

THE CITY OF CARIBOU PRESENTS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A BULLETIN FOR OUR VALUED CARIBOU BUSINESSES



**INTERESTED IN BEING
A PART OF CARIBOU'S
BROWNFIELD
REDEVELOPMENT
PROCESS?**



NEW ADDITIONS & UPDATES

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES TO CARIBOU!

Ay Ay Tacos, 117 Sweden Street

The County Barbershop, 169 High Street

The Granite Group, 408 Main Street

Carter's Property Maintenance, 24 Campground Rd.

After Hours Detailing, 26 Rose Street

Richie's, 46 Fort Street (New Location)

The City is looking for volunteers to be Brownfields Advisory Committee members to help oversee U.S. EPA Brownfields funding. Please reach out to Penny Thompson at pthompson@cariboumaine.org if you are interested or see page 4 of this Newsletter for more information on our Brownfields projects!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date and come experience the Best of Caribou!

The County's Oktoberfest



Saturday, September 12th



**Caribou
Municipal
Airport**

Caribou Rib Rumble



Saturday, September 19th



**Collins Pond
Park**

Walk for Hospice*



Saturday, September 19th



**Caribou High
School Track
& Trails**

Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 24th



**Caribou Rec.
Center - 55
Bennett Drive**

*** More information in flyer on page 6 of Newsletter**

September Spotlight: SKIN by Meghan Dinneen

Caribou businesses are at the heart of our community. This September, we are highlighting a business that has truly transformed Caribou, taking a previous eyesore and turning it into a thriving business that draws in customers from across the State and broader New England Region. Founded in 2018, **SKIN by Meghan Dinneen** is located at 149 Bennett Drive, and owned and operated by Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Meghan Dinneen. Meghan has over 13 years of experience in skin health and provides top-tier aesthetic care right here in Caribou.

Most recently, SKIN's services expanded to include a medical-grade hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) chamber. This equipment is extremely unique in Aroostook County and allows more oxygen to be delivered throughout the body - speeding up tissue repair and the healing process after surgery and in recovery. Come on in and say hello to Meghan and her team!



Want to promote your business, activities, or services? List your business for FREE on the Visit Caribou page at cariboumaine.org/visit. The City includes a QR code that links to the Visit Caribou website in ALL our Marketing Materials (Northern Maine ATV Map, Aroostook Official Travel Guide, Aroostook County Tourism, etc.)

Go to cariboumaine.org/visit and click the "Get Listed" link, or use your phone to scan this code and be taken directly to the business survey!

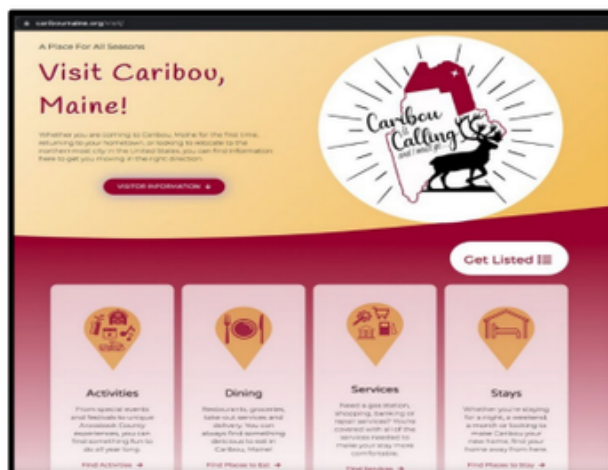




Photo Credit: Paul Cyr

Does your business need signage or exterior work?

The City of Caribou offers Facade Improvement Grants for Caribou businesses located in the Downtown and RC-2 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts. These areas generally encompass Sweden Street, High Street, Main Street (from Herschel Street southerly to Russ Street), Route 1, and Bennett Drive. Awards are a 50% match by the business, and can be up to \$7,500 for projects totaling \$15,000 or more. Apply by September 30th by using the application at cariboumaine.org/departments/developcaribou

CARE for our community.

ENVISION the future

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO
ERIC SANDERSON AT
ESANDERSON@CARIBOUMaine.ORG



Photo by Yuri Samayoa



Photo by Yuri Samayoa

Looking to Expand?

The Caribou Economic Growth Council (CEGC) has funds available to loan your business at prime rates. More information is available on the City's website at:

<https://www.cariboumaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CEGC-LOAN-PORTFOLIO.pdf>

<https://www.cariboumaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CEGC-PROGRAM-CHEAT-SHEET.pdf>

The first step is to speak to Northern Maine Development Commission who manages the application process. CECG meets monthly and is comprised of eight community members. Eligible business expenses include:

- Childcare facility costs
- Inventory costs
- Staffing to retain jobs in Caribou

For more information, please reach out to Eric Sanderson at (207) 498-5096 or esanderson@cariboumaine.org

GRANT UPDATES

STEAM & DIESEL PLANT REDEVELOPMENT

Caribou has been working with its partners at EPA through another brownfields grant to clean up contamination at the steam and diesel plants along the Aroostook River on Lower Lyndon Street. The Diesel Plant has been demolished and now The City has hired Sevee & Maher Engineers to be the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to oversee the steam plant project, which could start demolition work in Fall 2026.



Pictured: Caribou Brownfields Project - Diesel Plant Demolition on Lower Lyndon Street, with Steam Plant in the Background

MOCA Maine Office of
Community Affairs



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION (NBRC)

The City has used NBRC funds to purchase the former Caribou B&A Train Station and the Starch Plant at the end of Water Street. These purchases will be instrumental in riverfront redevelopment and the Riverfront Master Plan. The next meeting to review the Draft Plan will be on Thursday, September 24th at 5:30PM in City Council Chambers

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Caribou was awarded a Housing Opportunity Program (HOP) Grant by the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The HOP grant funded a Housing Action Plan, which outlines the City's next steps to incentivize and create needed housing in Caribou. The Plan is viewable at: cariboumaine.org/decd-housing-opportunity-program. With the Plan done, the City has received another \$10,000 HOP grant to update the Zoning Ordinance per the findings of the Housing Plan.

BIRDSEYE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Caribou received EPA Brownfields funds to remediate hazards at 27 Birdseye Ave. The City has hired a Qualified Environmental Professional to oversee the project and an underground tank is scheduled to be removed on September 14th. Caribou staff are now working with EPA's Planning consultant, ICF, to perform an entirely grant funded Marketing Analysis of the site to create additional commercial development on the site.

WATER STREET CLEANUP

The City has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to receive \$500,000 in Assessment funding and engineering review for multiple sites, including 7 Water Street, which had previously had a Phase I Environmental Assessment completed after it burned down. Some of the \$500,000 will be allocated to cleanup and additional assessment of the property, which is now owned by the City.

MAINEDOT PLANNING PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (PPI)

The City has also worked with MaineDOT on a PPI study for improvements to the transportation network to support development along the Route 1 corridor. The City Council approved TIF funds as the City's match and an RFP to solicit proposals is expected to go out this Fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Announcements

Do you have any suggestions to promote our small businesses? Does your business wish to participate or be included in informational materials distributed by City Staff for any of the below events in Caribou? Please contact Eric Sanderson at esanderson@cariboumaine.org if you or your business is interested!

Events

Tuesday, September 1st- 15th - Have a new business idea you've been thinking about? New Ventures Maine is hosting a free Business Basics class in Van Buren! The three week class will cover the basics of starting a business, including looking at your idea and putting together a business plan! Hosted Tuesdays, September 1st-15th from 10AM-2PM at the Connect Center, 51 Main Street, Van Buren, ME. The class is free and open to Maine adults! To sign up, call (207) 768-9468 or go to newventuresmaine.org/classes/

Saturday, September 12th - Oktoberfest at Caribou Municipal Airport, 12 Airport Drive. Sponsored by the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit: <https://centralaroostookchamber.com/chamber-events/the-countys-oktoberfest/>

Tuesday, September 15th - Maine Dept. of Economic & Community Development workshop on Growing Your Business Regional Trade Markets. Explore tools that can help Maine businesses grow and identify their next customer and market! Held at the Northeastland Hotel, 436 Main Street in Presque Isle. Register at <https://www.addevent.com/calendar/2t9d2kdmf0x7>

Saturday, September 19th - Walk for Hospice at Caribou High School Track & Trails, 308 Sweden Street. Join Aroostook House of Comfort for the 4th Annual Walk for Hospice to raise funds for a great cause, promote community awareness, and celebrate the lives impacted by hospice. This event is friendly for all ages and abilities! **Is your business interested in participating as a team or being an event sponsor?** For more information contact Abbey Clair of House of Comfort at (207) 229-2053 or abbey@aroostookhouseofcomfort.org. The event flyer can also be found on page 6 of this newsletter below.

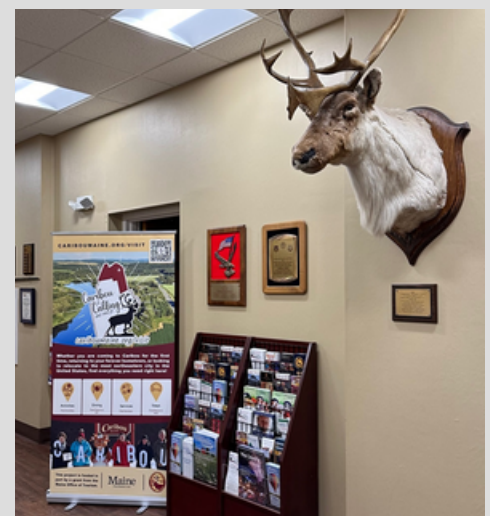
Saturday, September 19th - Caribou Rib Rumble, Collins Pond Park, 27 Caribou Street. 11 Teams and Counting! Free Entry! Presented by the City of Caribou Public Works Department

Saturday, October 3rd - Full Throttle ATV Fair at Spud Speedway. Come out for Mud Drags, Pulls, & Race for Glory!

Saturday, October 17th - Halloween Howler at Spud Speedway. Come see Stock Car Racing Featuring a 100 Lap Street Stock Race, Awards Party & Trunk or Treat
See flyer below on page 7 for more information

Saturday, October 24th - Trunk or Treat, Caribou Parks & Recreation Department, 55 Bennett Drive.

REMINDER: The City has an informational kiosk in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Businesses are welcome to drop off cards or tri-fold pamphlets for members of the public to view and pick up. Full page flyers do not fit as well in the kiosk.



All events can be viewed on the Caribou Calendar at: <https://www.cariboumaine.org/caribou-calendar/>



AROOSTOOK
House of Comfort

P.O. Box 867
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 299-2053

abbey@aroostookhouseofcomfort.org
www.aroostookhouseofcomfort.org



EVENT SPONSOR PRESENTS

WALK *for* HOSPICE

Aroostook House of Comfort

SEPTEMBER 19TH

RunSignUp.com/AHOCwalk

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation, owner of the Aroostook House of Comfort, is excited to announce the 4th Annual Walk for Hospice! We are grateful to our Event Sponsor, Greenlaw Electric, LLC for their generous support in making this year's event possible!



"Greenlaw Electric is a small business located in Fort Fairfield, Maine. I believe it is very important as a successful business, to give back to the community that we live in

and help in any way that we can. The Walk for Hospice is a great opportunity to do exactly that. The Aroostook House of Comfort is such an important part of our community and impacts so many families' lives when they need it most." - Michael Greenlaw, owner of Greenlaw Electric, LLC

Join us **Saturday, September 19th**, to raise funds for the Aroostook House of Comfort, promote community awareness, and celebrate the lives of those impacted by hospice. Your generosity allows us to offer individuals and their families comfort, compassionate care, dignity, and support on their journey through hospice.



General Info

Place: Caribou High School Track & Trails
308 Sweden Street, Caribou

Date: Saturday, September 19th

Time: 8:00 am - 10:30 am

For more information, please visit our website or call Abbey Clair at (207) 299-2053.



Online Registration

Registration Fee: \$25

Children (12 & under): Donations accepted

All participants, including children, must be registered individually or as part of a team. Registration is open through the morning of the event.

For employers interested in sponsoring a team, please contact Abbey Clair, Executive Director, for more details.

Prizes & Fundraising

Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win two GCI Outdoor Comfort Pro Rocker Chairs, an Igloo Latitude 60 Qt. 2-Wheeled Cooler, and a custom-milled S.W. Collins cornhole set complete with accessories. This bundle is generously sponsored by S.W. Collins Co. and valued at approximately \$900.



All participants receive a commemorative medal! Trophies will be awarded to the Top Individual and Top Team Fundraiser. For added fun, create a custom t-shirt in memory of a loved one for a chance to win an Individual Spirit Award or Team Spirit Award. Visit our Walk website for more info on fundraising!



SPUD SPEEDWAY

OUTDOOR MOTORSPORTS EVENT CENTER



DON'T MISS THE
ZIP LINE!



COTTON
CANDY



SNOCONES



ICE CREAM

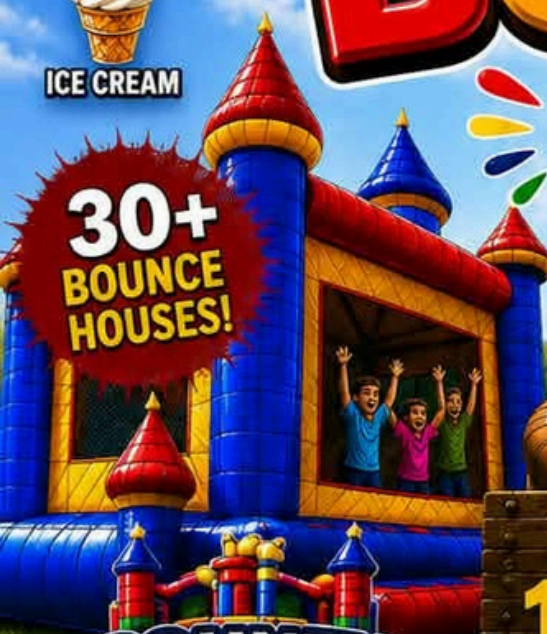
DUSTBOWL

CARIBOU, MAINE

BOUNCE CITY

THE ULTIMATE KIDS PLAY ZONE!

30+
BOUNCE
HOUSES!



DUNK
TANK



COUNTY
INFLATABLES

SEPTEMBER
18 ★ 19 ★ 20
FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



OBSTACLE
COURSES



SLIDES
BIG & SMALL



MULTIPLE
THEMES



10+
GAMES



ROCK
WALL



MECHANICAL
BULL



DUNK
TANK

⇒ FUN FOR ALL AGES! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! ⇐

BOUNCE ★ CLIMB ★ SLIDE ★ PLAY ★ REPEAT!

SPUDSPEEDWAY.COM

The Caribou City Council prioritizes our Caribou businesses!

When making their 2026 priorities, the Caribou City Council gave City administration a clear directive about fighting blight and promoting economic development activities!

Please reach out to City Manager Penny Thompson, or Economic Development Specialist Eric Sanderson with your questions, comments, or concerns. The City staff is grateful for the support of the Council and residents and is always happy to hear from you!



2026 CARIBOU CITY COUNCIL FROM LEFT: DAN BAGLEY, TAMARA LOVEWELL, DEPUTY MAYOR JODY SMITH, MAYOR COURTNEY BOMA, LORI KNIGHT PHAIR, JENNIFER KELLEY, PAUL WATSON



City of Caribou
Economic Development
25 High Street
Caribou, Maine 04736
www.cariboumaine.org