

KV CAP Connector

Building Stronger Individuals,
Families and Communities

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

Issue: Spring 2018

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The Explorer System Reaches a Major Milestone

Ridership on the Explorer public bus system has been steadily increasing over the past six years and reached a major milestone this year – exceeding 100,000 rides for the first time in history!

Our community is filled with people from all walks of life. Some can afford to own and maintain a vehicle. Some, simply, cannot. We have neighbors with disabilities that prevent them from driving, and many seniors no longer feel safe behind the wheel. We even have riders who own cars, but prefer to save money and help the environment by commuting to work on the Explorer.

One thing our riders have in common: they are all active members of our community. Whether they are shopping locally, working and contributing to the local economy, attending school, or volunteering their time to help others, they are contributing to a vibrant Central Maine.

For Jeanie, the Explorer is her lifeline to the community. She rides three days every week.

Being wheelchair bound, Jeanie shares, “If it wasn’t for the Explorer, I would be trapped at home. Being able to ride the bus lets me stay independent and remain a part of the Skowhegan community. As a senior, this service makes a huge difference in the quality of my life.”



For Jepthah, a military veteran, the Explorer allows him to live in Waterville and work at Togus in Augusta. He rides the bus daily to and from work.

Jepthah shares, “I would have to find new housing without the Explorer, and that would be difficult. I like where I live and I like where I work. My service dog, Trace, rides with me every day. Because of health issues I do not drive anymore. The Explorer is a life-saver!”

Our donors are vital to the Explorer’s success! Last year, with their support, we were able to maintain current routes while offering new services in Vassalboro, China, Bingham, and Jackman.

Public transportation is essential to the economic success of our community, but securing enough funds to maintain the Explorer is an annual challenge! That is why we count on our donors to help keep the Explorer going. And because their contributions are matched dollar for dollar by federal funding, their gifts have a double impact! If you are interested in supporting public transportation, please contact Andrea Pasco at 207-859-1630 or andreap@kvcap.org.

You can be part of something tangible that connects people to all our community has to offer. Connecting people is what the Explorer is all about, but we can’t do it without you!



What's Happening?

POLICE FIRE BATTLE 2018 OF THE BADGES Annual Basketball Game

Join us on Wednesday, May 5th, at the Alford Youth Center, for an exciting game between the Waterville Fire Department and Police Department. The doors open at 6:30pm and the game begins at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and children under 10 are free. All proceeds benefit programming at the South End Teen Center. We hope to see you there!

KVCAP's 4th Annual Community Celebration

Our Community Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 9th from 11:00am – 2:00pm, at Educare Central Maine. This FREE event offers many family-friendly activities, including: a luncheon barbecue, a bounce house, a climbing wall, a petting zoo, face painting, music, and visits from well-known princesses, super heroes, and storybook characters. Come celebrate the beginning of summer with us!



Does your child need a bike? The South End Neighborhood Association and the South End Teen Center will be hosting their **Annual Bike Swap** on Saturday, May 19th from 9am until 10:30am at Green Street

Park off Water Street in Waterville. The first hour is reserved for children who live in the South End neighborhood. FMI, contact Ryan Kneeland at 873-5621.

Calling All Golfers!

KVCAP's 4th Annual Golf Tournament & Silent Auction

Tee off for Transportation!



Lakewood Golf Course
Friday, June 22, 2018
Registration 8:00 am
Shotgun Start 9:00 am

Spring is in the air, and we are gearing up for our 4th Annual Golf Tournament & Silent Auction, at Lakewood Golf Course, on Friday, June 22nd.

All proceeds support the Kennebec & Somerset Explorer public bus system, and will be matched dollar for dollar by federal funding!

The cost is \$125 per player/\$500 for a team of four, and includes green fees and carts, mulligans and strings, gift bags, prizes, a buffet lunch and awards ceremony, and the chance to play the Hickory Challenge Hole!

Meet a special guest dressed as Francis Ouimet, who famously won the US Open in 1913. Play a par 3 hole, using replica hickory-shafted clubs identical to the model Ouimet used! You will also receive a hand-made replica of the ball that Ouimet used to win in the 1913 event.



If you love golf and want to support public transportation by sponsoring and/or playing in this super fun tournament, contact Andrea Pasco at 859-1630 or andreap@kvcap.org.

May is Community Action Month

Did you know that KVCAP is one of more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the United States? We are part of a robust, state and local network—reaching children and families in 99% of America's counties with life changing services that create pathways to prosperity.

Together, we connect individuals and families to services that help them succeed, promote community-wide solutions to difficult challenges, and share expertise with national, state, and local leaders looking to promote greater economic opportunity for all.

The promise of Community Action *embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

KVCAP is proud to be the Community Action Agency serving Central Maine and your support is a great vote of confidence in our mission.



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