project at the March annual Town meeting. Public informational meetings will be held this fall and winter as more specific details are developed. We will update the Town website ([www.carrabassettvalley.org](http://www.carrabassettvalley.org)) and other informational outlets with meeting dates and more information concerning this proposal as it becomes available.

### Brief History of the Town-owned Sugarloaf Golf Course:

The Sugarloaf golf course opened in September of 1985 after three years of construction at a then cost of \$2.5M. Sugarloaf Mountain Corp. (SMC) and Peter Webber entered into Mountain Greenery a Joint Venture. Mountain Greenery formed a Limited Partnership called "on the Green Associates" with SMC as the General Partner, Peter Webber as the Limited Partner, and 25 other partners each of whom put up

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\$40,000 to raise \$1,000,000 to help build the golf course. Peter Webber and Larry Warren also collected an additional \$250,000 in approximate \$5,000 donations from fifty people and businesses connected to the Sugarloaf area.

In 1982, the Town appropriated \$250,000 from the Recreation Endowment Fund and borrowed \$750,000 for the construction of the golf course. The Town also accepted a large land donation from SMC, and Mountain Greenery for the golf course site. An agreement was formed that stated that as soon as the golf course was built the Town would own the golf course and the Town would lease the golf course to SMC. SMC agreed to pay 2/3 of the annual debt service payments (2/3 of the Town's \$750,000 debt). Through the process of building the golf course, the Town raised an additional \$95,000 from surplus to complete the course.

Between 1983 and 1985, Greenscape Construction Company built the course which officially opened in September of 1985. In 1988, the Town purchased 10 acres of land including the 11th Tee from Scott Paper Company. Many improvements have been made to the golf course over the years (new clubhouse and irrigation system) that have added value to this Town-owned asset.

Today, because of the truly unique partnerships that were formed which continue to this day and the mutual investments made by SMC, Mountain Greenery and the Town, the Town of Carrabassett Valley is the proud owner of the #1 rated golf course in the State of Maine. Sugarloaf is now a strong and viable four-season resort employing many people on a year-round basis. Quality real estate development continues in Carrabassett Valley bringing thousands of new tax dollars to the Town every year and new jobs to the area. The development of the Sugarloaf Golf Course has been a huge success story.

### Proposed New 9-Hole Walking Course Concept:

- Sugarloaf to donate the land for the project (approximately 20-acres) to the Town.
- Sugarloaf to provide some in house construction components of the project.
- Town to pay for and own the course and amortize a loan over a 20 or 30-year period.



First Pearl - Sugarloaf Golf Club Hole 10

Estimated costs (to be refined soon) are between \$3M and \$4M.

- Sugarloaf to build the project; the Town would reimburse costs based on an agreement.
- Sugarloaf is to pay for constructing an approximate 1.5M gallon pond as part of the course design and retain water rights for snowmaking.
- Sugarloaf will also pay for and own a new pumping station and related piping and equipment on site for snowmaking and irrigation.
- Sugarloaf's overall investment in constructing the pond and installing related snowmaking infrastructure will be approximately \$5M.
- The project would also include the construction of a golf cart storage building that the Town would own.
- The project would also include building a 1-acre state of the art 18-hole putting green.
- The project would also include a much-needed expanded parking lot.
- The target date for building and substantially completing the project is 2024.
- The financial justification for the Town is that new property taxes from Sugarloaf's West Mountain Development, over time, will be substantially more each year than the cost to amortize the debt and help pay for capital maintenance cost sharing projects needed in the future.

### Other details:

- Target Date for Town voter approval consideration is the March 2024 annual Town Meeting; this would include authorization for a golf course lease amendment.

• Sugarloaf is responsible for all planning, design, and permitting costs to date.

• D.E.P. Permit Application (Sugarloaf) expected to be filed mid-September with hopeful Spring approval.

### Perceived Benefits:

• The 9-hole walking course project would continue the Town's long-standing partnership and creative collaboration with Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, the Town's major resort.

• Would provide alternative recreational opportunities for the area and for the resort destination including a stand-alone golf opportunity for residents, property taxpayers, and guests.

• A "walking 9-hole course" would also provide golf opportunities for beginners, juniors, and those groups who find the Sugarloaf golf course too difficult and too time consuming to play.

• Would also provide an alternative when the golf course is booked or unavailable due to important tournaments.

• Would provide a less expensive golf alternative.

• Would provide important snowmaking capacity (although the pond could be built without the golf course) to the Town's major resort and help eliminate some continued use of difficult water extraction from the river.

• Would also provide water for the Sugarloaf Water Association which is needed.

• The Sugarloaf Golf Course is a major economic driver and the addition of a 9-hole walking course would provide additional jobs and economic activity for the Town's major Resort and for Carrabassett Valley and the region. ■

## News from the Town Manager

Submitted by Dave Cota, Town Manager

### Dear Carrabassett Citizens and Property Taxpayers:

As I reflect on our recent magnificent fall foliage, I know the ski season will soon be upon us. Many exciting new developments and resort improvements are underway at Sugarloaf. We have not seen this extent of new investment at Sugarloaf in many years, if ever. In addition to a new lift, the project includes new ski trails, additional parking and related access, and other amenities. It also comes with significant real estate development which will provide many area jobs and new property tax revenue for many years to come.

With this development comes the need for additional workforce housing. Sugarloaf stepped up to the plate in this regard last year when they purchased the Herbert Hotel in Kingfield adding additional housing for some of their needed seasonal employees. Sugarloaf is also committed to working with the local 'Western Maine Mountain Housing' non-profit in attempting to provide additional needed workforce housing in our area (see their article enclosed). Kudos to Coalition President John Beaupre, Executive Director Mark Green, and the Board of Directors for their determined pursuit of workforce housing opportunities in our region. This is not an easy task.

In 2023, we've been involved with a number of capital maintenance and new projects along with new and continued initiatives. Both the golf course clubhouse and the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center facilities were painted (both facilities are Town owned and leased to Sugarloaf). A new ski waxing building is also being constructed at the Outdoor Center. We have utilized grant funding and have installed electric vehicle chargers at the Outdoor Center to add to the Town owned chargers that were installed at the golf course last year. These chargers supplement chargers recently installed by Sugarloaf. We have also paved the first 250' of the Outdoor Center Road which will eliminate the spring "minefield" of potholes at the beginning of this road.

Using matching funding from Sugarloaf in the Golf Course Reserve fund, several needed capital maintenance projects have been completed and more

are underway on the golf course. Although a very wet summer with challenging trail development conditions, some additional mountain bike trail development is taking place in the Stoney Brook Trail area. The CRNEMBA Mountain Bike Club has also funded and built a new trailhead there across from the entrance to the Bigelow Preserve (this trail system was not available this year due to wet conditions). New land leases have been signed at the airport and three new larger airport hangars are currently being built. We are about to complete a major pavement crack sealing project at the airport that will hopefully maintain the runway for up to five years before a major pavement rehab project will be needed.

In 2023, our Tax Assessor also completed Phase One of a two-year plan to revalue all taxable property in CV to provide equity in property values for property tax assessing purposes. Most people understand that real estate values have risen dramatically in the last few years and we appreciate your patience as we complete this process (please see enclosed related article).

Two projects that are currently moving forward are updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan and working with Sugarloaf Resort in reviewing a proposal for the Town to consider securing financing to pay for and own a 9-hole walking golf course adjacent to the existing Town-owned Sugarloaf golf course. We are strongly encouraging all residents and property owners to become involved in the comprehensive plan process. Please see the enclosed related article with information on how you can become involved including filling out a short survey. Your input is important and appreciated. Regarding the proposed 9-hole walking golf course, the concept is for Sugarloaf to donate approximately twenty acres to the Town, build the course, and for the Town to pay for and own the course similar to what happened in 1985 with the Town owning the Sugarloaf golf course. It is thought that the additional property taxes that are going to be generated from Sugarloaf's west mountain development project including real estate, over time, will be substantially more than the annual amortization payments to pay for the walking golf course. Please take the time to read

the enclosed related article. It is anticipated that voters may be asked to consider approval of this project at the March annual Town meeting. Public informational meetings will be held this fall and winter as more specific details are developed. We will update the Town website ([www.carrabassettvalley.org](http://www.carrabassettvalley.org)) and other information outlets with meeting dates and more information as it becomes available.

As most of you may know, the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN) owns 24,000 acres, or slightly less than one-half of the land base of Carrabassett Valley. They have denied public access to these lands for the past three years leading to closed snowmobile, ATV, and some mountain bike trails along with denied access to the Carriage Road. While we have made repeated attempts to open a dialogue with PIN leadership, they are refusing to talk with us. Presumably, this is due to the Town's concerns over State Legislative efforts that could provide full sovereignty to tribal lands in Maine (including the conversion of their twenty-four thousand acres of Carrabassett Valley fee lands to Federal Trust Lands). The 1980 State Implementing Act (based on the 1980 Federal Indian Lands Claim Act) requires that in an Organized Town conversion to Federal Trust lands requires a vote of the affected Town. This right could be seriously jeopardized with some of the expected legislation that may be before the State Legislature starting in January. Among other issues, our concern is the possible loss of appropriate zoning on this land. There are hundreds of homes that abut PIN land in Carrabassett Valley. With hopeful dialogue and negotiations perhaps the Town's opposition to Sovereignty could be resolved to our mutual benefit but that takes all parties willing to talk. This has been a very frustrating issue.

Finally, always feel free to contact us with suggestions, comments, and concerns. Hoping for a great ski season! Best to all of you. ■

## News from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Submitted by Wendy Russell

Now that the Town's 50th birthday year is behind us, I continue to reflect on how much has changed and to ponder how the Town will do business forty-nine years from now. (2072 will be the Town's 100th Birthday!) So much has changed in the way we accomplish our day to day business since 2020, and the COVID pandemic. We had to look outside the box of what was "normal" procedure to accomplish necessary business. Resources like rapid renewal for car registrations were already in place in Carrabasset Valley, but utilizing such resources wasn't necessarily comfortable for everyone. We then used the "drop box" system, but that involved multiple trips to the drop box for both the person trying to do business, us in the office processing the information, and payment resulted in multiple trips to the drop box. Today, the numbers are starting to show that we are not only more comfortable using online services, but for some people, the convenience of having those resources available outside of office hours has become a necessity.

The Town Office now has additional online services including Boat Registrations, Hunting & Fishing Licenses, and Dog Registrations and you may now pay your real estate taxes online with an e-check for a \$1.50 fee or with a credit card for a fee of 2.65 % of the total cost. These options are there for your convenience although we'd love to see you in person during our normal business hours, M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. excluding state holidays. You can find the holiday

schedule by going to the Town Clerk's page on our website at: [www.carrabassetvalley.org](http://www.carrabassetvalley.org) For those of you who prefer to make your real estate payments by mail with a check we would like to take a moment to remind you that the written amount on the dollar amount line must match the numeric amount written in the box above. If they do not match the bank will only give us the written amount which makes your tax account short, and our accounting messy.

In the Election world, we are looking ahead to a busy 2024 Election year. A new law may change the way you wish to be enrolled. LD 231- An act to establish Semi-Open Primaries, will allow anyone who does not belong to a party, (Unenrolled) to receive a ballot in a primary. You can read the law details on [Maine.Gov/legis/statutes](http://Maine.Gov/legis/statutes) under Title 21-A § 341. The Presidential Primary will take place on March 5, 2024, and since our Annual Town Meeting is always the second Wednesday of March, we will also hold our Town Officer Election on March 5th as well. The second portion, or the Open Town Meeting part of the election will be held on the evening of March 13th. The time is to be determined. The State of Maine Primary will take place on June 11, 2024, and the Presidential General Election will happen on November 5, 2024.

Many Carrabasset Valley residents have applied for and received the Property Tax Stabilization Fairness Credit that went into effect on April 1,

2023. Unfortunately, that program was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023. This means there will be no renewal applications accepted. Other programs are available that you may be interested in and qualified for. The Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens, also known as the Property Tax Stabilization Program was a State program that allowed certain senior-citizen residents to stabilize, or freeze, their property taxes on their homestead. As a result of recent changes in the law, the Tax Stabilization Program will only apply to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023. However, this same legislation has expanded the eligibility thresholds for participation in the Property Tax Deferral Program and increased the maximum benefit available under the Property Tax Fairness Credit for those age 65 and older. Go to Maine Revenues Website by scanning the QR Code below.

As always, we are here to answer any questions for you. Please check out the Town's website for information on upcoming Town events or meetings. We keep the website up to date with our meeting schedules as well as each Town Department having their page on the site and Facebook. ■



## News from the Tax Assessor

Submitted by Mike Rogers

### Greetings, Valley residents and returning Sugarloafers'.

The 2023 season has been an active one in the assessors' office here in the Valley. The early spring and summer seasons were busy with processing and quantifying property transactions and reviewing the construction activity that occurred over the past year. Sale prices continue to sustain a high sale value, though the number of property transactions appears to be slowly declining, especially when compared to the dynamic market of the previous two years.

As a result of this extremely active market, it became necessary to review and update all property values to maintain an equitable standing and re-

main in compliance with State of Maine statutes, Title 36 §327, Minimum Assessment Standards. To achieve compliance, for 2023 all property values were increased collectively by 40%.

A future goal over the next several months in close coordination with local officials is to analyze and review all current and past area market conditions to formulate a plan to address and maintain future local assessed values in accordance with state standards.

The local tax base is very healthy. The outlook remains positive that it will continue to grow, as new construction and renovations continue, the completion of Judson's Plaza nears, and Sugarloaf's West Mountain Expansion evolves over the

next several years.

For eligible year-round Valley residents, Homestead and Veterans Exemption applications are readily available in our office or online at: <https://www.carrabassetvalley.org/departments/assessing-department/>

As the weather slowly cools, and the leaves start to display their vibrant colors, I truly hope all enjoy Mother Nature's splendor as we prepare for winter's blanket of white.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, regarding our community's assessment administration. ■

[cvasessor@roadrunner.com](mailto:cvasessor@roadrunner.com)

## News from the Code Enforcement Department

Submitted by Chris Parks, Code Enforcement Officer

I recently had a call asking if I knew why the person didn't have hot water? As it turns out, fortunately, it was as simple as that they had run out of oil over the summer and the tank needed to be refilled. It seems we often settle in and sometimes forget routine maintenance or small items that need to be checked and tended to. In recent years many technological devices and smart/WIFI tools have become available to aid our everyday life, from water leak sensing devices to low temp alarms that report straight to your phone; these devices can be a great addition, but I would still encourage homeowners to wander around their homes periodically and ensure that the sump pumps are plugged in, that dryer vents are cleaned and free of lint buildup, and that your windows open and close tightly, and that you keep your water system maintained to get the most enjoyment out of your visit.

As many of you may have witnessed, Sugarloaf has moved forward into the construction phase for the West Mountain Expansion with a team of contractors to add a ski lift, cut and shape new ski trails, and construct several roads with utility infrastructure to access the project's new home sites. The weather has delivered over 40" of rain during the summer working season and early on it often appeared that the construction

crews spent more time installing/maintaining the needed erosion control measures than making forward progress on their desired work tasks. As part of the MDEP permitting process, a 3rd party engineering inspector visits the site frequently, particularly around rain events of more than 1/2" to ensure that efforts are being made to protect land and water quality during the construction process. As summer progressed, the contractors appear to have succeeded with forward gains despite the weather and will continue into the Fall as they are working to get roads and trails complete before winter sets in. I expect that 2024 will bring on the start of building for some of the new homes related to the project, and expect that construction will maintain the steady pace that has been occurring the past few years all over town.

The Planning Board has continued reviewing potential changes to the Zoning and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances and is working to wrap those up to allow for public comment later this fall ahead of being taken to the Annual Town Meeting next March. Additionally, at the encouragement of the Select Board, they have been working through a draft ordinance that would bring Contract Zoning into the Zoning Ordinance for applicants that might have a project of any type to the Town for

consideration as long as the applicant demonstrates that the proposal fits its surroundings and also provides a demonstrated public benefit that otherwise would not be accomplished. As each Board serves a very different purpose for the townspeople, several members each from the Select Board and Planning Board have met to work through details of the Contract Zoning process to ensure whatever is brought forward to the Town to discuss and vote on is a complete package that will serve its intended purpose and be a benefit to the Town.

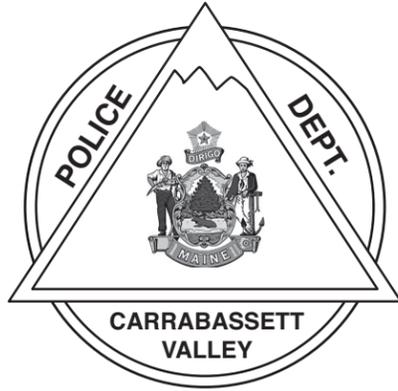
Have a great winter season, and as always, please reach out with any building, code, and plumbing questions you may have. ■

**RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS MUST BE EMPTY AND DRY; NO LIQUID OR FOOD WASTE RESIDUE PERMITTED; NO BAGGED RECYCLABLES**



**RECYCLING AVAILABLE AT THE TRANSFER STATION, OR FOR YOUR ON MOUNTIAN CONVENIENCE, PLEASE USE THE SNOWBROOK VILLAGE RECYCLING STATION. CHECK OUT THE TRANSFER STATION PAGE ON THE TOWNS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## Notes from the Carrabassett Valley Police Department



### Hello from the Carrabassett Valley Police Department.

A very busy summer in the Valley, We had bike races, a car rally, and of course our Annual Summer Fest. There has been a lot of construction of new homes as well as the Sugarloaf expansion. Through it all we have managed to have a safe summer.

As we go into winter it is with much sadness that I have to announce Assistant Chief Billian is leaving after 9 years with the Department. He has taken a position at Foster Tech in S.A.D. 9 as the new Law Enforcement program coordinator. We wish him well in this new endeavor. He will be sorely missed. On a brighter note, our newest Officer (Joe Corson) is in the Police Academy and will graduate in December.

The Police Department still installs and monitors alarm systems to protect your property. The rates are very competitive and well worth the peace of mind. Our alarm services not only protect your property from theft and fire but can include water damage and carbon monoxide. We also offer a cellular option that can replace your need for a landline telephone. Call us for information.

The Carrabassett Valley Police Department also maintains keys for owners in the event of lockouts.

*Submitted by Police Chief Mark Lopez*

If you would like to store a spare key with our department in the event of a lockout or to assist with accessing your home when you are not here (for deliveries or maintenance needs) contact us.

CVPD also keeps a lost and found so please contact us in the event of lost items on the Mountain. We maintain a ski/snowboard registration program as well.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns and follow us on Facebook for various updates and information about happenings within the Department. ■

**CARRABASSETT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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## NorthStar EMS – Regionally Strong, Locally Active

*Submitted by Steve Smith, NorthStar Director*



Training

We will start with a reminder of who and what NorthStar is. NorthStar is a regional Emergency Medical Service and is one of the largest ambulance services in Maine, both geographically and in terms of staffed ambulances/employees. NorthStar operates 5 strategically located bases, including Carrabassett Valley (located adjacent to the Town Office and Fire Department). With this great regional strength, we respond not only to local emergencies and medical calls but also provide support and backup to the entire 2,800-square-mile coverage area. This assures that no matter where one ambulance is,

there will always be another one available for the next call.

NorthStar provides a paramedic-level staffed ambulance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to the local communities. During the ski season, we staff an extra truck in the Carrabassett Valley area from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and during school vacation weeks. Last year these ambulances responded to almost 600 requests for service in the Carrabassett Valley area. As a whole service, we provided 7400 calls for service. We are happy to announce that for the third year in a row, we have received a \$200,000 EMS Training grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration) for education and training equipment. In the past, we have

used this grant to train new Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs"s) in the Franklin County area. Some of these newly trained and licensed people have joined our staff and the area Fire Department's first responder programs. This has been a great success and we plan on more classes this coming year with the grant funding. The funds will also support our current staff and area first responders with continuing education programs centered around CPR, airway management, wilderness rescue, as well as opioid and mental health emergencies.

As you may have noted in the past, this article was written by Mike Senecal the director. There have been some leadership changes at NorthStar,

Mike has been promoted to Senior Director of EMS for MaineHealth. My name is Steve Smith and I'm the former operations manager for NorthStar earlier this year I accepted the position of Director of NorthStar. The operations manager position was accepted by Kregg Kane who formerly worked at our Carrabassett Valley base. Please feel free to reach out to either of us if you have any questions or comments (Steve Smith 207-779-2770, Kregg Kane 207-779-2636)

Thank you for making us part of your community. As mentioned above, please feel free to reach out to us at NorthStar. As always, NorthStar is proud to be able to serve the people and to be your ambulance service. ■

## News from the Carrabassett Valley Fire Department

*Submitted by Courtney Knapp, Fire Chief*

After a period of planning we are about to take delivery of a new multi-purpose fire truck. This truck is very unique in its design features. The pump and body are mounted on a 2022 Ford F550 4 x 4 chassis equipped with Super Single Tire and Wheels. Also, the vehicle has a 3" Suspension Lift. These modifications will provide for both on-road and off-road travel. This engine will provide protection for structural fires and wildfires. Equipped with a 1250 Gallon Pump and Class A Foam it will provide effective response to structure fires in the hydrant district. Additionally, with 300 gallons of water onboard backed up with our 2000-gallon tanker, we can be more effective in areas of town that don't have hydrants or sprinkler systems. Lastly members of our department who are not comfortable driving bigger fire trucks can be qualified to operate this new vehicle.

One of the areas we struggle with is staffing. My position as Chief became full time January 1, 2023. This allows for daytime station coverage 5 days a week. We also cover the weekend days with paid staff. We refer to the paid staff as per-diem fire fighters. These folks may be part of our regular call roster or ones that work other fire departments as a career. As a result of last year's newsletter discussing our need for more staff, a parent with a student at CVA who lives here the winter term offered his services and joined our department. We strongly encourage both residents and non-residents to consider checking out the department. Everyone gets paid and after a year of commitment discounted ski passes are available.

Our new station on the Access Road has become a hub of activity for training by the Maine Warden

Service, Maine Forest Service, Northstar Ambulance, Sugarloaf Ski Patrol, Sugarloaf Admin CPR Training, and others.

Vet At Your Door will be holding a Wellness Clinic once a month starting September 21st from 9-10:30. ■

### New Mini-Pumper Truck



### Snaps Around Town



Old Bigelow Train Station Under Renovation



Outdoor Center - Getting A Coat of Paint



Outdoor Center Access Road - Installing Culverts

## News from the Carrabasset Valley School Department

Submitted by Dr. Regina Campbell,  
CV School Superintendent

Greetings from the Carrabasset Valley School Department! As I start my third year as your superintendent, I would first like to thank you for your support of the school budget. This year's budget included continued support for the Innovation Education Grant Program and support of the newly formed Regional Educational Collaborative of Northern Franklin County.

The Innovative Education Grant Program supports an approach to teaching and learning that incorporates creative and cutting-edge strategies, methodologies, and technologies to enhance the educational experience and meet the evolving needs of students in a rapidly changing world. Grant awards are based on educational innovation, student outcomes, and District needs. The School Committee will start reviewing applications in October. Last year's program requests surpassed the budgeted \$100,000! Grants were awarded to all of the public schools that our students attend and included STEM materials, library books, field trips, and student-run businesses just to name a few. If you would like more informa-

tion about this program, please contact me.

The School Committee, Steve Arner, Chairman, Danielle London, Vice Chairman, Erin Demshar, Deirdre Frey, and Meredith Swallow moved forward in their planning for the future educational opportunities for our students with the formation of the Regional Educational Collaborative of Northern Franklin County. This collaboration includes representation from three school systems, the Carrabasset Valley School Department, Eustis School Department and Maine School Administrative District #58, and the EUT (Education in the Unorganized Territories). Three meetings took place over the course of the 2022 – 2023 school year. The mission of the collaborative is "To foster a regional community in support of exemplary, innovative and sustainable education pre-k-12". The Collaborative will continue to meet during the 2023 – 2024 school year.

Wendy Russell is the school department's administrative assistant; Brian Foster continues to serve as our Special Education consultant and Karen

Campbell is our bus driver. Wendy, Brian, and Karen are to be commended for their dedication. As was the case last year, we contracted with the Stratton School Department to pick up the Carrabasset Valley students going to SAD # 58 schools as they head south through town.

As of the start of school, our student enrollment is as follows.

Kingfield Elementary School-1; Stratton School-31; Day Mountain Middle School- 1; Mt. Blue High School-1; Mt. Abram High School-11; Carrabasset Valley Academy-29 (7-12). This is a total of 65 full-time students, a decrease in enrollment over last fall's enrollment of 77 fulltime students in K-12.

The School Committee Meeting dates and agenda are posted on the Town website. Please call Wendy Russell at the Town Office if you wish to contact the School Committee at 235-2505. In addition, you can contact me at [drcampbell@carrabassetvalley.org](mailto:drcampbell@carrabassetvalley.org)

Good luck to all of us in this new school year! ■

## News from the Carrabasset History Committee

Submitted by Jean Luce, History Committee Chair

We did it! The book about Carrabasset Valley's history is now in the hands of our publisher, Down East Books.

It is a very collective WE because it took the involvement of many Carrabasset Valley people to get it there. If you are reading this report now, you may know many if not most of them. Even if you don't know them personally, you may know of them.

The committee sends a big thank-you to everyone who was interviewed, tracked down information and photos, or helped in any number of other ways. It has been a multi-year effort from the initial expansion of the history timeline in



Route 27, near current location of the SugarBowl. Photo Courtesy: Susan Harris

the Town website to getting the manuscript and accompanying photos to the publisher. Committee meetings were just the beginning.

Of the foremost importance has been the dogged determination of author Ginny Wright, digging and researching every bit of information we threw her way and then using her wonderful writing talent to say what we meant. Her efforts went way beyond our expectations, hopes, and dreams. The result will be a book every one of you will want to read and savor. The vagaries of the publishing world will determine how long before the book will be available, although one to two years is to be expected.

The next step for the Town and the committee will be to decide what the future will bring for saving the many historical materials (artifacts and ephemera - things) which this project has generated. We are all part of history every day and this town is changing faster than ever before.

What is next for recording it and saving it has yet to be determined. ■



South Brook Falls, otherwise known (misidentified) as Poplar Stream Falls. Photo Courtesy: Susan Harris

## Carrabasset Valley Public Library & Community Center Update

Submitted by Andrea DeBiase, Library Director

The CV Public Library provides a wide variety of materials and services, providing free memberships for all. Our cozy environment is stocked with books, DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, public computers, magazines, newspapers, puzzles, and a variety of children's materials. Services such as printing, copying, and faxing are also available. The Carrabasset Valley Public Library **Facebook** page shares current information and programming. For more information: <https://www.carrabassetvalley.org/departments/carrabasset-valley-public-library/>

**What's New?** The Carrabasset Library applied for and received a **\$24,999 grant: "Remote Work Through Libraries"**, an ARPA subgrant from the Maine Department of Community Development and the Maine State Library. CVPL was one of 39 Maine libraries to receive a small or large grant. This ongoing project is aimed at providing resources and accessibility for all guests. Installations will include a new stairlift to the mezzanine, automatic door openers, sound absorbing room dividers, an Apple MacBook, computer monitors, and other equipment to provide comfortable co-working spaces for all guests. The library now lends a YOTO MINI for our youngest audio listeners, 2 HOTSPTS, and Kindles. High-Speed Internet Wi-Fi is available 24/7.

### Toddler - Maggie Trafton Children's Corner



A Dog His Boy Book Talk

### OPEN HOURS

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL:

Tue - Fri: 10-5 & Sat: 10-3

WINTER: Tue - Sat: 10-5

The **Begin Family Community Room** rentals are available with a simple request. AARP volunteers provided free tax help during February-April. Recent events have been a mix of virtual programs and we held our first in-person program in July! Programs included Wine and cheese receptions for all artists, including a Youth Exhibition and celebration; Late 2022: Dave Cota Slideshow of his Pacific Crest Trail Hike; Kind Kids Music Program; Film Screening: "Truth Tellers"; Sarah Carlson Book Talk; Chewonki Owls Program; Carey Kish Book Talk and Slideshow: BEER HIKING NEW ENGLAND; Bill Roorbach Book Talk: Little Turtle; Heidi Bullen and Lisa Wentzel Book Talk: A Dog and His Boy; and a presentation titled: Introduction to Korean Culture with Sarah Slagle and Hyunwoo Oh.

The **Summer Reading Program** theme this year was: **ALL TOGETHER NOW!** Library Director, Andrea DeBiase hosted storytimes inside and out for the public as well as childcare participants possible by the Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund. The library offers incentives to all participants to encourage the joy of reading.

The Library Board is holding its annual **Used Book Sale** at the CV Library outside under the big tent on October 7 & 8! Choose your books and leave a donation of your choice. Proceeds from the sale during Homecoming weekend

are shared with the local food banks. You may also find the perfect choice at the **Little Free Library** on the green by the town office. Take a book ~ Share a book!

Library members can **download FREE audiobooks and eBooks** through the Maine State Library, and KANOPY streaming services. Stop by for your FREE library membership to access this service. The lobby gallery provides a beautiful venue for local artists to display their work. The library has hosted over 72 artists during the past 12 years. **Recent artists** include Lucia Swallow, Joe Gambino, The Art for Uncle Al Exhibition, and Anne Gould. Please contact the library if you are interested in showing your art in our lobby gallery. The **Third Thursday @ 3 Book Club** meets monthly and is open to all community members.

Please contact Library Director, Andrea DeBiase, at **237-3535** or email: [cvlbrary3209@gmail.com](mailto:cvlbrary3209@gmail.com) for more information about purchasing a Forever Stone for the patio or donating to the library; we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon. ■

## News from the Carrabasset Valley Outdoor Association

Submitted by Thom Johnston, President



Some of our members on the 2023 trip to Whitefish, Montana.

archery range. Some local and federal law enforcement personnel use the range for practice and proficiency requirements. The Range holds week-end and mid-week Five Stand and trap shoots from May through October. Other special events and educational classes are listed

Carrabasset Valley Outdoor Association (CVOA) is an active club of outdoor enthusiasts. Twenty-three years strong, our mission has been simple and straightforward from the beginning: To preserve and protect our natural resources and promote the recreational opportunities in our area.

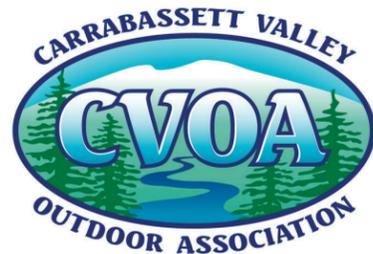
We have approximately 1,000 members, most of whom have contacts with Carrabasset Valley. Our most visible activity is the Neal Trask Shooting Range which is located on Route 27 north of the Sugarloaf Access Road. This top-notch facility serves our members and is also open to the public on a scheduled basis. It offers rifle and pistol ranges, trap and five-stand fields, and an

on the range Facebook page - CVOA Shooting Range, and the website - CVOArange.com. We are currently finishing up a project to make the entrance to the range more accessible.

We hold many events, organized and led by our members and involving hundreds of people over the course of the year. We offer our members ski trips (weeklong or just a day), hikes and snowshoe treks, bike trips, golf outings, paddling, cookie swaps & potluck dinners, social gatherings, and bowling events. In 2023 our members enjoyed ski trips to Sun Valley, Telluride and Whitefish. Members also participated in a 3 day



View members enjoyed on the 2023 trip to the Katahdin region.



trip to the Katahdin region in September. Our big 2024 ski trips will be taking groups to Val Gardena, Italy and the Lake Tahoe region of California as well as our annual 3 day trip to ski areas in the Quebec region.

Another aspect of CVOA is its community service. Our members participate in the annual Route 27 cleanup. We made charitable donations to Adaptive Outdoor Education Center to support its caregiver retreat and to King's Kids. Our donation policy, which guides our contributions, states that requests must reflect our mission statement. It is available on our website and includes an application form, guidelines & criteria.



A group of members on a Pre-Thanksgiving Turkey Trot walk in the valley.

Because CVOA is entirely volunteer-run, we have been able to keep the annual dues at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples and families. Any member who would like to use the range pays an additional \$30. Our monthly newsletter, sent electronically to all current members, informs us of past and upcoming activities and news. If you are not already a member of CVOA, we welcome you to join us. We love to share our passion of having fun in the outdoors! Visit us at: [www.cvoutdoors.com](http://www.cvoutdoors.com) and look for us on Facebook. ■

## News from the Antigravity Complex & Recreation Department

Submitted by Deb Bowker, Recreation Director

### Antigravity Complex Annual Membership Rates

Memberships include access to the gymnasium, locker room skate park, and fitness mezzanine.

**New Rates as of Nov. 1, 2022**

**Individual Taxpayer:** \$125 Annually

**Family Taxpayer Membership:** \$275 Annually

(Includes 2 Adults/3 Youth). Each additional child is \$25 per child.

Access to the Olympic Trampolines, Climbing Wall and Fitness classes are an additional cost.

We are pleased to share with you our current updates.

**Facilities:** Riverside Park provides satellite parking year-round in terms of non-motorized recreational uses as a link to the Maine Huts & Trails Network and Narrow-Gauge Pathway. It is also home to outdoor facilities inclusive of two regulation tennis courts with tennis and pickleball offerings, a multi-purpose field, soccer stanchions, basketball court, sheltered pavilion & The Samantha Wright Memorial Pool & Bathhouse.

### Program Highlights

**Aquatics:** Samantha Wright Memorial Pool Director Lance Dolan, and staff hosted 5,197 visitors at the complex this past season. Aquatic offerings included private swim lessons, Outdoor Adventure Day Camp swim lessons, lap swim, Water Safety and Lifeguarding Training.

We also facilitated a successful water aerobics program, and an advanced youth safety water course. Participants were taught advanced swim strokes and safety techniques applicable to pools, rivers, or any open water setting.

**Paddle Program:** Scott Hoisington, Swift Water Rescue staff member, Jana Haskell expert paddler, and Bill Parker, American Red Cross certified Lifeguard supervised our six-week Paddle Program. Participants had the opportunity to travel to Porter Lake & Flagstaff Lake. Our Teen group held an overnight paddle trip to The Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve in Rangely. The campsite is located an hour and a half paddle northwest of Birch Point. Their evening was spent map reading and discussing survival techniques while reminiscing about the history of the area. The next day they paddled around to Student's Island.

**The Fourth of July** fireworks brought together more than 400 guests to the Town Park, Airport and Route # 27 corridor to view the spectacular display provided by Central Maine Pyrotechnics.

**Outdoor Adventure Camp** under the direction of Anne Poirier Flight facilitated a very busy six-week program. Recreation Program opportunities included hiking, mountain biking, golf, water sports, throwing pottery, Outdoor Leadership skills

& Safety and visits by special presenters. A very special thank you is extended Anne & Staff, to CVA, Karen Campbell & Denny, Francois Moretto & Leah Ross for assisting with programing, scheduling, transportation needs and for pitching in where needed during our staff shortages. . .

Two weeks of intermediate/ advanced **Mountain Bike Day Camp** for youth's grades 6-12 was held in late July. Head Coach Kerry Ouellette, Andy Gillespie, Katie Casey, Henri McCort, and Parker Welch taught the technical skills necessary to navigate single track, rip through the trees, jump rocks and streams. The basics of gearing up, braking, shifting, body position balance, navigating obstacles with logs and rocks were also emphasized. Environmentally friendly riding, stewardship and bike mechanics were also covered.

**Tennis & Pickleball:** Chris Prudente instructed the summer tennis program and open ball machine skills while Dan Lacombe taught a variety of Pickleball classes. More than 40 inches of rain certainly challenged court play throughout the summer season.

**Junior Golf:** Sugarloaf staff Pro Chaz Babin, Assistant Pro Oscar Parks, Ben DeBiase & Garrett Kendall taught area youth ages 4-17 twice a week for a period of 3 months. Golf Pro Scott Hoisington & Teaching Assistant Rick Lewis directed a spring & summer travel program that had a home base at Diadema with visits to Moose Meadows, Wilson Lake & The Sugarloaf Golf Course. A bonus was the utilization of the golf simulator so graciously donated by Sugarbowl.

**Summerfest:** The 17th annual Summerfest was held on August

5th. Events took place at the Black Fly Field as well as at KC's Kreativity Center located on the Old Huse Mill Rd. A variety of music, food and beverages, demonstrations and artistry were rendered. Other options were scenic airplane rides, horse drawn carriage rides, face painting and the Young Eagles free Air Flight for youth ages 8-17. Next year's event will be held at an earlier scheduled date.

**Carrabasset Backcountry Cycle Challenge Race:** The Carrabasset Backcountry Cycle Challenge Mountain bike endurance event took place on Saturday July 15th with more than 450 participants. The 25, 50, and 100k courses covered a great mix of terrain in Carrabasset Valley and the surrounding areas. A children's race was provided by The Western Maine Center for Children. A portion of the race proceeds help to defray the cost of our local Mountain Bike Maintenance Program.

**Antigravity Complex:** Spring and summer program highlights included fitness classes taught by Instructors Diane Stone Brittany Wallingford, skateboard and trampoline lessons taught by Alex Lund and climbing wall instruction taught by Francois Moretto & Dave Clark. We are currently accepting resumes for contracted fitness instructors. Inquiries [dbowker3@roadrunner.com](mailto:dbowker3@roadrunner.com) ■

### Antigravity Complex, 3207 Carrabasset Drive Public Access-Winter Schedule October 31, 2022- April 23, 2023

Monday - Thursday: 6:00am – 10:00am & 3:00pm – 9:00pm

Friday: 6:00am – 10:00am & 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday: 6:00am – 1:00pm & 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am – 8:00pm

EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION SCHOOL VACATION WEEKS

## News From the (Grateful) Mountain Biking Community *Submitted by Ed Gervais III, Chair CVTrails Committee*



Ride with Gratitude. This catchphrase and initiative was coined and trademarked by the Northern Forest Center/Bike the

Borderlands collaboration. It's easy to say; it just rolls off your tongue. And it's even easier to wear on your cycling clothing; just pull the socks on. Living it takes a bit more energy and intention. This has been a challenging year for all things mountain bike with the seemingly never-ending rain. Nonetheless, Carrabassett Valley Trails (CVTrails) users have a lot to be grateful for and the challenges only served to strengthen our riding community. Our sustainably-built trails held up remarkably well, being largely rideable surprisingly soon after each deluge. There were some great events this summer season and some notable grass-roots contributions to our community as well.

The summer kicked off with the 13th annual Carrabassett Backcountry Cycle Challenge in early July. This iconic race has become a staple on the National Ultra Endurance (NUE) series circuit and provides an opening crescendo to our riding season here in Carrabassett Valley. The race, which is managed by the CBCC race committee, featured 100k, 50k, and 25K course options with divisions for men and women, as well as for differing age ranges and abilities. The race sold out at its cap of 500 riders, with participants coming from

Ride the Region participants enjoying the view from the lookout near Stratton Brook Hut.  
Photo Credit: Nick Karahalios



as far away as Texas to participate. Good friend and race committee member Warren Gerow commented that "The course had to be modified due to rain and some poorly draining trail sections which meant less climbing than in the past . . . but the tough conditions compensated for lack of climbing.

Nobody complained it was too easy! We got lucky with beautiful weather on Friday and Saturday. The event is a high point for many people's riding season, people love it. Even just last weekend I ran into a guy at another race who said thank you for the effort more than once!" Race committee member Kat Carlson points out that the race required approximately 60 volunteers, with Sugarloaf ski patrol playing a vital role in ensuring rider safety. She also expressed gratitude (there's that word again) to L.L. Bean who provided gift certificates for each race-day volunteer!

As most readers will know, the NEMBAFest mountain bike festival, which came to our valley last year for the first time, did not return this year. Not wanting to disappoint riders who were looking forward to the event, the local Carrabassett Region chapter of the New England Mountain

Bike Association (CRNEMBA) stepped up and held the newly created Ride the Region event on August 4-6. Rather than being focused within a single venue, the event intentionally spread activities out over several trail areas and encouraged participants to explore a variety of local restaurants and businesses. A large handful of people contributed to the event's concept and many more to the execution. Nonetheless, CRNEMBA



CBCC racers off for grand day out! Photo Credit: Lori Gerencer

President Valerie Levanos was the driving force behind the event and reports that "We welcomed about 200 riders from all over New England and showcased the variety of riding we offer in the Carrabassett Region. Rides kicked off Friday with an afternoon at Freeman Ridge Bike Park followed by socialization opportunities at Rolling Fatties and The Maine Beer Shed. Saturday and Sunday, in conjunction with Maine Adaptive and Bike Borderlands, we offered a wide variety of guided group rides from gravel to Enduro and novice, inter-mellow, intermediate, and advanced group rides including several destination rides to Stratton Brook Hut for lunch offered by Maine Huts and Trails. Saturday afternoon there were clinics offered by Annie Pandygraft (Women's Intermediate+ Skills) and Maine Adaptive with the latter intended to expose non-adaptive riders, especially those who build trails and lead group rides, to the world of aMTB. Saturday afternoon Abe Furth led a fast-paced group ride from The Rack and many riders re-convened at the Rack Saturday evening for après beverages and live music."

"There was a ride for everyone" is what we heard. CRNEMBA is proud to be a part of welcoming folks to both the Carrabassett Region and the sport of mountain biking. Destined to become an annual event, Ride the Region will build on the concept of engaging as much of the community as possible.

I made it out to watch some of the Eastern States Cup and caught up with Sugarloaf's Adam Craig after the event for a recap. "Sugarloaf's August

20th Eastern States Cup was a success despite the challenging weather and course conditions. The event had 400 riders from as far away as North Carolina and Ontario competing in Enduro and Downhill events. Enduro riders used a combination of pedaling, hiking, and ski lifts to access their five race stages. Downhillers were lift accessed, most notably taken advantage of by seven-year-old Yu Boisvert who could be seen lapping all day long on his 20" wheeled bike! Spectators were also able to use the SuperQuad to access the race courses and it was great having folks on the hill enjoying the racing. Now in our third year of hosting gravity events, racer feedback only continues to improve. Folks love coming to Western Maine to enjoy our community spirit and the variety of long, challenging, fun race courses. Many thanks to the trail crew, events staff, and our local volunteers for making this get-together happen.

Gravity Trail development continues with the goal of opening Whiffletree lift access for mountain biking in the summer of 2024. We have 9.25 miles of trails planned for beginner, intermediate, and expert riders. The permitting process for this effort is ongoing. During the 2023 build season, the MTB trail crew has focused on improving the existing gravity trail network to make the trails more durable and accessible for a wider variety of riders. This work will continue into the fall. Marketing and Guest Services are working on developing resources to support the effort. Sugarloaf appreciates the support of the CVTC as mountain bike culture continues to develop in the region."

CVTrails Trail Manager Josh Tausen (remember those trails that shed the water so well, yeah, thank him) has done his best with a limited but dedicated crew of Skylar Kidde and Mike Tomazin to clear blowdowns, repair washouts, install signage, and keep some semblance of forward motion on plans for new trail construction. The new parking lot at Stoney Brook is operational with trails in that zone on the verge of finally drying enough to open as this article goes to

Eastern States Cup racer taking advantage of all that gravity has to offer. Photo Credit: Sugarloaf



press. Thanks, Josh, Skylar, and Mike!

CVTrails would not be what it is without the focus and skill of a professional trail crew. Nor would it be so without the dedicated efforts of so many community members. There are too many to catalog in this short article but here are two. John Freeman was recognized by the Maine Trails Coalition for his tireless volunteer contributions to our trails. John participates in organized CRNEMBA and other community trail events as well as taking initiative on his own to prune and tune our local trails. See the article on John at: <https://mainetrailscoalition.org/blog/trail-volunteer-spotlight-john-freeman>.

In a random act of gratitude, West Mountain resident Paul Relle and his wife Tracy recently spent the better part of the day trimming the tree branches that were encroaching the board-walk bridge on the Narrow Gauge Trail. These countless efforts, big and small, all add up!

CRNEMBA members Kerry Oulette and Cathy Morton organized a weekly Monday women's ride known as Spinnin' Sugar and Spencer Lee and Dave Greely organized and led an all-gender intermediate level Tuesday day night ride. The weather notwithstanding, both rides were reported to be a success. A shout out to the Hostel of Maine for their part in hosting.

A gratitude-themed article would not be com-

plete without a nod to the folks who groom and otherwise maintain our winter riding trails. With a combined commitment of 250 hours on average each year between them, Tim Flight, Mark Schwarz, and Tim Gerencer are out with our Snowdog grooming machine, affectionately named Sprocket, in the cold night hours so we all can enjoy trails that are set up in time for morning riding. It's hard work. With just a bit of first-hand experience, I can tell you that Sprocket is not as well-trained as he may look!

Ride with Gratitude. Being north of 60, I know I have more years behind me than ahead now, and I seem to reflect on my good fortune with increasing poignancy these days. Yes, there are folks older than I still getting after it and I am not done having fun by a long shot, at least not if I have anything to say about it. Nonetheless, I have a lot to be grateful for, not the least of which is this Carrabassett Valley community. The small part I've been fortunate to play in developing the riding scene here has brought me so many good friends and good times and I know it's done the same for many others.

So, Ride with Gratitude. Yes, say it, wear it . . . but look for the opportunities to live it, and your life will be the richer for it. ■

~Ed Gervais (with a lot of help from the riding community)

**The ABC's of OAC 2023 - The Summer of the Rain**

**A** - Is for the **Anti-Gravity Complex** and all the fun we have there. From the climbing wall and the trampolines to the largest overnight of the summer, thank you to all the AGC Staff!

**B** - Is for the **Big Blue Buff Butterfly Team**, soon to appear on the **big** screen.

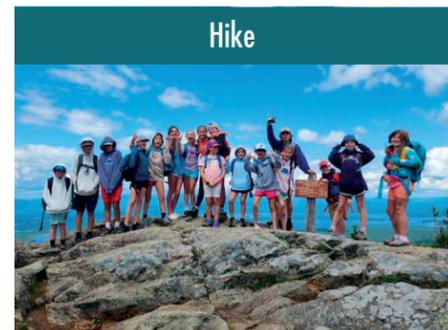
**C** - Is for **Carrabassett Valley Academy** and the use of their vans to help transport our campers around Western Maine.

**D** - Is for **Daily** reciting the camp pledge for 6 weeks this summer.

**E** - Is for **Everyone** who makes camp happen! From the CV taxpayers to the Rec. Committee, the Town Office Staff, and of course our **Eclectic** group of **Employees**, camp would not happen without all of your energy and support.

**F** - Is for **Friends**, the **Friendships** we make at camp, and for all the OAC **families**, who juggle gear, daily schedule changes, and **fickle** weather to ensure their camper has a successful experience. Thank you **Families** for all of your patience.

**G** - Is for The **Green Dill Pickle Slug Team** and their "5 Days of OAC" Performance.



Hike

**H** - Is for **Hiking**, in the beautiful **High Peaks** area that we live. From the Gadabouts to the Peak Baggers, campers **Hit the trail** at least twice a week this summer.

**I** - Is for **Icebreakers**, a Monday morning favorite to get everyone engaged and get to know our new teammates.

**J** - Is for **Jumping**, puddle jumping that is! When Mother Nature gives you 2 inches of rain, what a perfect way to embrace a rainy day.

**K** - Is for **KC's Creativity Center**, and our 2 visits this summer. From pottery and weaving to drums and fairy forest fun, there is boundless creativity fostered at KC's.

**L** - Is for the author/illustrator book talk at the CV **Library**, A Dog and His Boy by Heidi Bullen & Lisa Wentzell.

**M** - Is for our **Mountain Bike** Programs: The Rough Riders and Rumble Riders, we ride bikes 3 days a week at camp. We are grateful for the amazing trail network in CV and for Lindsey and Don our incredibly patient and skilled bike leaders.

**N** - Is for **No Trash** lunches, something we strive for at camp daily.

**O** - Is for our weekly **Overnights** with the Red/Blue teams. This summer they included: CV Riverside Park, Flagstaff Hut, Student's Island, Adventure Bound, and the AGC.

**P** - Is for our annual **Penny Challenge**, this year led by the Green Team. We raised close to \$700 this year! Money will be split and donated to the Eustis Food Pantry and the Franklin County Food Bank.

**Q** - Is for **Quiet hours**, which start at 10 pm on every overnight.

**R** - Is for The **Red Rockin Road-runner** Team and their skit spoofing counselors.

**S** - Is for the **Samantha Wright Memorial Pool** and for all of the amazing Pool staff. From the lifeguards to the swim instructors and everyone behind the scenes, time in the pool is a camper favorite!

**T** - Is for **Tie-Dye**, a summertime



At Camp

classic! Thank you to Paula for once again this summer tie dying with all of our campers!

**U** - Is for **UNH's** traveling theater and their performance of Molly McFolly and the Littlest Leprechaun. The engaging performance had us all chanting the lesson of "Molly McFolly please stop where you're at, and remember to always think first and then act!"

**V** - Is for our **Volunteers!** You all ROCK and we could not do this without you! Thank you for your commitment to camp and this community!

**W** - Is for **Waterskiing** at Petersen Waterski every Friday!

**X** - Marks the spot that camp runs out of, the CV Riverside park.

**Y** - Is for The **Yellow Sunshine Team** and to all of the sunshine that they brought to camp this summer with their smiles!

**Z** - Is for **Zip-lining** at Sugarloaf and for all the **Zeal** that our campers bring with them daily, you are all the heartbeat of camp! Thank you for another **Zealous** summer! :-)



Rainy Day Fun!

We are thrilled to celebrate Maine Huts & Trails' 15-year anniversary of our huts and trail experience with the Carrabassett Valley community.

The story of Maine Huts & Trails (MH&T) goes back in time to the 1980s and 1990s, well before the first mile of trail was cut or the first hut was constructed. Like many great Carrabassett Valley origins, MH&T's story was etched at the historic and legendary Red Stallion Inn, where Larry Warren and the other founders of MH&T shared a vision that inspired an entire community. They put that vision in motion starting in 2000 one conversation at a time engaging landowners, residents, politicians, philanthropists, and business leaders.

In short, their goal was to create a recreation resource of national significance for the State of Maine and to share and celebrate a special landscape.

"It could all start here, in Carrabassett Valley", they said.

And it does. Their vision came to life with the first hut completed in 2008 at Poplar Stream.

MH&T's ambitious mission purpose and goals are steeped in the language of those early plans and presentations: non-profit organization ♦ superiorly crafted welcoming huts ♦ miles and miles of trails ♦ people powered ♦ free access ♦ four-season ♦ off-grid systems ♦ jobs and economic development ♦ local sourcing ♦ Maine-based ♦ community empowering ♦ and hospitality and fundraising supported - with all the terms wrapped in the aspiration to be a resource of national significance.

The 2022-23 season represents a real milestone in this journey to elevate Carrabassett Valley as

the tremendous recreation destination that it is.

Over the course of the year, MH&T stayed on track implementing our changed business model. September of 2022 saw the enormous success of eliminating the burden of our primary debt and being able to direct our efforts and community support into strengthening the future of the organization. Stratton Brook, Poplar Stream, and Flagstaff Lake Huts opened in late December, supported by a full contingent of twelve outstanding and enthusiastic hut staff who hailed from as close as South China and Auburn, Maine, to Georgia and Minnesota. By the end of March, 88 days later, we had welcomed over 1400 guests from 20 different states and 3 countries, who collectively had spent more than 2500 nights at one or more of the huts.

Mother Nature set a formidable stage last winter, spring, and this summer, lobbing big snows, plummeting 25-below-zero temperatures, and deluging rains. But in between the extremes, MH&T's trail team worked their magic grooming over 1800 trail miles and laying down a welcoming path for cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and an ever-increasing number of fat bikers and mountain bikers.

In the kitchen generously donated Carrabassett Coffee Company brew was always available. Freshly baked bread, cookies, and muffins rewarded hungry adventurers, and the third-annual Alpine Feast featuring Big Tree Hospitality and Oxbow Brewing sold out for a third year.

Volunteers again played an oversized role in our forward progress this year, and specific shout-outs are warranted as a celebration of the importance of your shared time and talents in support of MH&T's ambitious mission delivery.



Snowsho'ers

Poplar Stream Hut's micro-hydro power generator is back online thanks to the expertise of Carrabassett Valley's own John Freeman and Dave Greeley. A functioning generator, coupled with an initial new set of lithium-ion batteries, will save thousands of dollars a year in fuel costs and avoid releasing over 30,000 pounds of carbon into the atmosphere. We are grateful to Tim Flight for generously sharing his software savvy to help MH&T bridge our nearly antiquated web platform to over-due upgrades expected in 2024. Our Youth Engagement Working Group is getting local young adventurers from Stratton Elementary, Carrabec High School, Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Camp, and many other programs back to the huts. Volunteers helped stack the wood, keep the trails clear, and ensure the huts were warm in the winter.

Looking ahead, there are exciting **opportunities to get involved** with MH&T. Our "Board Members Wanted" shingle is out, seeking new board members passionate about creating opportunities to elevate the organization's shared experience and impact. We need help in bite-size pieces, too, tackling capital improvements, expanding our marketing and messaging, and creating opportunities for kids to share a hut experience.

From simply a vision to four huts and 80 miles of trails today, Maine Huts & Trails has accomplished so much of what it set out to do in that early language. And our mighty non-profit is here today because of the support of the Carrabassett Valley community year over year.

Thank you, everyone, **for sharing your support**, and we look forward to continuing to unfold a bright and proud future for the organization and its contributions to Carrabassett Valley, the High Peaks region, and the state. ■



Volunteers

## News from the Sugarloaf Ski Club

Submitted by Bruce Miles, Executive Director

### To the Taxpayers and Residents of Carrabassett Valley,

Carrabasset Valley is a very unique and special town. We are fortunate to live in a community that is so progressive. A community that not only strives to help its own children but also the children of our neighboring communities.

Since the late 1980's The Sugarloaf Ski Club has partnered with the Town to help local children gain access to ski and snowboard slopes. The town does this by including in its annual budget money to be used for that purpose. This year the voters of Carrabasset Valley approved \$20,000 to be administered by the Sugarloaf Ski Club with the goal of helping area children with the costs associated with skiing and riding at Sugarloaf. The money will be awarded during the 2024 season. The Town money is given exclusively to kids who reside in the RSU 58 and Stratton school districts. This area includes Eustis, Stratton, Strong, Kingfield, Carrabasset, Phillips, and several unorganized territories near our town.

The \$20,000 from our town is not the only money that is awarded by the Ski Club. The King's Kids initiative has raised over 1.2 million dollars in 5 short years. This fund was started

with a \$500,000 gift from the King & Jean Cummings Charitable Fund and matched with over \$500,000 in donations to a fund set up in the name of G. Norton Luce. This endowment fund resides with the Maine Community Foundation and provides steady annual income for our financial awards. Because of the King's Kids initiative, we have been able to fund the "Boomauger" program which is a low-cost instructional program provided for local kids on Sunday afternoon. This program has grown from 40 participants to over 120 in just 5 seasons. Because of labor shortages around the area, our biggest challenge to grow this program is in finding instructors to teach the kids how to ski and snowboard. One of our goals is that someday we will be able to train some of the Boomauger program participants to be able to become instructors. This would not only help our programs but also give local kids a chance to learn another skill and earn money now and in the future.

This season the club will award over \$89,000 to many deserving youngsters. Some of these children are as young as 3 years old and will participate in learn to and competition ski/ride programs such as Mini Cuffers, Bubblecuffers, CVAWP, and CVA. Money is also awarded to local

schools to purchase Nordic equipment for students to use and to 3 area nonprofit ski slopes (Titcomb, Spruce Mtn, and Baker Mtn) that provide low-cost access to the slopes.

Some of the children who receive scholarships will go on to compete at high levels such as NCAA and some have become Olympians. To get there, it takes money. "The better you get the more it costs". That is why, in the Spring, the Ski Club also awards what we call "Merit Grants", funded by our McKay/Waddle fund, to our young skiers and Snowboarders who have excelled in their sport and need financial assistance in competing at a higher level.

We could not do as much as we do without the support of the Town of Carrabasset Valley. If you would like to learn more about our programs and how you can contribute, go to our website scholarship page. [www.sugarloafskiclub.org](http://www.sugarloafskiclub.org) or contact me via club email [Theclub@sugarloafskiclub.com](mailto:Theclub@sugarloafskiclub.com)

■ Thank You



## News from the Sugarloaf Golf Club

Submitted by John DeBiase, Director of Golf



AJGA Awards Photo

### Hole #1 Jones Way

Sugarloaf Golf Club endured one of the rainiest summers in Maine's history. Thanks to the dedicated work of Superintendent Ryan Blake and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Fasulo and their staff, we persevered and gave the membership, the public, and our community an incredible golf experience.

We began the season on Memorial Day Weekend with a bang; holiday play was brisk! This was followed by another highly successful Tin Mountain Roundup to benefit the Stratton Food Bank. The club hosted a multitude of charitable tournaments highlighted by the Sugarloaf Ski Club, Titcomb, Seth Wescott Franklin County Chamber, and the Fall Finale which benefits the local Alden Mac-



Sugarloaf Golf Club Deer

donald Golf Foundation. Head professional Chaz Babin and Assistant Pro Oscar Parks led another outstanding Alden Macdonald junior golf program for area children ages 5-18.

Our featured tournaments include the State of Maine Championship and the American Junior Golf Association Championship. Some of the world's best junior golfers played from August 14th -17th. Incredible scores were fired including

a course record-tying 66 in the boys' division and a 67 in the girls' division.

A huge debt of gratitude goes out to our marvelous Pro Shop, Maintenance, and Strokes Bar & Grill staff. In addition, I would like to thank our membership and community volunteers who continue to make Sugarloaf Golf Club the premiere golf destination in New England. ■



9th Tee Flowers

## What's New and Noteworthy at Sugarloaf

Submitted by Jessica Sechler

### Exciting Season Ahead for Sugarloaf Expanded terrain, new chairlift, double capacity at Children's Center, and lots of exciting debuts coming this winter.

Three years in the making, the West Mountain project is the latest in Sugarloaf's 2030 capital investment plan to come to fruition.

"It's the largest ski expansion in New England since the 1970's", shares Sugarloaf General Manager Karl Strand, "West Mountain creates an all-new ski in/out experience for guests unlike ever before."

A new parking lot allows skiers and riders direct access to the Bucksaw Express, a Doppelmayr high-speed detachable quad that will transport

guests from its base on West Mountain Road up to Bullwinkle's Restaurant.

Twelve trails make up 120 acres of never-before skiable acreage exposing new views of the Crockier Mountains and high peaks region from the west. "It creates a unique beginner-intermediate zone for guests," says Strand, "Sugarloafers haven't had a dedicated zone where they can easily navigate blue and green trails. West Mountain does just that".

### Family-friendly appeal

Adding to the new family-friendly appeal is the debut of the all-new Childcare Center located in what was formerly the Mountain Magic area in the Base Lodge. "The center centralizes all our children's service locations offering convenience in

a one-stop-shop setting" shares Strand.

The Sugarloaf Children's Center will bring a host of benefits to young families in one easy location perfect for young families. In seasons prior, parents would find themselves dropping kids in multiple locations across campus to get to lessons and daycare facilities, now daycare, lessons, restrooms, F&B can all be found right at the Base Lodge in one convenient location.

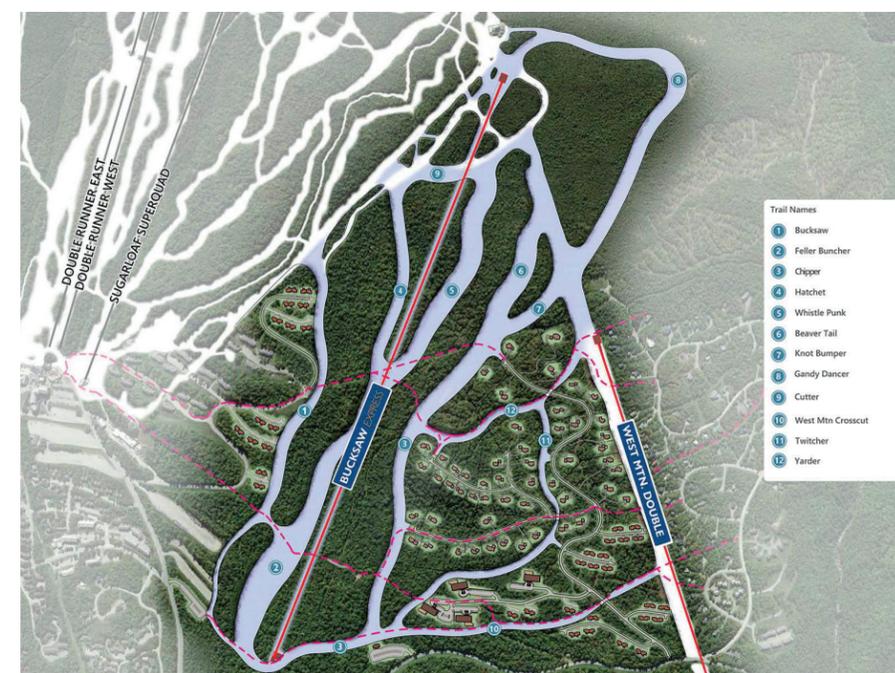
### Notable mentions

If 120 acres of new skiable terrain and doubling our childcare capacity wasn't enough our crew has been hard at work revamping the Sports and Fitness Center. Larger outdoor hot tubs have replaced what was previously available hosting 3-6 people per tub (as part of your membership, day pass, or private rental) in addition to two new Peloton machines joining our workout fleet.

On the beach, the Sugarshack received an overhaul and will now host top brands as our new Sugarshack Demo Center. Featuring premier brands like Nordica, Vokl, and Stockl the demo center will be located in the old Sugarshack building just below Perfect Turn Meeting hut. Perfect for ski in/out access as you test the latest and greatest on the slopes.

We hope you join us for what could be the most exciting winter season yet here at Sugarloaf. The event calendar continues to fill as we count down to opening day.

Visit [sugarloaf.com](http://sugarloaf.com) and subscribe to our email newsletter for all the latest news, deals, and details on upcoming events this winter. ■



West Mountain Trail Names - Conceptual - Sugarloaf

## Snaps Around Town



Facepainting at the Summerfest



Live Music at Summerfest

## News from the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center

Submitted by Kayla Miner



Interested in learning more or getting involved?  
Please check out our website at [www.adaptiveoutdooreducationcenter.org](http://www.adaptiveoutdooreducationcenter.org)  
or reach out at [infoAOEC@gmail.com](mailto:infoAOEC@gmail.com).

At the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center, our mission is to enhance the quality of life for people of all abilities through adaptive recreation and education programs. We are grateful to be able to utilize this beautiful town and to partner with awesome local organizations and businesses to do just that! Here are some highlights from the past year, serving people from across the country:

- We hosted Caregiver Retreats in partnership with Brutally Beautiful. This soul-hugging weekend is targeted toward this incredibly selfless population and focuses on nature-based healing.
- We ran our second annual Wheel Together Retreat! Geared toward adults living with spinal cord injury, this empowering weekend is co-organized by Wheel With Me Foundation and Wheel Sisters Organization. The Retreat includes empowerment, recreation, and FUN in a welcoming environment.
- We partner with Petersen Water Skiing outside of Kingfield to offer multi-day Horizons Waterski Camps!

- We continue to utilize the Anti-Gravity Complex and the climbing wall to offer inclusive Horizons Climbing opportunities.
- Our Horizons Ski Program continues to run strong in partnership with Sugarloaf and Ski School! We also formed an alpine race team who have brought home many medals over the past three seasons!
- Thanks to the awesome folks at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center we were able to run three Horizons Nordic Ski clinics in partnership with Wounded Warriors, Semper Fi & America's Fund, and Challenged Athletes Foundation.

That's just a taste of all that we're able to do here in Carrabasset Valley without mentioning our programs happening throughout the state and at our second AOEC facility in Brunswick, ME! We're grateful to all the participants, volunteers, and supportive partners who make this all possible! ■



## News from Western Maine Mountain Housing

Submitted by the Board of Directors

### Report to the Town of Carrabasset Valley

Western Maine Mountain Housing (WMMH) began its work in the Fall of 2021 when the Select Board in Carrabasset Valley became concerned that the lack of workforce housing in the region was one of the primary reasons that local employers were struggling to find employees. Using ARPA funds, it hired Camoin Associates, an economic development consulting service to study the problem and report back.

### In February of 2022, Camoin issued its report that among other things found that:

- Approximately 285 households in the region spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
- Recently home prices have increased between 25% and 40% pricing most local workers out of the housing market.
- The median sale price of a home in the region in 2021 was \$380,000 requiring a household income of more than \$100,000, roughly double the \$53,000 area median income.
- Many local employers struggle to fill available positions, jeopardizing the long term economic and social well-being of the communities.

- There is a need for between 104 and 312 units of year-round housing and an additional need for 225-338 units of seasonal housing.

By the time the report was completed a volunteer group of citizens from across the State with ties to the Carrabasset River and Flagstaff regions had mobilized to begin addressing the problem. Their first step was to formally enlist the support of Kingfield, Carrabasset Valley, Eustis, and Coplin Plantation, making it a true regional effort. For the first time in recent memory, all four communities signed memoranda of understanding to work together and made financial contributions to the effort. The group then turned its attention to incorporating as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation and to raising funds.

In early November 2022, the Franklin County Commissioners, after several months of careful deliberation, voted to allocate \$308,275 of County ARPA funds to help the group hire staff, purchase land, and get the new organization up and running. It is the only group outside of the County government to receive an allocation, indicating the importance and consensus surrounding the need for workforce housing.

### Since the allocation of funding by the Franklin County Commissioners WMMH with lots of help from the Towns and volunteer citizens has accomplished the following:

- Hired a part-time Executive Director to keep things organized and moving.
- Acquired an option on 7 acres of property in Kingfield next to the Dollar General and have had it surveyed and soil tested.
- Received its 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit designation from the IRS.
- Developed a website at [WWW.WHCWMM.org](http://WWW.WHCWMM.org)
- Worked with Kingfield to

develop a contract zoning ordinance which was approved by their Town Meeting on June 3rd.

- Submitted a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) application for \$1.5 million and recently learned from Senator Collins that our request was included in the Senate Appropriations legislation. It's not a done deal but an important step forward. Thank you to both of our Senators!
- Continue to work with Carrabasset Valley to develop a contract zoning ordinance. We hope to have a draft ready this fall.
- We have met several times with Sugarloaf management regarding the donation of land for workforce housing and are optimistic about a positive outcome.
- We have hired an Architect, Kaplan and Thompson, and an engineering firm, Wright-Pierce, and have submitted a formal contract zone application to develop approximately 60 units of both multi-family and single-family workforce housing in Kingfield. If approved, we hope the first phase of the project will be 18 units of multi-family housing followed by single-family housing as funding becomes available and the required permits are approved. A special thank you to the Town of Kingfield for their help with this first project! ■

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Board of Directors**

- John Beaupre — President
- Paul Peck — Vice President
- Susan Davis — Secretary
- Tom Hildreth — Treasurer
- Tim Gerencer
- Charlie Woodworth
- Tim O'Neil
- Cynthia Orcutt
- Ben Defrosia
- Mike Lassel
- Barbara Larson
- Lloyd Cutler
- Jed Whiting
- Brooklyn LeClair

Mark Green — Executive Director



Housing Work Session in Kingfield



*"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one." — Jacques Yves Cousteau*

**Water, Water, Everywhere...**

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirms the 18.3 total inches of rainfall for the three-month period of June, July, and August 2023 was the second highest in recorded history dating back to 1895. Only the 18.7 inches of rainfall in the summer of 1917 was higher. Average rainfall for the three months of summer in Maine is 11.3 inches, so we have experienced a 62% increase in summer precipitation. That's a lot of water. 3.6 trillion (yes, trillion) gallons above average to be more exact. Now if we could shift that precipitation to the three months of January, February, and March... imagine the snow!

Rainfall replenishes our water supply sources, but there are limits to every reservoir and when flood conditions exist, water quality declines rapidly due to erosion. At Sugarloaf, we have a significant dependency on the Carrabasset River as a water source and high rainfall can force us to limit our intake of river water in order to stay within the limits of our treatment system.

**Water Quality**

During 2023, we sent two notices to our customers regarding water quality. One was on the presence of PFAS compounds in our system. PFAS compounds have been called "forever chemicals" and are found throughout our environment. The State of Maine passed a law to regulate these compounds in drinking water in 2022. Our water sources were all tested in 2022 and one well was found to have PFAS levels above the new state standard. The well was taken offline immediately and has not been used since. The water system

has multiple wells, so the loss of one well is not catastrophic but it does change the operation of the remaining wells. We continue to search for additional groundwater sources to add to our water supply mix to make up for the impact of PFAS. The second notice was regarding the presence of lead in drinking water, which is also regulated. In 2023, routine testing for lead showed three locations on the mountain with lead levels above the federal action level. There is no detectable lead in our water supplies, but lead can be introduced to your water from household plumbing if your home was constructed before 1986. Lead was a common element in plumbing fixtures and solder prior to 1986 when lead was banned from all plumbing. All three of the homes with elevated lead levels were constructed prior to 1986. Our notice provides information on lead in drinking water and what you can do if you suspect your home may contain lead in your plumbing system.

**2023 Activities**

This past year the Water Association has worked on a number of projects and plans that will improve our resort community's public water system. These water system improvements include:

- ◆ A new 300,000 gallon water storage tank under construction; is on schedule to be completed this fall. This additional storage will enhance the system's fire protection and water quality. Providing additional storage to address our water systems storage deficit and to improve system reliability to meet peak ski season demands has been a priority of the SWA since it was recommended in our 214 Capital Improvement Plan.



**New Water Association Reservoir**

- ◆ The Water Association is working with the Sugarloaf Mountain operations team in exploring the potential for sharing raw water from new snowmaking ponds. These water reserves could provide raw water for our public water treatment systems that is less turbid than the Carrabasset River and would result in higher quality finished water for our water customers. Access to low turbidity raw water will also allow the SWA to better meet high water demands at times when the Carrabasset River is too turbid to treat.

- ◆ The Water Association is working with Dirigo Engineering and Goodwin Well and Water to locate well water sources to replace our wells found to have PFAS and Chloride/Sodium contamination.

- ◆ The Water Association has engaged Wright Pierce Engineering to develop a Source Water Plan to help guide the association in developing new water sources, and treatment options that ensure we can provide our growing community with quality water well into the future.

**The Value of Water**

When you consider the critical needs addressed by a community's water system, tap water will always be a tremendous value. You simply cannot put a price on a service that delivers public health, fire protection, economic development, and quality of life.

**Have Questions?**

If you have questions regarding the Sugarloaf Water Association, please visit [Sugarloafwater.net](http://Sugarloafwater.net) for contact information or to send us a message. Our website also includes a resource menu with links to many trusted drinking water resources like:

- ◆ Our annual Water Quality Report
- ◆ Local and federal regulatory agencies
- ◆ Water advocacy organizations
- ◆ Application for Service
- ◆ SWA's FAQ Page

**Pillars**

On June 24, 2023, the Carrabasset Valley Sanitary District marked its 30th year of operation. The success of the district is directly related to the thoughtful guidance of community members who volunteer and have volunteered their time as District Trustees.

Dependence upon one another is said to be the strongest bond of any society. Humanity's early dependence on each other provided for protection and security; allowing its members to enjoy an active and social life; the sharing of experiences, of understanding, of new ideas, and a general knowledge of things. This led to the development of community. When the community contrived societal needs, they looked within to its members that demonstrated the ability to support, guide, and direct. These people, due to their very nature, became community leaders. When the huddled masses approached these leaders, regarding the need of shelter for protection from the inclemencies of the seasons, they were taught to place poles upright in the soil to "support" and then place timbers horizontally to create a covering to "protect." The lashings and fixtures which bound the timbers to the poles and bound the poles to the ground gave rise to the term "Base and Capital of Pillars." Over time, these community leaders became referred to as the "Pillars of the Community."

The Carrabasset Valley Sanitary District has the benefit of such pillars; the CVSD Board of Trustees, past and present, are a collective of selfless community members who have guided the district over the past 30 years; all should be held in high esteem, two deserve special recognition, Carl (Dutch) Demshar and Neal Trask.

I first met Dutch in May of 1996. He was the second phase of my interview for the job of District Superintendent. I arrived at the interview location on Cranberry Circle, where I found Larry Warren raking leaves from the nooks and crannies in and around the shrubbery and stonewalls. Sitting on a stonewall was a rather intimidating man whose laughter shook the ground and made the shrubbery quake. Larry made a quick introduction; I extended my hand to Dutch only to have it

enveloped by a mass of digits as large as a first baseman's mitt. I attempted to offer him a firm grip only to realize, I could not grip what I could not span, his good-natured demeanor immediately set me at ease; within a few minutes, the deal was done. Dutch had been a Trustee for the District since its formation in 1993; on April 11, 2000, he was elected Chairman of the Board, a position he held until his passing. He was always supportive of the work being done; he would often call the office or visit our work crews at a job site to offer encouragement and support.

Neal Trask was familiar to me prior to our introduction. His company, Trask Decrow Machinery Inc., has a presence in the industry as a supplier of pumps and compressors, including water and wastewater treatment. I first met Neal on February 10, 2004; he was attending a district meeting in preparation of his first meeting as a trustee on May 11, 2004. Very quickly, Neal and I determined that we shared a fraternal connection. I knew from that point on, he was upright, on the square and on the level. His business background and training as an engineer were invaluable to the district. I frequently sought his insight regarding equipment and systems to be applied to our operation. We would often meet to discuss ATV trail use on district land as well as improvements and expansion of the Carrabasset Valley Outdoor Association Shooting Range. Neal was instrumental in the district being recognized by the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as "The Outstanding Municipal Landowner Award" in 2007, for allowing the public use of district land for recreational purposes; as Dutch would have said, "what a guy." Neal had a quiet morality and a great sense of humor; on those occasions when I would refer to the Board of Trustees as the "The Porcelain Gods," he would smile, then blush and gently shake his head.

From my perspective, the successful operation of the district is due in large part to the "Pillars." Those people who support and protect the essence of Carrabasset Valley; people who have the desire to contribute to the community, to help foster growth and sustainability, for some it's a way of life given the length of public service

from many community members. But, more specifically, the district trustees whose holistic understanding of the district's essential role in the community is always evident.

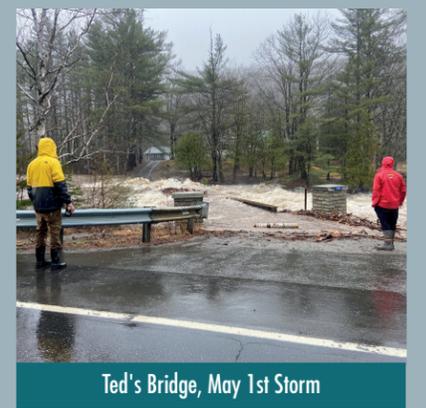
In closing, I am pleased to inform the community that the Carrabasset Valley Sanitary District is in compliance with state and federal environmental regulatory agencies. Current and projected growth within the district's political boundary should continue to offer rate stability to our customers.

Think of us when you flush, Dave. ■

**Snaps Around Town**



**Fixing the Outdoor Center Pond Dam**



**Ted's Bridge, May 1st Storm**

## News From the Sugarloaf Regional Airport

Submitted by Tom Wallace, Airport Manager

The two new taxiways on the north end of the airport were completed about a year ago. Construction has begun on two 60' x 60' hangars on the west side. One of those hangars has all the concrete work completed and the steel will begin to be assembled in September. The other 60' x 60' hangar has the footer poured and the concrete foundation walls are almost ready to pour. Steel for both buildings is on site so construction on those should progress quickly.

The third hangar 60' x 50' is in the design phase but probably will not be started until next spring due to the lead time of the building, and winter right around the corner.

Hangar fourteen has been completed and Restoration Aircraft Group is operating from this hangar offering aircraft maintenance and repair services.

After a long delay, Life Flight of Maine was successful in getting a change in frequency to our AWOS station (Automated Weather Observation Station) The frequency was changed to 120.0 Mhz and now broadcasts continually. This has removed the frequency congestion on 122.8 Mhz our, and several other airport's CTAF (Common Traffic Advisory Frequency). This greatly enhances the safety of

our airport and other surrounding airports.

The upgrade of our AWOS-AV to an AWOS-III which will include ceiling height has progressed and a station site has been selected. The site selections of several airports in Maine have been submitted to the FAA for review and comment. A lot of work remains to be accomplished before any construction begins. This project is fully funded by a grant the State of Maine DOT has received from the FAA.

On June 24, 2023, the airport hosted a Car Rally for Squad Driven (<https://www.squad-driven.com>) This group organizes car rally events to raise money for charities. The airport first hosted them in 2021. There were approximately 35 high-end road racing cars in attendance and they made side-by-side timed runs down the runway.

On June 24, 2023, the airport hosted a Car Rally for Squad Driven (<https://www.squad-driven.com>) This group organizes car rally events to raise money for charities. The airport first hosted them in 2021. There were approximately 35 high-end road racing cars in attendance and they made side-by-side timed runs down the runway.



Young Eagles, simulator practice pre-flight.

On July 4th the airport was closed at 4 pm for the fireworks celebration. The weather had been a little damp during the day but cleared out in the evening show. Attendees were slow to arrive but by show time there was a full airport of people enjoying the show. The airport appreciates the crowd taking care of the airport as the clean-up by volunteers the next day was completed quickly.

In conjunction with the Carrabasset Valley Summer Festival, the airport once again hosted a "Fly In" and "Young Eagles Event" on August 5th. The "Fly In" again included a breakfast for pilots and their passengers at the airport. We had expected 35 airplanes to raise funds for Make-A-Wish but unfortunately, the weather in other areas of the state was not conducive to flying. We did have about 5 airplanes come to the airport. Local pilots donated rides for 25 children from ages 8-17 (Young Eagles). We had a volunteer ground staff that kept things organized and safe for the participants. There was a flight simulator available for children to practice their flying skills before or after their flight. All Young Eagles received an Airport T-shirt.

Life Flight of Maine has installed an FAA weather cam at our airport. This allows them and other pilots to see images of actual conditions at the airport to make "go-no go" decisions on flight. The pictures are updated every ten minutes so pilots can make accurate safety decisions. The weather cams will enable Life Flight to execute their missions more often without a degradation



Young Eagles take flight! 25 children ages 8-17 were provided rides donated by area pilots.



35 High End road racing, Squad Driven Cars. Car rally, fund-raiser. June 24, 2023.

to safety.

Two Flight schools continue to operate and train pilots at the airport with several new student pilots learning to fly, adding an endorsement, or

maintaining proficiency. Aircraft maintenance is available at hangar #14 also.

The airport has been awarded a grant (\$73,500) from the FAA to crack-seal the pavement. Execu-

## News from the Carrabasset Valley ATV Club

Submitted by John McCartherin, Secretary

Wish I had lots of good news to report but unfortunately, nothing much has changed since our report a year ago. The C.V. ATV Club trail system remains closed.

As you may recall, when the Penobscot Nation closed its lands in 2021 — about half of all the land in the town — their property included 28 of the 36 miles of our trail system. While we had trails in some areas not on Penobscot lands, most of those were essentially closed because access to them required traveling on Penobscot lands.

Unfortunately, that means that maintenance on our trails has been nonexistent since the closure precludes even that activity.

One of our concerns is that once we have permission to use those trails there will be substantial work required to clear blowdowns and overgrown brush and ensure that bridges are useable and trails are safe.

We are taking those few steps available to us to stay on top of things: registering with the state, renewing non-Penobscot land use permits, and a few odds and ends.

We did join other trail users in a meeting with the Penobscot Nation Land Committee earlier this year and while it was a cordial discussion that permitted sharing of concerns on both sides, it was clear that the Penobscot Nation was intent

tion of this work is expected before winter, which will slow the deterioration of the runway and taxiways. Runway rehabilitation is expected to be required in the next few years.

The airport will host an MAA (Maine Aeronautics Association) Coffee and Doughnuts fly-in event on September 16th from 8-11 a.m. This event has been very popular with area pilots and is an informal gathering of aviation enthusiasts sharing flying adventures and staying in touch with other like-minded individuals.

Our airport is a treasure not only to pilots but also to the community to enjoy. Stop by and visit with the pilots and learn more about aviation. Aircraft owners and pilots are usually present on the airfield, especially on summer evenings enjoying the view of the area and watching aircraft operations. Please remember that aircraft have the right of way on the airport.

Thanks to all the airport visitors for respecting the safety areas and remaining off the runway unless the airport is closed for an event. ■

on achieving full sovereignty on their lands as a precursor to reopening trails.

The Town of Carrabasset Valley and other organizations have been unable to affect any significant discussions on the issues.

Maine State Government has once again denied legislative attempts to achieve the Penobscot Nation's goal of sovereignty and it's clear that the issue will be back before the Legislature in the coming session.

Meanwhile, we will continue to look for opportunities to improve the current situation and will keep in touch with the public and club members if conditions improve. ■

## News from Carrabassett Valley Academy

Submitted by Kim Karn



Bob Luce, Chair of the CV Select Board accepting the H. King Cummings Service Award presented by Lindy Gruen to the Town of Carrabassett Valley.

The Carrabassett Valley Academy 2022-23 school year culminated with the graduation of sixteen student-athletes in the traditional commencement ceremony held in the Richard Bell Chapel. We couldn't be more proud of all the students that call Carrabassett Valley home for their high school years.

In addition to presenting diplomas, CVA Board of Trustees Chair, Lindy MacKinnon Gruen '92, presented the H. King Cummings Service Award to the Town of Carrabassett Valley. This award was established in 1989 and is given annually to an individual or individuals within the CVA community who have performed valuable service beyond normal expectations and have made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Carrabassett Valley Academy. Bob Luce, Chair of the Carrabassett Valley Select Board, accepted the award on behalf of the town.

"The town of Carrabassett Valley has certainly made, and continues to make, outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Carrabassett Valley Academy," remarked Gruen. "The town is a significant part of every CVA student's experience. The character and support of Carrabassett Valley play a critical role in making sure that CVA delivers on its mission for

the student-athletes of today and tomorrow. It's a perfect partnership, in the perfect setting."

The end of the 2023 school year also marked the conclusion of CVA's decennial accreditation process with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). We are excited and proud to share that CVA has been granted Continued Accreditation for a period of 10 years.

The year-long accreditation process offers valuable insight into all aspects of the school and helps to ensure CVA continues to offer every opportunity for our student-athletes to reach their personal

best in a supportive community steeped in a culture of kindness, respect, commitment, and gratitude. The NEASC Commission on Independent Schools commended CVA for our deliberate and clear understanding of the Academy's purpose and priorities, and praised the school for being a nurturing, joyful, energetic, passionate, dedicated, and caring community of educators who love what they do, where they do it, and how they teach and coach. The Commission's recommendations for continued school improvement focused on succession planning, leadership, and staffing

support, as well as facilities planning.

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start. By the start of the Winter Term, CVA is expecting to have 110 students from 16 states and 4 countries. Sixty-five students are from Maine and 23 students are local Sugarloafers, 16 of those students are employee children. Once again, thank you to the town of Carrabassett Valley for helping CVA, and our students, realize their dreams. ■



2023 CVA Graduation

## Comprehensive Plan Announcement - Continued

### What is a comprehensive plan?

A comprehensive plan is a 10-year strategic plan for a municipality. Comprehensive plans consist of data collection, data analysis, a vision statement, as well as goals, objectives, and strategies for a number of topic areas. Topic areas in a comprehensive plan include: demographics, existing and future land use, housing, mobility and transportation, economy, parks and recreation, natural resources, climate and sustainability, historic and cultural resources, public facilities, fiscal capacity, and more. Comprehensive Plans provide high-level guidance and a framework for future projects and decision-making.

### Why does a comprehensive plan matter? Why is Carrabassett Valley completing an updated one?

Comprehensive plans are opportunities to celebrate a community, to reflect on what the community

values, decide what they want to invest in and articulate what goals they have for the future. Comprehensive plans are also platforms for big ideas and future additional studies or smaller-scale plans including resiliency plans, recreation goals, and housing and economic development plans. Comprehensive plans validate municipal zoning and land use ordinances — zoning and land use ordinances must align with the comprehensive plan, future land use plan section, and designated growth areas. Comprehensive plans are required by the State of Maine and should be updated every 10 years. Many grants and funding opportunities require applicants to demonstrate how proposed projects are in line with a municipality's current comprehensive plan.

### How do I get involved?

Opportunities to be involved include an upcoming

community survey and an initial public outreach event to learn more about the plan and participate in the process. Public outreach events typically involve a mixture of presentations from the Comprehensive Planning Committee and consultant, as well as opportunities to collaborate with community members and weigh in on key elements of the plan. For more information including continued updates to the Comprehensive Plan, please go to the "Committees" tab on the Town website ([www.carrabassettvalley.org](http://www.carrabassettvalley.org)) to find the Comprehensive Plan Page. **It is anticipated that a Community Survey (accessible on the website and at the Town Office) for all CV residents and seasonal homeowners will be available early November through December 15th. Your input will be greatly appreciated.** For any additional information contact Chris Parks, Code Enforcement Officer, at (207) 235-2504 or [cvceo@roadrunner.com](mailto:cvceo@roadrunner.com). ■

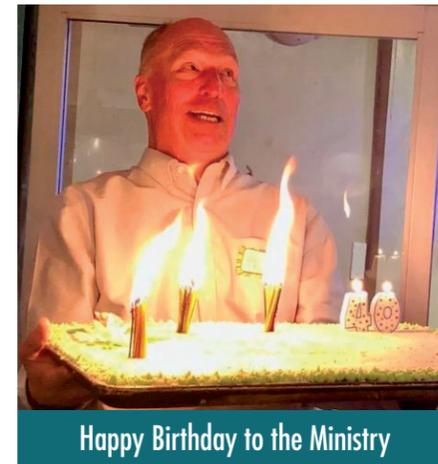
## News from the Sugarloaf Christian Ministry

Submitted by Gerry Baril, Ministry Chair

### Forty Years Old – Not Over-the-Hill – Just On-the-Hill!

Can you believe it! A vacationland seasonal Christian Ministry featuring Downhill Worship at Sugarloaf Mountain in 1982 by the Rev. Skip Schwartz, would become by 1990, with the appointments of Co-Pastors Pam and Earle Morse, the valley's only and enduring year-round church for more than forty years.

This past 22-23 ski season, Sugarloaf Christian Ministry celebrated forty years of loving service to our Sugarloaf community, first in January, with a Community Potluck Dinner at the Alford Competition Center. The event was co-sponsored by C.V.A.



Happy Birthday to the Ministry

and presented a fun opportunity to spend time with ministry friends and meet some new neighbors. The event was free and open to all the Sugarloaf community.

On Saturday evening, March 18th, in the Alpine Room at D'Ellies, the Ministry hosted our 40th Birthday Party, celebrating the miraculous existence of our Ministry! Some opined that it couldn't be done, you know, a thriving ministry in a New England Ski Resort. Well as Pastor Pam has said, "we've been proving them wrong for 40 years!" Our theme of Sugarloaf Christian Ministry Going Downhill Fast Since 1982 attracted many old timers, long-timers, and newcomers to the mountain and Sugarloaf community. A slide show featuring historical/hysterical memories, personal testimonies, a photo booth, and a very popular meet & greet Bingo game brought people together in a very festive atmosphere. We celebrated long-time Sugarloafers and Ministry Friends Al Alice Cole and Pat Buck with hearty applause. Rev. Earle Morse almost burnt the house down when he lit the candles on the Birthday Cake, so a quick "wish" and a collective blowing out the candles was in order.



The Cole's and Pat Buck

The Ministry continues to serve the spiritual and personal needs of many in Carrabassett Valley and parts of Northern Franklin County, including residents, employees, and visitors, the elderly, the widowed, the disabled, and veterans in part with the financial support to our Annual/Summer Appeals and Community Fund. Worship Services are provided every Sunday at 9:00 AM in the Bell Chapel, Sept-June, and on the mountain with Downhill Worship at 11:00 AM from Christmas to Easter. Worshipping outdoors at The AMP with a vista from 3500 feet from July to Labor Day. Come join us on Homecoming Sunday, October 8th at 11:00 for one last AMP service before the snow flies. ■

**Come as you are, whenever you can. All are welcome in God's house. Enjoy all Sugarloaf has to offer, and welcome home Sugarloafers.**

Submitted by Nadene, Andy, Greg & Kip



but we do NOT take ourselves too seriously. From Out & About year-round visits to our sponsors, to our winter live shows, Greg's warmth puts whoever he's talking to at ease, which is challenging for some of our live show guests when they visit our studio for the first time!!!

Kip's longevity on the Mountain gives him an Insider's perspective that is truthful & helpful to

better prepare for whatever the conditions may be on the slopes, In his live show First Tracks reports between 7:30 & 9:00 a.m. Our audience appreciates that information greatly and we are glad to offer that service through thick and thin; what to wear and where to ski is Important info to Know Before You Go!

Our job is to ensure our viewers get the info so Carrabassett Valley is a destination they will love during all the seasons whether a 'very first timer' or a 'weekend warrior'. Weather & trail conditions are why we began to broadcast back in 1979 and are still the #1 reason why viewers tune in, whether a 'local' or visitor, but ALL our local programming, from "Explore the Maine High Peaks" to "From the Archives" shares what makes this region so special and unique.

WSKI-TV is celebrating its 44th year serving the Sugarloaf community this 2023-24 season, and we've been turning visitors into locals ever since!

First and foremost, our audience tunes in for the all important Weather and Trail information which was why WSKI was originally born!

Our popularity remains strong as we now have third generation viewers; we are part of the Sugarloaf experience for so many and we are proud to call Carrabassett home, we are grateful to serve our community in the many ways we do.

We strive to maximize our audience's time here in the Maine High Peaks so it is the best it can be. We work hard to ensure our local information is credible, backed by our broad experience on the Mountain and throughout the region as long-term year-round residents.

Our winter live shows attract viewers of all ages, especially our Watch & Win shows that keep our phones ringing. We have fun and our audience does, too!

In addition to being the man responsible for the live shows airing from the studio, Outside Andy lives the life outdoors we espouse to the max, and the videos he produces share all there is to do with our online viewers in addition to the channel 17 audience, adding value to a stay here, with another activity to do to stay another day. Leave No Trace wherever you go...

Host Greg Powers is the perfect example of how we are at WSKI: We take our jobs very seriously,

What a year for behind-the-scenes changes at WSKI-TV 17, with 'work in progress' continuing!

The studio was flooded after Homecoming last year, and it took almost half the ski season to get a new one rebuilt because the old one had to be demolished, to access and repair the crack in the foundation wall of the Sugarloaf Admin Building, where we've been located since the building was built in 1985 and WSKI was part of Sugarloaf's Marketing Dept.

We are very much looking forward to an air exchange unit, too, to enable employees and guests to breathe better quality air in our window-less basement location, which will also benefit our neighbors in the Lift Department.

Sugarloaf Hotel patrons who were disappointed after last winter's unavailability of WSKI-TV 17 in that establishment, will be glad to know that this has been rectified, our info is available once again in the Hotel Rooms.

Work is underway to enable streaming WSKI-TV on our website www.wskitv.com. We were previously unable to do so due to copyright issues and are looking forward to that capability at last, so anyone can watch us no matter what the availability of cable is at their accommodation. WSKI is creating our own App with expectations to have it ready for the 2023-24 ski season, as an additional way for more people to get our information from anywhere at any time.

We have Outside Watch programming on air



Andrea DiBiase, Library Director



Karen Campbell, with KC's Creativity

directly from their national Wi-Fi feed and we welcome feedback from our viewers on that programming, please!

We will be using a new playback system for all our locally produced content, for the '23-24 season. The programming system we have used for over two decades has quality limitations inferior to what we want to offer our audience, so we're buckled up for a steep initial learning curve with the new Masterplay system while being very

### Maines Northwestern Mountains

#### Come Play in Our Backyard

FABA, dba Maine's Northwestern Mountains, would like to express our sincere thanks to the Carrabassett Valley Taxpayers and the Board of Selectmen for supporting their Visitor's Center with a \$20,000 investment in 2023. We are proud to serve Maine's tourism industry and to represent you, our taxpayers, and members, who make Maine a great place to live and visit.

Once again, with the support of the Towns of Kingfield and Carrabassett Valley, along with all our members, we are able to produce Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor Guide. We are printing 20,000 copies which will be distributed via our members, Maine Office of Tourism, Maine State Library, Bethel Chamber of Commerce, River Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce. We continue to market our website through printed ads in Visit Maine, Maine's Lakes & Mountains, Discover Maine, and West Coast Maine, and digital marketing through our FaceBook page.

The Maine Office of Tourism statistics show for 2022 that most of our tourism came from out of

happy to make the investment in increased excellence for our viewers to enjoy WSKI even more.

Thank you to all our sponsors for enabling us to continue to serve Carrabassett for over four decades. The funds we get from the Town for all the promotion we cover of ALL things Carrabassett, allows us to operate and keep our audience informed of what's happening all year.

It is our pleasure to serve this community, where I arrived with great anticipation fifty years ago in 1973 after Labor Day, with no idea what my future career would be! I couldn't have dreamed it would be so rewarding. We look forward to questions, comments, and suggestions at all times.

wskitv@wskitv.com  
207-237-6895  
Facebook, too!

See you on the slopes..... ■

### Snaps Around Town



Pamela Shockley, CV Property Owner, paints from the Carriage Road bridge. July 19, 2023. "pamelalshockey.com"

Submitted by Doug Archer

state visitors, 83% vs. 17% for Maine residents. They spent \$8.6 billion, supporting 151,000 jobs and contributing nearly \$5.6 billion in earnings to Maine households. Visitors spent 69.8 million days in Maine throughout 2022, up 10.2% from 2021. This is why it's extremely necessary for the marketing of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region to attract these tourists and potential residents to this area as a popular destination to live, work, and recreate. The tourism industry is an important contributor to in-migration, which in turn boosts the State's workforce, which we all know too well is hard to find these days.

As a non-profit, member-funded organization, one priority remains, serving as the voice of our members and to show support for the businesses who have always been there to support their communities and promote tourism, economic development, and home ownership, which will grow the local economy. As visitors come to our Region, it is imperative to provide them with the information they need to experience all that we have to offer and want to come back again and again. Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor's Center is the hub of this Region, where visitors and "locals"

can get in-person and print information along with local recommendations for all their individual needs and activities!

Doug and Joni look forward to your visit to our Visitor's Center, 1216 Carrabassett Drive, and the opportunity to listen to your ideas and feedback and discuss how your support and taxes are contributing to the future of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region. You can also pick up a copy of our newest Visitor's Guide and take home a sample of Carrabassett Valley Breakfast Blend coffee for your morning enjoyment. We can also be reached at 207-235-6008 or on our website: www.mainesnorthwesternmountains.com.

**REMEMBER: LET OUR BOOKS SEND YOUR MESSAGE!** ■



# Connections

1001 Carriage Road • Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947

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www.carrabassettvalley.org

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e-mail: towncvtm@roadrunner.com

#### Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Wendy Russell  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: townofcv@roadrunner.com

#### Code Enforcement/Assessing

Chris Parks  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: cvceo@roadrunner.com

#### Treasurer/Deputy Tax Collector

Sacha Gillespie  
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e-mail: towncvtax@roadrunner.com

#### Recreation Director

Deborah Bowker  
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e-mail: dbowker3@roadrunner.com

#### Fire Chief

Courtney Knapp  
Ph. 207-235-2991  
e-mail: countknapp@roadrunner.com

#### Police Chief

Mark Lopez  
Ph. 207-237-3200  
e-mail: mlopez@sugarloaf.com

**For Emergencies Call: 237-3200 or 911**

## Annual Newsletter

from the town of Carrabassett Valley

### Sugarloaf Explorer 2023 – 2024 Season

Submitted by Bill Aikey

Greetings from Sugarloaf Explorer,

This year represents the 16th season of the Sugarloaf Explorer program. Since beginning the 2007 – 2008 season, we have experienced tremendous growth in service area, size of fleet, and number of people we serve. With the continued development, both on and off the mountain, we will again be expanding. This season we will be adding weekday service to the Valley and adding a second route to Village on the Green on weekends

and holidays. We'll now be operating 15 buses during these peak times. The Sugarloaf Express, which began in 2017, will continue to provide much-needed employee transportation for Sugarloaf and operates between Farmington and Carrabassett Valley. Our thanks to the FTA, the State of Maine, the Town of Carrabassett Valley, Sugarloaf Mountain, local businesses, and property owners for their continued support for Sugarloaf Explorer and Express services.

**Key Dates: Thanksgiving begins weekend service.**

**December 2nd, Farmington Express begins**

**December 8th, Evening Service begins**

**December 11th, Regular Season Schedule**

Be sure to follow us online @SugarloafExplorer.com and on X (formally Twitter) @SugarloafBus for all the latest information. ■

