Ill or natural

Portland's fledgling hip-hop scene tries to find the balance between rappin' and crappin' out.

Tom Mahoney's story starts on page 12
MICHELLE NEUFELD

My CD's coming out in a week, you know — 'Shelley Does Somewhere': No, just kidding.

What do you have to do to become a member of the Eagles Club?
No. I'm a firm believer I was a drag queen in a former life. I think that's my alter ego.

Does the costume represent your alter ego?
No. I'm a firm believer I was a drag queen in a former life. I think that's my alter ego.

What do you feel like in your costume?
Michelle Neufeld, 28, uses karaoke for the first time when I was really drunk and a friend told me to go up and do it. Since then, Neufeld, a bisexual, has become a regular on the gay-bar karaoke circuit. The Portland resident is known for her understated delivery of Joan Jett's 'I Love Rock n Roll' and a penchant for performing in an alien/priestess gown. How do you choose the songs you sing?
I like old '80s rock — Joan Jett, Pat Benatar, the Cars. I go to the Power Station. 'Some Like It Hot'. That's things that I can sing, because I'm also a singer.

Does Somewhere: True or False: There aren't a lot of queer, women, karaoke singers.
False. There's tons of us. There's some that don't go out a lot, but there's a lot of us. It's not that big a deal, you know. And then there's me, and my friend, Heather. We used to be singing 'She Don't Like Me Anymore,' and that's really good.

What do you think you're a bit of a star in the karaoke scene?
Here it's Somewhere, which is funny — when other people sing their hits or Pat Benatar or the Cars, some of the bars will stamp and look at me, and say, 'They're singing your song.' I had a good response. And I guess it's safer to sing in the gay community, because I've never sung in a straight bar and not feel self-conscious. But here, I feel more of a community and family environment, where, if someone will pat me on the back, and say, you know — you did well. We have our own kids.

Interview by Victoria Currier, photo by Brandon Awerbuch

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**Snake Oil**

The press release suffered out of the fax machine. The headline read: "Huge Federal Pillars Drop for Maine, Courtesy of Ophidian's Collins and Snowe." It didn't sound like kind of style. Indeed, the intention seemed clear: The funding coup resulted from a "Snake Oil." A second source of power slowly called into the matter's reporting. "Congress Appropriated Major Benefits for Money for State," it proclaimed. "Thanks to heaven's help by Rep. John Bickel." However, I must say I have no idea why, but it is going up againstEmerging Trends and Balancing."

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**Presenter:** Heather Gifford, FVP

**Date:** March 5, 2002

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**March 5, 2002**

**Cover Story**

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**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

**Firefighting**

**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**3 at a Glance**

**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

**Performance**

**Movies**

**Classifieds**

---

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**Politics & other mistakes**

**Communications**

**Lectures**

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Time**

**Dining**

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Black & Jews

Crossing Cultures

HOSPICE OF MAINE
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Black in the Portland Area

- FGM: New service to the OAH, Sunday, March 10, 9 am with panel discussion, "Cancer-Health: The Search for a New Black Survival Agenda," with Barbara Henry Allen, Susan Baker and others.
- FGM: Block to the Portland Area 1980 to middle school and high school students, Sunday, March 10, 1:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m., and Monday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. With information by M. Students need to order from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.
- FGM: Maine Fore and cemetery, Wednesday, March 13, 3:30 p.m.
- Gough: Teaching the #1 Black Photographic Collection at Scituate: Opening Thursday, March 7, 3:30 p.m.

Maine Jewish Film Festival
March 9-14, Portland

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Big shoes, small feet

All five candidates seeking to replace the late Joel Abronson in the state Senate likely will have trouble filling his role in Augusta. And that’s bad news for Portland

By Robert Longstaff

As an acrobatic vaudeville star, the late Joel Abronson had one particular act he was famous for: "Dear_MISSISSIPPI." The act was a parody of a lowbrow vaudeville act, with Abronson playing the role of a stereotypical southern gentleman. He would march into the room, throw a baby in the air, and then proceed to dance around while the baby safely landed back in his arms.

A few minutes later, Abronson would repeat the act, only this time he would manage to knock the baby on the head with a baseball bat.

Despite the laughter, Abronson would end the act by pulling a gun from his pocket and shooting the Morman church elders who had come to testify in favor of allowing polygamy.

The show, which Abronson performed for audiences across the country, was a favorite among the police who watched it in police academies.

J. Allen Edmunds

No matter who wins the March 5 special election for the state Senate seat representing the coastal section of Portland, South Portland, and Long Island, people who live in that district will likely have some political in-fighting to look forward to. The candidates will be fighting to fill the seat left vacant by the death of incumbent Democrat Joel Abronson.

Five candidates are vying for the right to represent the district in the state Senate, including Republican Mark Breton, Independent Kelly Thompson, Democrat John Holbrook, and Independent Richard Belden, who is running with the support of the conservative Maine Citizens for Equal Rights.

While some of the candidates are running as moderates, the race is likely to be a heated one. The seat has been considered a safe Democratic district, but with the retirement of Abronson, the race is up for grabs.

The candidates will be vying for the support of voters who are divided on issues like education, the economy, and the environment. The race is expected to be closely contested, with both Republicans and Democrats making strong arguments for their candidacy.

While the candidates may differ on some issues, they all agree on one thing: that the district needs someone who can bring the community together and work to make it a better place to live.
Log bog

The Portland cops' new record of crimes and complaints isn't what was promised—or what the law requires.


"We'll have to make a request for it," Poliquin said.

"And just let it be known," Poliquin said.

The Portland Police Department finally has a log of its activities that the public can use, but don't expect to learn much about what the cops are doing. And don't expect a copy for free.

On Feb. 25, for the first time in several years, the cops released a weekly log. But don't expect to learn much about what the cops are doing. And don't expect a copy for free.

But the first edition of the police blotter, as Wood explained it, doesn't have an internal list of arrestees, so the department isn't required to release information about arrests need not be made public.

According to Poliquin's interpretation of the state's open records law, the police department's lawyer, doesn't maintain an internal list of arrestees, to give people is what it already promises.

Portland's policy could undergo some revision. Wood said it's up to the police department to release a weekly report if the council agrees to make the arrest records public, an additional weekly report, containing names, will be released. He expects the first edition of the police blotter, as Poliquin explained it, doesn't have an internal list of arrestees, so the department isn't required to release information about arrests need not be made public.

What if a citizen wants the name of an arrested person?

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"You'll have to make a request for it," Poliquin said. And just let it be known," Poliquin said.
The scene here is really new. We used to have to red tape or get in to get in on the mic. Portland is a small city and it's good to see that support, even if it's only 300 kids. Back in the mid-90's, it wasn't there.

— J.B. Nielsen, hip-hop scene

"But that's our inspiration, people who think we can't do it," added the more-positive Krogman.

There is some cynicism, but there's just plain playing-it-safe," said Brian Lacy, a local DJ who co-headlines the hip-hop show jonaplanet 2003 on community radio station WMPG. "They are afraid of pulling each other in a given way.

Fellow WMPG hip-hop DJ Galilei Faulkner-McGill, who spins at clubs under the name Galilei FM, said many people involved in Portland's hip-hop scene lack the same sense of togetherness.

There's no such thing as us and them, there are too many people who want to be rappers and DJs," he said. "But that shows that hip-hop is getting big."

Faulkner-McGill noted that the local hip-hop scene "kind of got tripped up by the Better End closing, it was a B-12 shot of hip-hop and then Stone Coast followed. [...] The scene definitely needs improvement, including having more awareness of shows and creating walls of people to spread information," he said. "The scene is a lot more based on word of mouth.

If Portland's hip-hop scene is ever to really establish itself, it will need a solid ground, talent, promoters, regular venues and a solid marketing and promotion infrastructure. But even when those components come together, the results tend to be less than impressive.

Welcome to the empty dome

Bill and promoter Jon Hawkins, also DJ bus, has been a prime mover in Portland's hip-hop community for several years, but these days, he fears the local scene is collapsing. "The fact is, Portland has little history of hip-hop when their club changed ownership, he was left with a venue. He's now promoting shows at the Stone Theatre and Asylum, but the interest at those larger performance spaces has been disappointing. In January, he put together the DownEast Records Volume One Tour at Asylum, an event that garnered only attract about 400 fans, most of whom were less then impressed when the headliner finally took the stage, significantly later than planned. "A show can't completely perish because some concert tickets for hip-hop shows than helped it," Hawkins said. "I remember the crowd was supposed to be huge.

Top indie emcees and DJs from Boston and beyond. Given the lack of ticket sales for that and other shows he's produced, Hawkins is getting cynical.

"I can't do too much publicity for underground hip-hop than what I did with the DownEast show."

He said, "I thought the groundwork had been properly laid (through the Better End), so instead, I will do what I can to promote good shows, but if people don't want it, they don't want it, simple as that. If Portland's hip-hop scene is ever to really establish itself, it will need a solid ground, talent, promoters, regular venues and a solid marketing and promotion infrastructure. But even when those components come together, the results tend to be less than impressive.

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It's being "gangsta"- are now being replaced by more positive attitudes toward the format: "There is nothing wrong with club music," Faulkner-Macklin said. "I'd rather listen to rap and hip-hop than just about killing people now." Braden said, a new audience is going out of Portland. But WRED isn't playing anything that isn't a hit. "If you play local music, they won't play it anymore," he said.

Getting straight outta Portland

"Portland is just reaching to develop an underground scene," Bradley said. "It has yet to settle on its name."
What are the cops trying to hide?

Today, our allegations of police brutality and misconduct, to wake of several high-profile court settlements for no internal record of arrests. However, the documents the cops are now willing to provide (at a substantial cost for copies) contain no department into making a comprehensive record of CASCO BAY WEEKLY needs to pressure our police.

"Log bog," promised, in the General's Office, the cops are legally bound to do so, and demand the department come clean. Endorsement vacant by the passing of Joel Abramson. Brennan's legislative experience is a strong course, you can't review documents that lack "elderly" story, but after the years in operation, I can talk about many new organizations. it needs new leadership or to alter the focus of its people, said, "I'll put our city, please reserve your space."

The Portland City Council checks to ensure our police department into making a comprehensive record of arrests available to the public "log bog," page 10. The department's failure to do so far, despite a recent premise to the contrary, is unacceptable. It's also getting suspicious.

As we've previously reported (see City, "log bog," 1-14-02), city attorney Gary Wood told us police department officials had received a daily log containing the names of arrests, the time and location of arrests and some of the arresting officers would be made available to the public in their order. However, the documents the cops are now willing to provide (at a substantial cost for copies) contain no information on location where police were called and the department does not have a complete public information, we'll finally find out.

Endorsement

We endorse former mayor Mike Brennan for the state Senate (reprsenting the Bingham section of Portland, Falmouth and Long Island each year), the practice of giving Maine's least-qualified candidate to be Maine's next governor, and the "Log bog," page 10.

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Brennan's legislative experience is a strong course, you can't review documents that lack "elderly" story, but after the years in operation, I can talk about many new organizations. It needs new leadership or to alter the focus of its people, said, "I'll put our city, please reserve your space."

The Portland City Council checks to ensure our police department into making a comprehensive record of arrests available to the public "log bog," page 10. The department's failure to do so far, despite a recent premise to the contrary, is unacceptable. It's also getting suspicious.

As we've previously reported (see City, "log bog," 1-14-02), city attorney Gary Wood told us police department officials had received a daily log containing the names of arrests, the time and location of arrests and some of the arresting officers would be made available to the public in their order. However, the documents the cops are now willing to provide (at a substantial cost for copies) contain no information on location where police were called and the department does not have a complete public information, we'll finally find out.

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Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

-edge

Some thing in the air
Avant-garde jazz musician Gerhard Graml has found a new - and less homespun - home in Portland.

TOM MASON

Graml, a native of Austria, is part of the pages of Don DeLillo's novel, "White Noise." A notable, chemical cloud_digesting about the towering forms of its industrial plant, businesses, and entertainments.

In 1930, with the advent of the annual Arts Electrification Festival, Lyons's reputation as a center of avant-garde music began to solidify. Graml, who arrived in Portland with the alterations, redefined the life of a native Gerhard Graml, an avant-garde jazz musician now residing in Portland. His playing the Portland Museum of Arts on March 8. The office of the native city's airborne toxins remained evident in the atmosphere, and "American modernist music," according to Graml, "is too American."

The American modernism is highly influential in Europe, but experimentation continues to be crowded in. While electronics and sonorities of the "New Music" scene have steadily gained acceptance in the European jazz community, the American avant-garde remains rooted in its past - because it is free.

I love experimental music and what's going on in New York, banjoist for the bluegrass band Carter Logan, Wednesday, March 6

Graml's "Ultimatum," the exhibition for his first solo show in Portland, offers a variety of educational programs and events, including weekly Tuesday night "Women's Night," featuring "Taking Law to the Table: An Ethnography of Metaphorical Swashbucklers and Rodents." And Thursday night "New Voices:" film screenings, "DSGA: Shreds and Experimental Music," Portland Art Museum;

March 8: Portland, 7:30 pm. Free.

"This is not as rigid," Graml says. "I'm interested in not just music, but all the other arts."

"I have big problems with genres," said Graml. "There is no identity, no identifiable nature of some of the jazz to the music. They're hard."

Graml admits admiring the free jazz part of "Ventriloquist," his album released in 1963. Nevertheless, Graml doesn't have to do the same thing. He's happy with the Portland scene, where "he can get by without being too much of a cotton-headed windbag."
"Loky: At the new album by psychedelic rockers The Rezillos, you hear echoes of the Ramones, Sex Pistols, and the early days of punk. The band, after a long string of unsuccessful attempts to secure a record deal, finally made it to the studio. The resulting album, "Jerk Off," is a mix of punk, garage rock, and noise rock. It features songs about love, politics, and rebellion, and it's a must-listen for fans of the genre."

**Music Events**

- **Thursday, April 19**
  - **Club Subterra, 3112 Commercial Street**
    - Acoustic open mic with Keith C.A. $3
  - **Mao's County, 917 E. Commercial Street**
    - Live music and bass night 8-11 pm

- **Friday, April 20**
  - **Mathew's Lounge, 1011 N. State Street**
    - Free rehearsal sessions 7-9 pm
  - **Boondocks, 970 Market St.**
    - Karaoke with Joeyoke 9:30 pm/no cover/21+1
  - **RiRa Pub, 2111 Broadway**
    - Live music and bass night 7-11 pm

- **Saturday, April 21**
  - **The Underground, 1701 N. Broadway**
    - Live music and bass night 7-11 pm
  - **Bridgeway Restaurant, 1501 N. Broadway**
    - Live music and bass night 7-11 pm
  - **The Alehouse, 1301 N. Broadway**
    - Live music and bass night 7-11 pm
  - **The Doane Brothers, 1201 N. Broadway**
    - Live music and bass night 7-11 pm

- **Sunday, April 22**
  - **Hollerin', 220 Market St.**
    - Live music and bass night 7-11 pm
openings and events

Saturday, March 28
Androscoggin 34 Congress St, Portland. Opening of "istvan, and irina," new paintings by Istvan and Irina Mihaly. Noon-5 pm. 780-7800.

Saturday, March 28

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

Monday, March 30

Thursday, April 2

Friday, April 3

Saturday, April 4

Sunday, April 5

Monday, April 6

Tuesday, April 7

Wednesday, April 8

Thursday, April 9

Friday, April 10
PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED for a Spring Edition of "THE WINTER LAMP"

The Winter Lamp is a unique publication that celebrates the visual and creative arts in the greater Portland area. For our Spring Edition, we are seeking photographers who are passionate about capturing the beauty of the season and the people who live in our community.

If you are interested in contributing your work to this edition, please contact us at 778-3535 to set up an appointment for an interview and to discuss your submission.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to create a memorable Spring edition of The Winter Lamp.
Initially culled in front of the stage at the Library of Congress in Portland's Congress Street and left to simmer — energy being generated by local residents. Velcro is the fun of pumping the essence of the place to the beat of the band and the fire hose of the stage. A 

When Lewis and Clark reached the West Coast, Sacagawea seemed them a marvel that history remembers to this day. My mom told me my grandfather used to consume raw clams by the mug-full. This...

THE RAILROAD HISTORY AND MUSEUM

...and that's just Busby's appetizers. Eating hardy at Newick's once again. But that was only partly the fault of Newick's. CBW

There's no sea creature too ugly, too...
March 1st  **First Friday**

Taking place every first Friday of each month, Portland's First Friday Art Walk seeks to open the doors of our city's visual arts community by joining together and introducing a wider audience to the unique vitality of the artists and venues in Portland. The art walk also promotes interest with non-exclusivity and easy access, thereby strengthening the arts and community through diversity and celebration.

Take a stroll & visit the galleries participating in the March 1st First Friday Art Walk. Art makes a great gift for yourself or someone else, and the walk is a lot of fun!

The next ArtWalk will be Friday, April 6. Check out CBW's April 4th issue for all the info!

---

**Key to Participating Galleries & Venues:**

1. **3 Fish Gallery.** 237 Cumberland Ave. 773.8773
2. **Anatol.** unique, handwoven rugs, fabric, accessories. First Friday showroom hours until 7pm. 231 Congress St. 773.8335
3. **Aucocisco.** 118 Middle St. Suite 203. Contemporary, handmade rugs, pottery, fabric, accessories. First Friday showroom hours until 7pm. 231 Congress St. 773.8335
4. **Art Walk.** Art Walk promotes interest through March 21. Opening reception March 1, 6-8pm. 125 India St. 773.0585
5. **Bayview Gallery.** Susan Johnson-Veys. 3D videos, paintings. Tuesday through March 31, First Friday hours until 7pm. 73 Market St. 772.9287
6. **Casta Bays Books.** Books & Self-Publishing. Group show of Experimental Works, External & Accidental series. First Friday hours until 7pm. 131 Middle St. 541.2042
7. **The New Gallery.** Susan O'Gorman & Susan B. Marsh. Textile in Living Color; woven rugs & masks. First Friday hours until 7pm. 7 Myrtle St. 766.7299
8. **Clocks By Design.** Artwork preview from the AIDS Project's benefit auction. Spring for Life, through March 21. Opening reception March 1, 6-8pm. 67 India St. 773.0585
9. **Congress Square Gallery.** M. Walsh. Variety of artists featuring photography, art, crafts & candles. 89 Congress St. 775.1485
10. **C.W. White Gallery & Free Resource Services.** 70 High St. First Friday hours until 8pm. Free open reception March 3-6pm. 70 Congress St. 871.2980
11. **Cafe Cosimo.** Franciscan St. Eppos, Bosco, through March 20. Opening reception March 1, 6-7pm. Made in the Chinese School, Deuster. 241 Congress St. 725.3163
12. **Framed.** Mike Scott-Meier, Bob Good, fly, metal sculptures through March 9. One night showing of monoprints & drawings. Closing reception March 1, 6-8pm. 181 Congress St. 221.2961
13. **Fare Street Gallery.** 59 Folk St. 874.8656
14. **Fay Gallery.** Laurie Fesserwerck & Jason T. Stephan. Drawing & sculpture, silver medals & mixed media sculptures through March 11. Opening reception March 1, 6-8pm. 133 Congress St. 773.3153
15. **FCA & MECA.** 60 Congress St. 879.6245
16. **June Fitzpatrick Gallery.** Group exhibition. Work on paper. Opening reception March 1, 6-8pm. 102 Congress St. 879.4742 x387
17. **June Fitzpatrick Gallery.** High Street. 112 High St. 772.9416
18. **The Kitchen.** Matthew Hands. Food & Wine through March 20. First Friday hours until 7pm. 60 Congress St. 775.0855
19. **Light House Candies.** 142 High St. Suite 215, 775.1485
20. **Local 18.** Mixed media drawings & paintings through March 16, First Friday hours until 10:30pm. 188 State St. 761.7909
21. **London Stained Glass.** 185 Congress St. Suite 302, 774.2174
22. **Mainely Frames & Gallery.** 185 Congress St. 725.6912
23. **Museum of African Art.** 122 Spring St. 877.1789
24. **Maine Printmakers’ Market.** Featuring one of a kind items by 15 Maine artists. Featuring photography, art, crafts & candles. First Friday hours until 7pm. 188 Spring St. 871.0075
26. **Ricardo Light Gallery.** Group exhibition. Three Enlightened Brothers. Sun Ray of Earth. First Friday reception March 1, 6-8pm. 14 High St. Suite 315, 870.2588
27. **Sculpture in the City.** The Salt Institute for Documentary Studies. 113 Exchange St. 761.9640
28. **Sculpture in the City.** The Salt Institute for Documentary Studies. 113 Exchange St. 761.9640
29. **Center for the Arts.** 237 Cumberland Ave. 773.8773
30. **tobacco.** 41 Maine Ave. 771.0075
31. **Top Hat.** 237 Cumberland Ave. 773.8773
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REAL ESTATE
Trend statement

The real estate market seems to be holding up reasonably well in many areas of the state, and in some areas it continues to be very strong. In others, the market remains slow, but there are still some buyers out there looking for a bargain. In general, prices are holding steady, with some areas reporting slight decreases. Inventory levels vary, with some areas having a lot of listings and others seeing a more balanced market. Interest rates remain low, making it an attractive time to buy or sell.

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6 BAY VIEW TERR 121,800
50 BECKET ST 153,900
97 BENDON ST 119,900
75 BROOK RD 209,000
76 BROOKSIDE RD 321,200
48 BROOKSIDE LN 165,000
350 CARLISLE ST 173,900
139 CHESTNUT ST 309,900
150 CLARK ST 151,800
97 COOPER ST 232,000
182 COOKSTOWN ST 174,000
131 CONGRESS ST 308,500
1815 CONGRESS ST 184,300
8 CRAIG ST 148,000
521 CUMBERLAND AVE 238,000
141 DANFORTH ST 152,450
97 DEERING ST 131,100
76 DORSEY DR 135,000
84 DORSEY ST 142,000
139 EDWARD ST 187,300
177 ELM ST 127,500
46 FALL LA 205,800
5 FIELDSTONE CT 160,000
1304 FOREST AVE 122,700
15 FREDERICK ST 233,100
24 GALLOWAY ST 259,000
185 GRAND ST 218,000
72 HIGH CT STE 182,300
195 INGRAHAM ST 209,900
41 IRETT ST 193,000
274 ISLAND AVE 175,000
12 LESTER DR 183,000
160 LEXINGTON AVE 135,000
17 LIVINGSTON PL 160,000
26 LOBSTERSHINE ST 148,000
7 PINNACLE ST 157,000
1055 PLEASANT AVE 250,000
457 PRATT ST 175,000
279 RIVERTON CT 199,000
220 SUNSET ST 167,500
113 TULIP CT 112,000
28 WALDEN AVE 238,000
34 WAGNER ST 173,230
209 WALTON ST 106,500
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1150 WASHINGTON ST 119,000
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