



October 2016

Upcoming Events October

- 10/5 **Business Insider Breakfast**
7:30 - 9:00 a.m. @ The Senator
- 10/5 KLI Alumni, 11:00 a.m.
- 10/5 KLI Committee, 12:00 p.m.
- 10/12 **Business Expo**
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Maine Regulatory
Fairness Board
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Expo
@ Augusta Civic Center
- 10/13 **Women's Network Luncheon**
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
@ The Senator
- 10/19 **Business After Hours &
Chamber Annual meeting**
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. @ Darling's
- 10/28 **Special Chamber Breakfast**
Creating Civility in Politics
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
@ Governor Hill Mansion

November

- 11/2 KLI Committee, 12:00 p.m.
- 11/3 KV Chamber Board retreat 9:00 a.m.
- 11/3 KLI 30th Anniversary Celebration
5:30 p.m. @ Snow Pond
- 11/9 **Women's Network Luncheon**
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
@ The Senator
- 11/9 **Business After Hours**
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. @ Transco Business
Technologies
- 11/16 **Business Insider Breakfast**
7:30 - 9:00 a.m. @ The Senator

*bolded items are open to the public

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Your chance to be heard!

By Ross H. Cunningham

We are very excited to announce that the Maine Regulatory Fairness Board has agreed to hold their Fall meeting at the Augusta Civic Center on the evening of our Business Expo, October 12th from 3:30- 4:30 p.m.

The Maine Regulatory Fairness Board was established in 2003 to listen to testimony from small businesses (less than 50 employees) about issues related to regulatory statutes and rules that might negatively impact small businesses. The Board consists of 4 members from the small business community and is chaired by the Secretary of State.

The Board meets three times a year to hear from small businesses on their ideas and experiences with statutes and rule that create a burden on small

businesses. The Board is staffed by the Small Business Advocate, who works with small businesses to attempt to resolve issues with state agencies and regulatory impacts. The Advocate also advocates on statute and rule changes that would improve the regulatory burden on small businesses.

The meetings of the Regulatory Fairness Board are fairly informal conversations with businesses who have questions or issues about state regulations that impact their business. Testimony can be given in either oral or written form. The Board files an annual report with the legislature with recommended statutory changes that have arisen as a result of the work of the Small Business Advocate

and the meetings of the Regulatory Fairness Board.

In working with small businesses, I often hear that over regulation is causing undue burdens on how they operate. If you run a small business and feel that there need to be changes to regulations, please take the opportunity to attend this meeting of the Regulatory Fairness Board and make your voice heard.

Our legislators cannot make changes to how we operate if they do not hear first hand from business leaders like you. If you have any questions on this hearing or the Expo, please contact me directly and I will happy to get you some answers.



Business Insider October 5th

(EARLY DATE)

Legislative Candidates

Come join us as we invite the candidates for our Maine Senate and House of Representatives to come share a brief summary of their qualifications and their vision with our Business Leaders.

RSVP to Info@kennebecvalleychamber.com



Business Insider sponsors:



Women's
Network
October
13th

(THURSDAY
EVENT)



Breaking the Mold

Amanda Bartlett

Steve Jobs said, "The ones who think they are crazy enough to change the world are the ones that do." When Amanda Bartlett began leading Augusta Housing as Executive Director in 2013, the agency had never owned, managed or developed real estate. With a series of devastating fires and building closures, the agency was challenged to meet the growing needs of the community. Augusta Housing has since overcome all odds to become a multi-faceted housing resource and redefining the limits of what a housing authority can be. Come listen to Amanda Bartlett speak on how overcoming fear and "thinking big" will allow you to break your own mold and realize the best version of yourself and your business/ agency. RSVP to Info@kennebecvalleychamber.com

Women's Network sponsors:



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome & give your personal support to our newest members:

The Black & Tan *Irish Pub*

Stacey Shaw, 213-6218

Capitol Computers

Computer Support & Software Services
Amanda Weston, 623-2700
www.capcomp.com

Cusick's Auto Repair and Service, LLC

Automobiles Repair & Service
April Cusick, 629-5565

Ledgehill Photography

Portrait Studio
Kayte Churchill, 446-9585
www.ledgehillphotography.com

Red Door Title

Real Estate Title + Development
Ryan Wilford, 361-7514
www.reddoortitle.net

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Maine Turnpike Authority
McFarland Electric Inc.
Natanis Golf Club
Riley Engineering
Sugarloaf Resort and Conference Center
T-Mobile
White Flour Catering

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Gardiner Main Street
Maine & Co.
Manufacturers Assoc. of Maine
Richard O'Connor
Thomas College
The Advertising Specialists of Maine

ALSO RENEWING

Albison's Printing
Amy P. Trunnell, CPA
Augusta Housing Authority
CapitalGate Development, LLC
D R Designs, Inc.
Damon's Pizza & Italians
Day's Real Estate
Dimensions Web Design
Duncklee & Nott
Emery's Meat & Produce
Evergreen Dental
Gagnon Dental
Gary Crocker Maine Humorist
Goggin's IGA
Gray Brothers Grounds Care Inc.
Hutchings Electric
Kieve-Wavus Education, Inc.
Knowles Lumber Co.
Jack Skehan & Associates
Jobs for Maine's Graduates
Leah Haraden Photography
Minuteman Signs Inc.
Red Cloak Haunted History Tours
Sarah J. Dunkel & Associates
The Kyes Agency
The Maine Sportsman Magazine
The Gardiner Center for Stress Management

35+ YEARS

Augusta Tool Rental
Peachey Builders
PERFORMANCE Foodservice – NorthCenter

25+ YEARS

Caron's Collision Repair Center
City of Gardiner
Companion Animal Clinic
Eaton Peabody Consulting Group
Longfellow's Greenhouses

20+ YEARS

Coldwell Banker Rizzo Mattson
Realtors
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce
Kennebec Pharmacy & Home Care
Motor Supply Company
Sparetime Recreation
Town of Winthrop

15+ YEARS

Brookwood Realty
Housing Initiatives of New England
Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center
Maine Association of Broadcasters
Maine Principals' Association
Maine Restaurant Association
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Kennebec Leadership Institute 30th Anniversary Celebration!!!

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Come celebrate 30 years of leadership development and the creation of 437 graduate leaders in our community!

Keynote Speaker ~ Shawn Moody



Shawn Moody has been recognized for his business acumen, strategic planning, his ability to build dynamic teams, and for his unwavering devotion to people and community. He will share his thoughts on the value of strong leadership.

Food / Drink / Music / DJ / Dancing!

November 3rd, 2016 / 5:30 p.m.

Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Alumni Hall

\$25 per person / \$30 per couple

RSVP to info@kennebecvalleychamber.com



CEO Corner

Everywhere I look I see pumpkins and apples. It's just that time of year. Marketers are using some of our favorite things to promote their products.

We're doing the same thing here at the chamber. We are working hard to market the positive attributes of our region, and promoting your businesses as well, in an effort to enhance the image of our region.

With the recent announcement of Day's Jewelers returning to Augusta and several other developments, it appears our efforts are working! How do you like them apples?

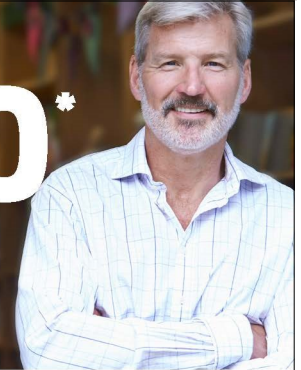


Ross Cunningham,
President & CEO

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Randall P. Cutri, DMD

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Thursday, October 27th
5-7 PM
Governor Hill Mansion

Featured Executives

	Luke Livingston Baxter Brewing Company	
	Sara Burns Central Maine Power	
	Rick Tardiff J.S. McCarthy Printers	
	Greg Dufour Camden National Bank	

CYNERGY IS BACK!

After spending the summer volunteering at the Augusta Soup Kitchen, Cynergy began their annual programming with a successful Speed Networking event at Bangor Savings Bank in September.

Their next event is a free CEO Panel that will take place on Thursday, October 27th from 5-7PM at Governor Hill Mansion. This year's event is expected to be bigger than ever, and the best news...

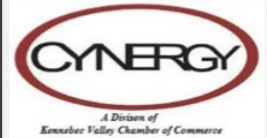
It's open to ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS!

RSVP today by emailing
cynergy@kennebecvalleychamber.com

SAVE THE DATE December 1, 2016

CYNERGY PRESENTS A NIGHT AT THE THEATER AT MONMOUTH

Cynergy will be hosting a cocktail party, meet and greet with the cast, and viewing of the theater's holiday show, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told... (And then some)*. Tickets go on sale at the CEO Panel. All Chamber members are welcome!



Cynergy Programming
Sponsored By:



Join us for a special Kennebec Valley Chamber breakfast
Friday, October 28, 2016
7:30 a.m. @ Governor Hill Mansion

Creating Civility in Maine State Politics

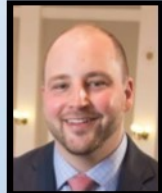
Featuring



State
Treasurer
Terry
Hayes



State
Senator
Roger
Katz



State
Representative
Matthew
Pouliot

These leaders have been recognized at a National level for promoting civility in politics in our great state. Come hear how they are changing conversations and relationships in the Maine Legislature.

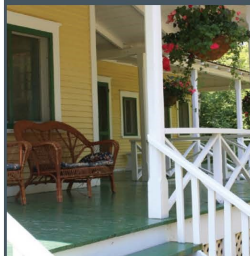
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**Wednesday, October 12, 2016
4:00pm to 7:00pm
Augusta Civic Center**

Standard Booth Price \$500

Member Rate \$345 • Premium Booth (members only) \$425

New this year! Online registration available:

KennebecValleyChamber.com/business-expo

Visit website for the most up to date registrations and booth assignments.

KV CHAMBER BUSINESS EXPO

Almost sold out!!!

Thank you to our amazing MAJOR partners!



\$1,000 Cash Grand Prize - sponsored by



Current Exhibitor List

As of 9/20/16

THANK YOU!!!

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Everett J. Prescott, Inc.
J.S. McCarthy

THANK YOU!!!

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TD Bank

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A-COPI

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Atlee Gleaton Eye Care

Augusta Airport/Cape Air

Augusta Civic Center

AFC - Augusta Fuel Company

Augusta Homewood Suites by Hilton

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Bangor Savings Bank

Better Business Bureau

Bonney Staffing Center

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Gardner

Burgess Technology Services

Camden National Bank

Capital Area Federal Credit Union

Capital Area Staffing Solutions, Inc.

Capitol Computers

Central Maine Power Co.

Children's Center Early Intervention & Family Support

Combined Benefits United

Comfort Inn Civic Center

Concord Coach Lines

Cross Insurance Agency

Cynergy

Darling's Augusta

Delta Ambulance

Dimensions Web Design

Disability Rights Maine/Maine Relay

Downtown Yoga & Healing Arts

DR Designs

Embrace Home Loans

Emery's Meat + Produce

Evergreen Dental Associates

FairPoint

Finance Authority of Maine

Gibson LeClair, LLC

Gasline Retirement Planning

Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center

Kaplan University

Kennebec Behavioral Health

Kennebec Networkers

Kennebec Savings Bank

Kennebec Valley Board of REALTORS

Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce

Kennebec Valley YMCA

Kents Hill School

KV Community College

KV Federal Credit Union

Lapointe Lumber Co. Inc.

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Moody's Collision Centers

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Smart EyeCare Center

Snow Pond Center for the Arts

Sugarloaf

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The Breathable Home

The Foster Agency

The Sherwin-Williams Co

Thomas College

Time Warner Cable Business Class

Townsquare Media

Transco Business Technologies

Tri-State Staffing, Inc.

United Fitness and Martial Arts

United Way of Kennebec Valley

University of Maine at Augusta

Vinyl Medics

Wellness Connection of Maine

Workplace Health/MaineGeneral Medical Center

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—SMART EYECARE CENTER

Smart EyeCare Center was started in 1990 by Dr. Richard Smart, and has since expanded to include 3 locations in Bangor, Farmingdale, and Augusta. A Corporate location was recently added in Farmingdale, housing several administrative functions. Smart EyeCare Center proudly employs 7 full-time Optometrists, supports 50 Maine families, and we are always welcoming new patients to be part of the Smart EyeCare Family!

Being voted *Best Eye Care* in central Maine for the past 16 years running is no coincidence either! We utilize the newest technologies, partnered with cutting-edge contact and spectacle lens design. The staff at Smart EyeCare Center prides themselves on being experts in their profession. We boast 11 Certified Paraoptometrics (CPO), 3 Certified Paraoptometric Assistants (CPOA), 2 Certified Paraoptometric Coders (CPOC), 4 Certified Paraoptometric Technicians (CPOT), 2 National Contact Lens Exam Certified (NCLEC), and a whopping 16 American Board of Optometry Certified (ABOC) Opticians! We also have an amazing I.T. Manager who has a decade of experience in managing small-business I.T., and is instrumental in our daily successes.

Our 2016 "Come See What's New!" initiative helped us reach out to communities throughout the state, supporting events such as the Whatever Festival and the Save ME From Lung Cancer 5K walk in November. We've donated to the Kennebec Valley Humane Society, worn jeans to support Breast Cancer Awareness, and most recently partnered with Viles Arboretum and the American Chestnut Foundation in reviving an endangered Chestnut Tree. We are invigorated by opportunities to engage within our communities and give back!!

We would love to share our enthusiasm with you! Stop in to any of our locations, visit our Facebook page, or check out our newly redesigned website to book an exam, fix up those old glasses, or just to see what the Smart EyeCare crew is up to next!



The Smart EyeCare Center staff celebrated their annual Staff Retreat at the YMCA Camp in Winthrop this September, and what a perfect day it was! Complete with sun, swimming, and lots of smiles, the group known for working hard together took some time to play hard together!



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Meet the Board:

Alec Rogers

Alec Rogers, the owner & General Manager of the Quality Inn & Suites Maine Evergreen Hotel on Whitten Road in Augusta, has worked in the hotel business for 23 years and has become a very familiar face at KVCC's Insider Breakfast meetings and around the Kennebec Valley region. Alec began his career in hospitality in LA in the early 1990's before moving to Maine and assuming management of the lodging property owned by the family of his bride-to-be, Julie Ingham. Alec and Julie worked to revive the family business to better position the property for sale, ultimately deciding to buy it themselves in 2003.



In 2007, the Rogers' completed an extensive multi-million dollar expansion and renovation of the property, adding a whole new "Executive Level" third floor featuring business class executive rooms and suites, and modernizing the facility for the 21st century. This has earned them numerous industry awards.

A former member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Maine Innkeepers Association, Alec is a Certified Hotel Administrator by the American Hotel & Lodging Association, has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre from the University of Rhode Island, and pursues theological studies as well. Alec considers his business strengths to be in the areas of Marketing, Technology, Communication and Human Relations, and enjoys reading and writing, spending time with Julie and their sons, Mack and Duncan, and surprising people with his straight-faced sense of humor.

Come see what's new!



Community Participation



Going Green(er)



New Products





SMART

EyeCare Center

www.smarteyecare.com

Augusta
255 Western Avenue
207-622-5800

Farmingdale
210 Maine Avenue
207-582-5800

Bangor
824 Stillwater Avenue
207-947-7554

Johnson Hall Upcoming Events

Cheryl Wheeler — 10/7 @ 7:30pm
Open Book Players, Spooks & Spirits
10/15 @ 7:30, 10/16 @ 2:00
Maine Event Comedy—10/22 @ 7:30
Chris Smither — 10/29 @ 7:30

On August 6, the **Rotary Club of Augusta** members and Rotarians from other central Maine Rotary clubs met with the Saturday morning Petanque group at the Mill Park Petanque Court for a friendly Petanque Tournament. The event was part of the Rotary Club of Augusta's year-long Centennial celebration schedule.

State of Maine Petanque champion Ray Fecteau and his wife, Lucette provided tournament leadership and oversight as Rotarians and Petanque players joined together to play three rounds on the sunny banks of the Kennebec River. Winning the gold ribbon was recently elected Rotary Club and first time player, John McLaughlin. Taking home the silver was Rotary Club of Augusta's Past President Lynn Ouellette and Peyton Wright, daughter of Rotary District 7790's Assistant Governor, Shawn Wright, earned the bronze.

Congratulations to the tournament winners and to all who participated in this fun event in our Capital City!

Maine State Credit Union and the **Viles Arboretum** recently partnered to raise awareness of the issue of hunger in Kennebec and Somerset Counties, as well as promote the Arboretum. They held a 5k Walk/Run through Augusta's hidden gem, the Viles Arboretum, on Saturday, September 17.

"Maine State Credit Union believes in giving back to the local community and raising proceeds to help end hunger is a passion of many at the credit union," said Mark Young, senior vice president, and chief operating officer.

"Each spring the Maine State Credit Union holds a 5k walk/run on the Kennebec River

Rail Trail," said Young. "Adding the trail run in September at the Viles Arboretum allows us to invite people to explore another great outdoor venue in Augusta while raising money for a great cause."

"We were excited to partner with Maine State Credit Union this year. We have held the 5k Run for the past three years and are pleased to use it as a way to increase awareness of hunger within our local community," said Mark DesMeules, executive director of the Viles Arboretum.

Camden National Bank partnered with Central Maine communities this summer to help raise awareness and resources for local food pantries. During the months of June, July and August, employees from the bank's Augusta, Gardiner, Lewiston and Waterville locations attended their local farmers' markets to help their neighbors raise funds to fight food

insecurity in their areas. For every pound of food a shopper purchased, Camden National Bank pledged to donate one dollar to a local food pantry. In total, market shoppers ended up raising \$2,000 to help fight hunger in central Maine. Funds raised from the markets will be donated to 5 local agencies:

Through the funds raised from these donations as well as those delivered earlier in the summer through its employee-run community outreach program, the Community Spirit of Giving, Camden National Bank hopes to provide meals and support to the more than 208,000 individuals in Maine who currently turn to food pantries and meal service programs for food assistance every year.

The Red Barn restaurant got a nod from Forbes magazine not just for its fried chicken baskets, but for its philanthropy. The business, which almost went under five times because of owner Laura Benedict's struggles with alcoholism, has given more than \$2 million over the years to veterans and the elderly. Benedict said she uses the power of social media to get the word out about her gift-giving.



A LITTLE BIGGER & A LOT BETTER



We've grown quite a bit over the last few months. We've officially welcomed all the J&S Home Heating employees to the AFC family as well as 2 new KVCC graduates, a Master Electrician and experienced HVAC technician, plus two summer interns!

These new employees are as eager as ever to do their part in providing you with the best customer service around. As always, we want you to...

*Feel comfortable
With Us.*

From Left to Right: Valerie Fredericks, Daryl Sawtelle, Laurie Hopkins & Spencer Cayer



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Lynn M. Quirion
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Alec Rogers
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Katie L. Doherty, Program Director
Deborah R. Camporiale, Information Coordinator

Our Mission:

The KV Chamber exists to enhance life quality by strengthening our regional economy.

Come visit the new space at Darling's!



Darling's will host the **October Business After Hours & Chamber Annual Meeting** on **Wednesday, October 19th** from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Darling's in Augusta. KV Chamber members and guests are welcome to join us for networking and great food!

This After Hours celebrates the beautiful new location on Western Ave. Come tour the state of the art facility and help us thank Darling's for their investment in the Kennebec Valley.

Every Business After Hours is an incredible opportunity to win amazing door prizes and take part in the 50/50 raffle. Delicious hors d'oeuvres will be available from White Flour Catering and guests are welcome to partake in the cash bar.

Be sure to bring a large stack of *business cards* to share with your new business contacts.

To RSVP call 623-4559 or email
info@kennebecvalleychamber.com

Look forward to the next **Business After Hours** at **Transco Business Technologies**, on **November 9, 2016**.

Business After Hours events are sponsored by **Capitol Dental Care**

