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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WMPG 50th birthday bash - Oct, 14th at McGoldrick Student Center, Portland Campus, USM 6- 9pm
Music - Food - Friends - Film - Fun!**

Portland, Maine - Oct 2023 - WMPG, Portland's beloved college/community radio station, is excited to celebrate its 50th anniversary of broadcasting exceptional programming to the vibrant community of listeners in Maine.

WMPG began in 1971 as a pirate radio station at the University of Southern Maine (USM), previously known as UMPG (University of Maine Portland Gorham). Howard Allen, a USM student stuck an antenna out of his dorm window, used bits from a washing machine as his first console, and successfully broadcast his music throughout the Gorham campus. With the help of USM officials and our friends at Maine Public Broadcasting Network, WMPG successfully broadcast its first legal radio signal on August 31st, 1973 at 11.00am.

The 50th birthday party will start with a short parade from WMPG to the new McGoldrick Student Success Center. The Ideal Maine Social Aid and Sanctuary Band will head the parade at 5.30pm. Then at the McGoldrick Student Success Center from 6pm there will be food and beverages reception with live jazz from the Marc Chillemi Quintet. Following that at 7pm WMPG will premiere the screening of a documentary film on WMPG (produced and directed by local filmmaker Tom Bell). From 7:30pm on there will be DJ's from past and present entertaining the crowd and an opportunity to view WMPG history on our displays and special museum style website:50.wmpg.org which will be launched on the 14th.

Schedule:

- 5:30pm - A parade from WMPG's studio at 92 Bedford Street to McGoldrick Student Success Center led by The Ideal Maine Social Aid and Sanctuary Band.
- 6pm - Food and drinks reception. Music from the jazz band, the Marc Chillemi Quintet.
- 7pm - Premiere screening of a documentary film on WMPG (working title: An Extraordinary Place). Produced and directed by local filmmaker, Tom Bell.
- 7:30-9pm - Music from WMPG's DJs. Mingling

For more information about WMPG through 50 years, please visit the station's website at wmpg.org

About WMPG

WMPG is a Non-Commercial Educational FCC licensed radio station owned by the University of Maine System, and is the premier community radio station of southern Maine. Located on the campus of the University of Southern Maine (USM) in Portland, Maine, WMPG broadcasts locally on 90.9FM. It also streams on wmpg.org, and on the WMPG app. WMPG celebrates 50 years of broadcasting this year!