

KV CAP Connector

Building Stronger Individuals,
Families and Communities

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

Issue: Fall 2017

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We Broke a Record...and You Made it Happen!

The Kennebec and Somerset Explorer public bus system reached a major milestone! As you know, ridership has been steadily increasing over the past six years. This year we successfully exceeded the 100K mark! To be exact, we provided 103,313 rides, bringing people to work, to shop at local businesses, to cultural events, and beyond. Connecting people and communities is what the Explorer is all about.

You, our donors, were instrumental in making this happen! Your financial support allowed us to maintain current routes. We were even able to expand services in some of the most rural parts of Central Maine, reaching more people than ever before. We thank you *and* our riders thank you! Without the Explorer, too many people would become isolated and lose their ability to be active members of our community.

For Susan Spaulding, the Explorer is a lifeline to her community. Susan lives in Fairfield and, while she is healthy and walks many places, her circle would become much smaller without public transit.

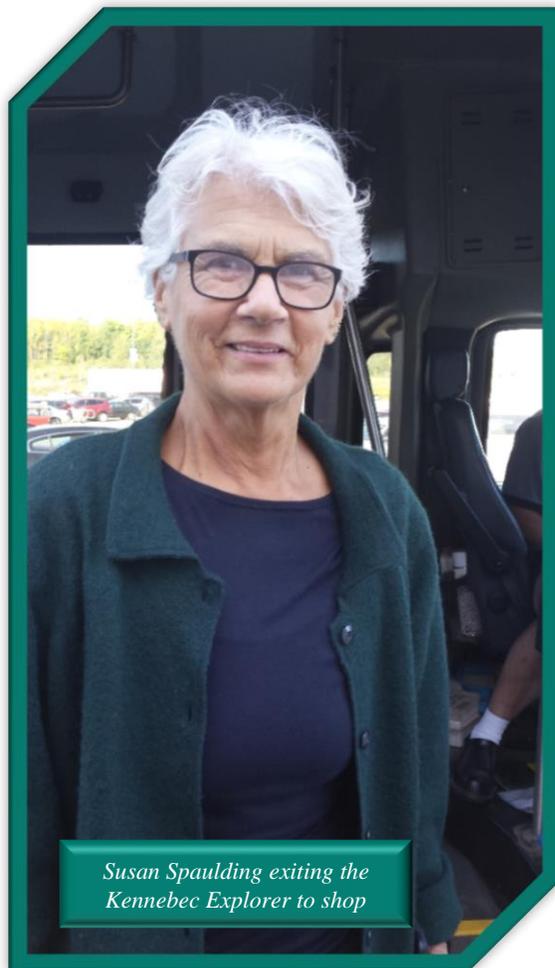
“Twenty-two years ago I chose to stop driving,” said Susan. “Today I use the Explorer when it’s too far to walk, when the weather is lousy, or when I am simply not feeling my best.”

As a retiree, Susan typically volunteers at the Waterville Public Library four days each week. At 70 years old, she enjoys giving back to her community and appreciates the simplicity of riding the Explorer bus.

“I know the bus schedule by heart and I ride almost every day of the week. The bus is on time, affordable, and the drivers are wonderful,” said Susan. “Not only do I use it to go to the library, it is especially helpful when I need to bring home a load of groceries.”

Susan shared that the Explorer allows her to pursue her passions, meet all of her basic needs, and get to know some amazing people. While every rider has their own story, they all have one thing in common: they use public transit to get where they need to go, and to feel a part of a community that cares.

To view the Explorer schedule, visit www.kvcap.org.



*Susan Spaulding exiting the
Kennebec Explorer to shop*



What's Happening?



The **South End Teen Center** is back in full swing, with the start of the new school year.

The SETC is open Monday through Friday from 2:00pm – 5:00pm and any area youth in middle or high school is welcome to attend. Fun, engaging activities occur daily, along with a meal, and homework assistance for teens in need of support. For more information or if you would like to receive the SETC newsletter, email Ryan at ryank@kvcap.org or call 873-5621.

Do you need assistance with applying or re-enrolling for health insurance through the **ACA Health Insurance Marketplace**?



Open enrollment for 2018 begins on November 1, 2017 and ends December 15, 2017. KVCAP has trained Health Navigators that can provide you with fair, unbiased in-person assistance that can help you determine the best coverage options available to you. To make an appointment, contact Cheryl at 859-1567 or Danielle at 859-1547.



Did you know that 36% of mothers who are living in poverty regularly run out of diapers? That is why we are **collecting diapers** in Kennebec and Somerset counties.

Babies who remain too long in soiled diapers have higher health risks. And without diapers, parents cannot bring their child to most daycares, leaving them unable to go to work. If you would like to donate diapers, please contact Kristen at 859-2520 (Somerset County), or Connie at 859-1588 (Kennebec County).

Home Ownership Opportunity!



We are excited to announce that we are planning to build two new homes in the Cony Village neighborhood in Augusta.

Similar to other homes in Cony Village, these will likely be two bedroom, two bathroom, energy efficient houses. All fifteen of the previously built homes in Cony Village are now occupied.

“We are committed to building more single family homes and some multi-family units, in order to support homeownership for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Central Maine,” said KVCAP’s new Real Estate Development Director, Dave Pelton. “Increasing affordable housing options is a priority within our 3-year strategic plan. We will begin by developing the properties we already own, while also exploring new prospects for future building sites.”

For more information, contact Dave Pelton at 859-1554. If you are interested in purchasing a new home in Cony Village, contact Lori Dube at Sprague & Curtis Real Estate at 620-0886.

No Wrong Door for KVCAP Clients

At KVCAP, we are moving toward a new service delivery model for clients, using a “no wrong door” approach. Once implemented, clients who enter our doors will be connected to all of the services that we offer, to help them build their social and financial stability.

“We recognize that people can become overwhelmed when trying to navigate through all of our various programs,” said Suzanne Walsh, KVCAP’s Chief Executive Officer. “By implementing a “no wrong door” approach we will improve our service delivery by ensuring that all of our clients have access to the resources that they qualify for.”

We are also developing a process that will expand the utilization of a Two-Generation approach throughout the agency, strategically creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable children and their parents together.



While we are still in the planning phase, we are anxious to share our forward movement with this endeavor. Stay tuned!

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
97 Water Street, Waterville
26 Mary Street, Skowhegan
22 Armory Street, Augusta

Phone: 207-859-1500 • Toll-Free: 1-800-542-8227
www.kvcap.org



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