



Sunrise County Economic Council

SUNRISE NEWS

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Spring 2010

Initiating and facilitating the creations of jobs and prosperity in Washington County

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SCEC = Business Assistance



*Ribbon-cutting participants: Betsy Fitzgerald, Washington County Manager; Maine Representative Dianne Tilton; Harold Clossey, SCEC; Gail Gordon, **James Green**, GunWorks owner; Jenny Willett, Voc Rehab Counselor with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs at Togus; Mike Perkins, Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program Coordinator; Ruth Cash-Smith, Women's Business Center at CEI*

Congratulations to Jim Green on the opening of his new shop, GunWorks—a firearms repair and custom ammunition supply shop—on Main Street in Harrington.

Through a collaborative effort involving the Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled Vets Outreach Program, the Women's Business Center at CEI, SCEC and the Machias CareerCenter, Jim has turned his dream into reality.

Eaton Foundation Supports Training Scholarships



Jennifer Peters, Shelby Miller, Robert Eaton, Harold Clossey

Shelby Miller of the Eaton Foundation presented SCEC officials with a \$12,000 gift to the organization's young adult scholarship program in January. SCEC and Eaton established the program in 2007 to provide financial assistance of up to \$500 for Washington County residents aged 18-29 attending

training and/or certification courses not covered by traditional forms of financial aid.

According to SCEC Executive Director

Harold Clossey "Washington County's economy faces a lot of challenges. The biggest one is retaining and training our young people so that they have the skills to get good paying jobs locally. We have people right here who want to work, who want to earn more money and provide a better

life for their families without leaving the area. Our young adult scholarship program can help them do just that." SCEC and Eaton created the program in 2007 with a focus on the health-care sector. Since then, the program has been expanded to include all sectors which require specialized training or certification. Scholarships have helped to pay for everything from Certified Residential Medications Aide to advanced automotive repair training. To learn more about our Young Adult Scholarship Program, visit www.sunrisecounty.org/crmacna.html, or contact Jennifer Peters.

Community Development = Economic Development

TIF Program Administrator

It is our pleasure to introduce Diane Smith-Halkett—the newest member of the SCEC team. “I’m thrilled to be a part of SCEC,” Smith-Halkett said of her



new job. “Everyone here has been very welcoming. I’m looking forward to working with people from all across Washington County who might be able to access the county’s new tax increment financing (TIF) district.”

Smith-Halkett said that the TIF, which serves Washing-

ton County’s Unorganized Territories, was established by the Washington County Commissioners as a way to reinvest tax revenue from

First Wind’s Stetson I & II projects.

There are a number of different funding options involved in the TIF program for projects in the Unorganized Territories. For more information, call Smith-Halkett at 255-0983, or go to www.washingtoncounty-maine.com/tif.

Eastport Expansion Project



SCEC is actively involved in collaborative efforts designed to diversify the Port of Eastport. Realizing diversification is paramount to economic development, SCEC is working with local stakeholders to assist with infrastructure and capacity upgrades for Maine’s deep water port.

Partnership in Action- Reviving the Downeast Fisheries Trail



SCEC has joined with Maine Sea Grant, Downeast Acadia Regional Tourism (DART), and the Vacationland

Resources Committee of Down East RC&D to revive the Downeast Fisheries Trail, an educational trail that showcases active and historic fisheries sites, such as fish hatcheries, aquaculture facilities, harbors, clam flats, and other fisheries-related places up and down the coast of Hancock and Washington counties.

With the support of a recent grant from both the Hancock and Washington county funds of the Maine Community Foundation and one from DART, project partners are reaching out to fisheries and tourism interests to seek feedback on potential Trail sites and ideas for educational content of outreach materials. In Hancock County, meetings will be held where members of the public can help inventory and assess new sites for the Trail and develop companion educational materials. In Washington County, existing sites were inventoried for needed improvements and updated materials. For more information, go to <http://www.sunrisecounty.org/fisheries/>

ORPC—Tidal Generating Unit Launched in Eastport



Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC), a Maine-based tidal energy technology and project developer, is exploring alternative energy solutions in Washington County. Recently ORPC launched Energy Tide 2.

Supporting this effort are Washington County government, the City of Eastport, Eastport Port Authority, and Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC). For more information, go to www.oceanrenewablepower.com.



Individual Development = Economic Development

WCLI Wraps up 14th Year—Xi (Ks-Eye) Class



Left to right, back to front: Jim Howell, Lanette Pottle, Sara McConnell, Donna Cochran, Alvion Kimball, Linda Godfrey (facilitator), Catherine Betz, Bette Papke, Kim Emerson, Dale Miller, Lea Sullivan, Mia White, Jon Ramsdell, Heather Andrews, Jody Rose. Not pictured: Natalie Michelle.

The Washington County Leadership Institute would not be possible without our sponsors, whose support makes the course accessible to anyone! This year's sponsors include:

- Bar Harbor Banking & Trust
- Camden National Bank
- Eaton Foundation
- First Wind
- Machias Savings Bank
- RHR Smith & Company
- Sunrise County Economic Council
- University of Maine at Machias
- Washington County Community College
- Washington County Council of Governments

Sincere thanks also to the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) for this year's Noyce Award and for their continued support. MCF's Washington County Fund and others have made many things possible over the years.

For more information on the WCLI or this year's class, go to www.washingtoncountyleadership.org.

Business Development = Economic Development

Capturing More Dollars for Your Tourism Business

Join us May 25, 8:45-noon at UMM in the Clipper Lounge!

Everyone wants and needs more money for their business to be successful. This session will speak to owners and managers about some practical ways they can enhance their own bottom line simply without spending a lot of additional money.

As a result of this session you will better understand:

Your customers' expectations * How good service is different from exceptional service * Who your customers are and what they want * Where your business focus lies * How to maintain an edge over your competition * How management benefits from training * How staff benefits from training * How training impacts

your bottom line * Some ideas on how to create your own staff training program * And much more!

Not a tourism related business but provide service to the public? This training is for you, too!

Call Jen (255-0983) or email scec@sunrisecounty.org for more information or to register for this event.

This training is part of the Maine Woods Tourism Training Initiative – a project supported by the Maine Woods Consortium with funding from the Betterment Fund and USDA Rural Development. To learn more, visit

www.mainewoodconsortium.org/mmh/programs/content/tourism-training.html

Stetson II Ribbon-cutting Ceremony



Pictured from left to right are First Wind CEO Paul Gaynor, Stetson II Project Developer Ryan Chaytors, SCEC Executive Director Harold Closley, Washington County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald, and Jack Parker of Reed & Reed Construction.



Sunrise County Economic Council

SCEC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County by working with a consortium of community-minded businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and citizens. Founded in 1993 by a group of business and community leaders, SCEC uses a grassroots approach to economic and community development. By seeking common ground, working across political, municipal and economic boundaries, Washington County residents are building a brighter future.

Sunrise County Community Development Partners



Helping communities plan their future in Washington County

Washington County
Council of Governments
Judy East
454-0465
Jeremy Gabrielson
255-0983



Committed to improving the quality of life for Washington County citizens.

Washington County:
One Community
Eleody Libby
263-7691

SCEC Congratulates

Ruth Cash Smith for receiving the Small Business Administration's 2010 "Maine Women in Business Champion of the Year" award. Ruth has also been selected by SBA as the Women's Business Champion for New England!

Jennifer Peters on her promotion to Sunrise County Economic Council Assistant Director. Jennifer has been with SCEC since June 1996 and is a major part of our success!



Sunrise County Economic Council

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Sunrise County Business Resource Center



Sunrise County Economic Council

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