

**CARIBOU CITY MANAGER
PENNY THOMPSON
25 HIGH STREET
CARIBOU, ME. 04736**



MEMO

TO: Caribou City Council Members
FROM: Penny Thompson, City Manager
DATE: July 20, 2026
RE: City Manager's Report

Back by popular demand, the grants update one-pager is back!

Please see the enclosed flyer about the road closure on South Main Street. This is due to the Maine Department of Transportation project aimed at reducing wildlife vehicle collisions around the Prestile Stream. This Caribou Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Crossing Project will replace the existing culverts, enhance habitat areas, and improve water quality. More information can be found on the city's website:

[DOT WCPP – Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program – City of Caribou, Maine](#)

This week is Caribou Cares about Kids! Please see the enclosed flyer for details. To kick it off, come to Thursdays on Sweden Street for 'Reunion Night' with live entertainment by Tess Collins Music and the Northern Maine Brewing Company will be your hosts in the outdoor café.

I would like to say thanks to Kiersten Purington, the President and CEO, of the Aroostook Partnership. During her first year in the position, Kiersten has started several initiatives that have expanded economic development opportunities here in Caribou. Eric Sanderson graduated with the Epsilon Class of Leadership Aroostook. Several staff attended the 2025 Housing Summit and 2026 Housing Seminar. I have participated in the Aroostook Women's Network, the County site visit by the Consul General of Canada to New England, Bernadette Jordan and her staff, and most recently, the NBRC Catalyst grant to fund Aroostook Rising which includes an ambassador program to help welcome new residents to Aroostook County. There is a 2-page flyer enclosed in this packet about the great work being done by Kiersten and the Aroostook Partnership team.

At this meeting I would like to give a special congratulation to our Finance and HR Director Carl Grant for his recertification by the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' and Treasurers' Association as a Certified Maine Treasurer.

Suggested Action:

This is for information only. No action required.

GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

JULY 2026



OPPORTUNITY ZONES

TO BEGIN 1/1/2027

Caribou has applied for inclusion in the program. The White House sent a clarifying memo in mid-July. We expect to receive an announcement from the Governor's office this fall.



CDBG: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

\$30,000

Helping a local business with equipment



NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION (NBRC)

RIVERFRONT PLAN & PROJECTS \$472,550

- The Riverfront Master Plan is in its final stages. Both the Railroad Station and Starch Plant have been purchased. The Starch Plant RFP for demolition is now being advertised.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS

SENATOR COLLINS:

FY23 - POLICE STATION

\$2.5 MILLION

The City Council is now looking into the refurbishment of an existing building. Harriman has been selected to assist with this search

\$4.459 MILLION

FY23 - CARIBOU POND & PARK RECLAMATION PROJECT

Project Manager contract has been awarded to Aviest Engineering of Caribou. Soderberg Construction of Caribou has been awarded the contract for excavation.

FY24 - IMPROVEMENTS TO FIRE STATION

\$1.359 MILLION

Design and Engineering contract awarded to Harriman. Amanda Jandreau of Caribou is the project lead. Buildings Etcetera of Houlton has been awarded the contract for renovations.

SENATOR KING:

FY24 - ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS AT LIBRARY

Staff has been in touch with Senator King's office.



EPA BROWNFIELDS

FY2023 CLEANUP GRANT

\$900,000

- Demolition completed.

FY2025 CLEANUP GRANT

\$4 MILLION

- QEP contract awarded to Sevee & Maher.

FY2026 CLEANUP GRANT

\$500,000

- Assessment Grant awarded and paperwork is complete, waiting for the EPA Cooperative Agreement

RLF AT BIRDSEYE: In process with County Environmental Engineering.



MAINE
CONNECTIVITY
AUTHORITY

\$1.8 MILLION

This is a fully funded project at the Caribou Public Library. A.M. Construction is the contractor with several local sub-contractors.

ARPA NEU FUNDS:

ALL FUNDS MUST BE SPENT BY 12/31/2026

ARPA - AROOSTOOK COUNTY MATCHING FUNDS

FY2022 \$150,000

FY2023 \$100,349 COMPLETE

FY2024 \$269,425

FY2024 \$100,000 COMPLETE



DECD HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM GRANT

HOUSING NEEDS & ACTION PLAN

\$30,000

- COMPLETE

ORDINANCE UPDATES

\$10,000

- For ordinance amendments to comply with recent land use statutes.



FAA/MAINE DOT AVIATION DIV.

APRON PROJECT \$628,445

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT \$545,000

Both projects are complete.

Care. Envision. Do. CARIBOU 2034

CARE for our community, **ENVISION** the future, then help Caribou **DO** what it takes to make it happen!

Did you know that a successful grant application starts with well-constructed planning documents? The City of Caribou is working on their 2024-2034 Comprehensive Plan which will be the foundation for grant applications going forward.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: CARIBOUMAINE.ORG/CARIBOU2034

McGILLAN INC.

5 McGILLAN DRIVE
FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE 04742

(207) 473-4097 FAX (207) 473-4091
Email: mcginc@mcgillaninc.com

Temporary Road Closure

**Route 164 Main Street will be closed from Route 1
Intersection to the West Presque Isle Road Intersection**

Monday July 20th thru Friday November 20th, 2026

Route 164 Main Street will be temporarily closed to traffic from approximately one mile north of the Route 1 intersection to the West Presque Isle Road intersection, on Monday July 20th to Friday November 20th. The road will be closed to traffic for a large culvert replacement project with the Main Department of Transportation.

During the closure, traffic will be detoured via Route 1, Fort Street, and Main Street. A detour map has been attached for alternate route.

If you have any questions please contact our office. Phone 207-473-4097

McGILLAN INC.

5 MCGILLAN DRIVE
FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE 04742

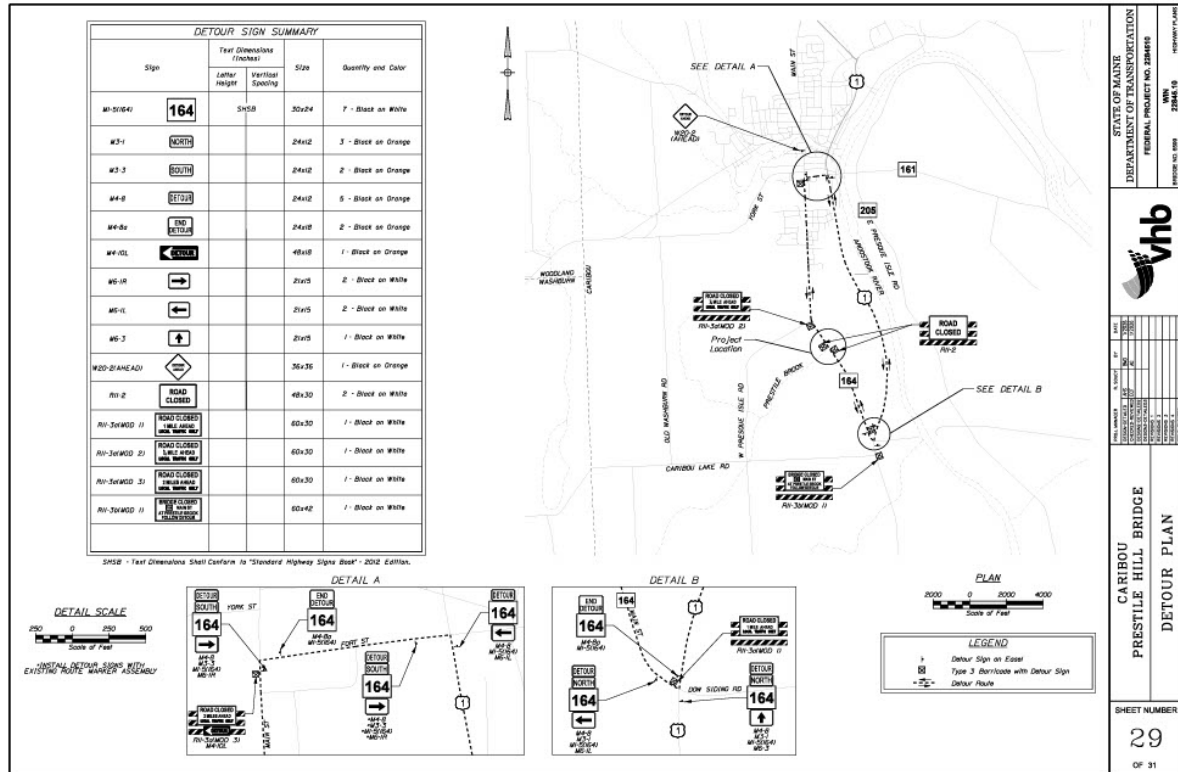
(207) 473-4097 FAX (207) 473-4091
Email: mcginc@mcgillaninc.com

Date: 1/22/2025

Location: Caribou

File: ...\\JCM\\MAIN\\MCGILLAN\\090_1\\caribou.dwg

Scale: 1"=100'





Caribou Cares About Kids

July 23-25, 2026

@ Teague Park | 75 Bennett Drive | Caribou
Unless noted otherwise

Thursday, July 23

6-9pm Thursdays on Sweden Street | Music by *Tess Collins Music*
Street Vendors, Food Trucks

Friday, July 24

12-2pm Tie-dye T-shirts (\$2 per shirt) & hot dog lunch

12-8pm Bounce House & Food vendors

2pm Tug of War

3pm Kids Art Event

4pm Egg Toss Competition

4:30pm Disney Characters

5-8pm Cornhole Tournament

Teams Youths division 10-17 years old

Adult division 18 & over

5-8pm Start of Coed Tournament TBA

6pm Disney Characters



Saturday, July 25

7am-3pm 5th Annual Groomer Classic

@Beauregard Equipment | 723 Sweden Street

8am Coed Softball Tournament | Rain date Sunday, July 26th

10am-1pm Bike Rodeo | Rain date August 1st

12-8pm Bounce Houses, Family games & Food vendors

1pm Disney Characters

2pm Sack Race Competition

3-5pm Face Painting

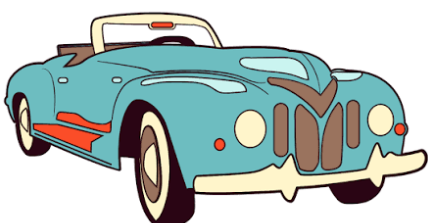
4pm Candy Grab at the Basketball Court

6pm Caribou Cares Parade *Theme 250th Birthday USA

Line up at 5-6pm at Skyway Plaza

6:30-8:30pm Classic Car Show on Bennett Drive

Disney Characters



 **CARIBOU**
Parks & Rec. Dept.



Driving Economic Growth in Aroostook County

Convening leadership, aligning resources, and advancing initiatives that strengthen Aroostook County's economy, workforce, and quality of place.

MISSION

The Aroostook Partnership aligns public and private leadership to drive economic growth, develop a competitive workforce, and position Aroostook County as a destination for talent and investment.

VISION

Aroostook County is a thriving regional economy that attracts bold investment, develops world-class talent, and delivers lasting prosperity.

Core Strategic Initiatives

Talent Attraction & Retention

The Aroostook Partnership leads regional efforts to attract and retain the workforce needed to support long-term economic growth. Through the Aroostook Rising initiative, we are developing a unified county brand, coordinated employer recruitment tools, targeted marketing campaigns, and newcomer engagement strategies that position Aroostook County as a destination to live, work, and thrive. Our website www.opportunitiesaroostook.com serves as a platform to showcase all that Aroostook County has to offer.

Workforce Development

We convene employers, educators, workforce organizations, and community partners to strengthen the region's talent pipeline and align workforce development efforts with employer needs. Signature programs such as Leadership Aroostook develop current and emerging leaders while fostering collaboration, professional growth, and long-term employee retention.

Policy & Regional Advocacy

The Aroostook Partnership serves as a unified regional voice on issues that affect economic competitiveness, workforce development, infrastructure, housing, childcare, and business growth. By engaging with state, federal, and regional partners, we advocate for policies and investments that strengthen Aroostook County's economy and improve its long-term competitiveness.

Supporting Regional Priorities

Housing & Childcare

Recognizing that workforce growth depends on strong communities, the Aroostook Partnership convenes partners to advance regional conversations around housing and childcare. While we are not a direct service provider, we bring together municipalities, employers, developers, and public agencies to identify solutions, share best practices, and support initiatives that improve quality of life for current and future residents.

2025–2026 Impact

- Secured **\$360,000 in federal funding** through the NBRC Catalyst and USDA Rural Development joint funding program for **Aroostook Rising**, a two-year regional talent attraction and retention initiative designed to fill workforce shortages across industries and increase newcomer integration and community building.
- Brought back **Aroostook Day at the Legislature** by hosting a **Legislative Lunch Briefing** at the Maine State House, engaging state lawmakers and Governor Janet Mills in discussions on childcare, housing, and energy - three critical issues impacting workforce attraction, business growth, and the region's economy.
- Convened the **2025 Aroostook County Housing Summit** and the **2026 Housing Seminar**, bringing together community leaders, developers, housing experts, investors, and federal/state partners. This allowed attendants to learn how to leverage tools and programs to spur housing development in their communities.
- Hosted the **Beyond Borders U.S.-Canada International Roundtable** and coordinated a **three-day County site visit by the Consul General of Canada to New England** increasing dialogue, trade, and collaboration across the region.
- Celebrated the **5th anniversary of Leadership Aroostook**, a 9-month professional development program led by Husson University and Aroostook Partnership. This year's graduating Epsilon Class developed final team projects that addressed current regional organizational challenges – adaptation of a responsible AI framework in the workplace and improving workforce culture and retention through leadership development.
- **Invested \$20,000** in the **Aroostook County Childcare Resource Center** as the second year of a three-year, \$60,000 commitment to strengthen childcare capacity and support workforce participation across Aroostook County.
- **Launched the Aroostook Women's Network (AWN)** professional networking forum for women across The County. This forum is led by a volunteer Steering Committee (Kiersten Purington, LeRae Kinney, Laurie LaFleur, Kristen Henry, Johanna Johnston, and Mackenzie Roy Hafford) with monthly meetings rotating through Southern, Central, and Northern Aroostook to ensure participation and access for women across Northern Maine.

Progress Starts with Partnership

Kiersten Purington, President & CEO

207-554-0680 | kpurington@aroostookpartnership.org

www.aroostookpartnership.org



Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' and Treasurers' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (In Maine) • 207-623-8428 • Fax 207-624-0128
www.mmtcta.org

July 15, 2026

Penny Thompson
City Manager
City of Caribou
PO Box 735
Caribou, ME 04736

Dear Penny:

Congratulations to the City of Caribou. The Maine Municipal Tax Collectors' and Treasurers' Association has approved Carl Grant as a re-certified Treasurer. This certification process has required many hours of dedication to achieve. The certification process requires that applicants receive training in a number of courses that relate to their field of expertise.

Carl will be recognized for receiving certification in the MMTCTA newsletter *Dollar\$ and Sense* and his certificate will be awarded at the 2027 MMTCTA Annual Conference.

The MMTCTA understands the investment of time and resources it takes to achieve this status. You may want to check with your insurance carrier to see if this would entitle you to a discount on your public official's liability insurance or bond insurance for this position. We encourage you to ask your insurance company and find out.

Congratulations once again!

Sincerely,

Danielle Berube
MMTCTA Vice President
MMTCTA Certification Committee Chair