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CMCC Dedicates New Gene Haas Precision Machining Technology Center

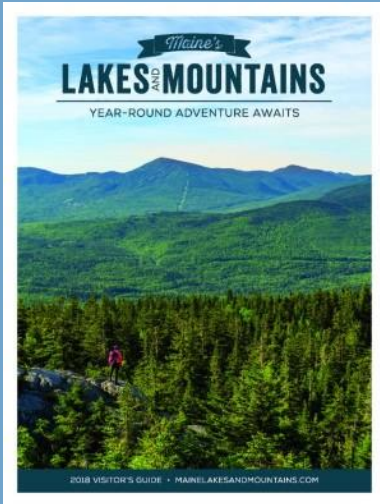
AVCOG assisted CMCC in obtaining grant funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Economic Development Administration, and the Northern Border Regional Commission.

Sun Journal, November 1, 2017

AUBURN — Government, industry and education officials joined Central Maine Community College students and employees at a dedication ceremony on Oct. 27 for the official opening of the Gene Haas Precision Machining Technology Center at the college.

The college began work on the project in spring 2017. The first phase involved an interior renovation of more than 5,000 square feet, including the relocation of the quality control room, offices, computer class and locker room to update and improve overall functionality. Phase Two was the construction of a 3,600-square-foot addition to accommodate equipment acquisitions, and improvements to existing electrical power distribution, lighting systems, and the mechanical ventilation system. The Gene Haas Foundation awarded the college a grant of \$1 million toward the project.

2018 Regional Visitor's Guide Available



Maine's Lakes & Mountains 2018 Visitor's Guide introduces potential visitors to the year-round adventure that awaits them throughout the region. Each turn of the page offers information about where to go and what to do, providing a closer look at the activities, attractions, and events visitors seek. Thoughtfully designed, it makes planning—whether for a long-term or spur-of-the-moment trip—easy and fun.

Not only did the council increase the print run for this guide from 15,000 to 30,000, they also increased the size of the book by four pages. The new Visitor's Guide will be distributed via the following outlets: Maine State Visitor Centers; Chambers of Commerce throughout the region; targeted consumer travel shows in NY, DC, PA, MA and Montreal; Getaways On Display brochure distribution service in PA, NJ, Northern Virginia, and Maryland; and to visitors requesting information via MLM's website and by phone. This FREE Visitor's Guide and Map are the perfect welcome to the iconic vacation destination that is Maine's Lakes and Mountains.



2018 CDBG Program Statement Now Available

The Maine Department of Economic and Community Development released the [2018 Program Statement for the Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#). The following programs will be funded this year.

Program	Budget	Letter of Intent Due Date	Application Due Date By Invitation Only
Downtown Revitalization (DR)	\$300,000	Jan 26, 2018	March 30, 2018
Economic Development (ED)	\$2,400,000	Feb 23, 2018	May 25, 2018
Housing Assistance (HA)	\$1,000,000	March 9, 2018	May 4, 2018
Micro-Enterprise Assistance (MA)	\$700,000	Feb 9, 2018	April 27, 2018
Public Infrastructure (PI)	\$3,200,000	Jan 19, 2018	March 30, 2018
Public Service (PS)	\$250,000	May 4, 2018	June 22, 2018
Underground Storage Tank (UST)	\$500,000	May 4, 2018	N/A
Special Projects/Urgent Need (SP/UG)		N/A	TBD*

For technical assistance on applying please contact [Joan Walton](#).

New Signage Along Maine High Peaks Scenic Byway

Eleven new signs welcome visitors with interesting stories about the region and the Maine High Peaks Scenic Byway. We're not talking about simple directional signage; we're talking beautiful, colorful, interpretive signs about the byway's history and notable natural attractions.

With a \$25,543 grant from the Franklin County Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District and an additional \$10,459 from the Maine Department of Transportation, the new interpretive signs were installed at four scenic turnouts along the byway – Sarampus Falls, AT turnout/Wyman, Flagstaff Lake and Chain of Ponds.

As Nadene McLeod, byway committee member and byway commuter, noted, "The new signs along the byway are very much being looked at by our visitors. It's great that they give people a chance to pause, learn and ponder staying in the region." This is exactly what the byway committee envisioned with this project. Now, in addition to a typical rest stop experience, visitors will learn about Benedict Arnold's trek through the region, the wonders of the Bigelow Range and what happened to the former village of Flagstaff, to name a few of the local topics featured on the signs.

The aptly named byway is located in the High Peaks Region, home to 10 of Maine's 14 peaks over 4,000 feet, offering numerous opportunities to soak in the dramatic landscapes, abundant wildlife and recreation opportunities. Those interested in exploring the 47-mile Maine High Peaks Scenic Byway will begin their scenic drive in the historic Franklin County town of Kingfield and end their tour at the Canadian border in Coburn Gore.



Meet the New Members of AVCOG's Team



Shelley Norton, Land Use Planner

Ms. Norton, born and raised in Bridgton, Maine, has thirteen years of experience as a land use professional, including seven years as a landscape designer and landscape architect, three years working with public infrastructure recovery efforts with FEMA, and four years as a planner and stormwater officer for Malta, New York. Malta was the fastest growing town in New York in 2016 and has seen steady growth in recent years in multi-family, single-family, and commercial development. With Malta, Shelly wrote ordinances, worked on rezoning efforts, and reviewing project applications under the town's form-based code and traditional zoning. She has a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University and Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Southern Maine.

Shelly is available to assist communities with ordinance writing, comprehensive planning, GIS mapping, project review for boards, and general technical assistance questions.



Colton Bernier, Transportation Engineer/Planner

Colton is a life-long resident of Lewiston, where he attended public schools. In 2013, he graduated from Lewiston High School and pursued his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts. While attending Merrimack College, he also participated in several on-campus groups and organizations. During his first three summers of undergraduate school, Colton interned in Lewiston Public Works' Engineering Department, and in his last summer, he interned at POWER Engineers, Inc. in Freeport.

This past spring, Colton graduated from Merrimack College and began working at AVCOG/ATRC, as the staff Transportation Engineer/Planner, in June.



Keri Robichaud, Administrative and Program Assistant

Keri Robichaud joined AVCOG in September as an Administrative/Program Assistant. Born and raised in Lewiston, where she lives with her husband and son, Keri has a B.A. from the University of Maine in Orono and has spent many years working in the non-profit sector providing public assistance.



**Maine Green Power
Supporting Maine-made Renewable Energy**

Maine Green Power is a voluntary program overseen by the Maine Public Utilities Commission that allows businesses and residents to support Maine-made renewable energy on their electricity bills. It enables any Maine business, organization or municipality to reduce the environmental impact in a meaningful and visible way without making a significant financial commitment.

If your municipality is seeking to increase the sustainability of its operations, this program offers one simple way to do so – by matching your organization's electricity use with clean, local power. Because Maine Green Power is NOT an electricity supplier, there is no need to change suppliers in order to participate.

You can learn more about how the program works, the marketing benefits for participating businesses, and see a list of those businesses on the [Maine Green Power business page](#).

For further information, you may also contact [Kay Mann](#), Community Outreach Coordinator for the Maine Green Power program; 207-613-0697.

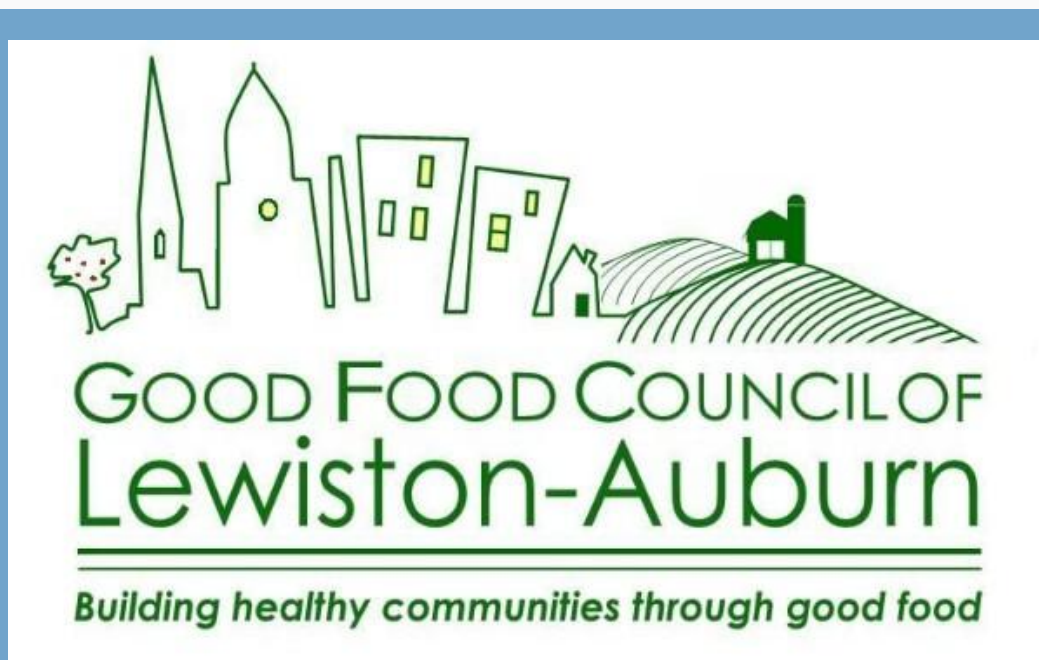
Other helpful links: [MPUC Site](#) | [Electricity supply rate comparison page](#) | [MGP Facebook](#)

Now Available!
Guidance Series: Climate Adaptation for Maine Communities

Maine's regional planning organizations and their state partners have developed a [series of guidance documents](#) that provide practical steps for making our communities more resilient to intense storm events and rising sea levels.

The series includes guidance on transportation, stream smart crossings, wastewater infrastructure, drinking water, stormwater, comprehensive planning, shoreland zoning ordinance, site plan review ordinance, and subdivision ordinance.

For further information, contact [Shelley Norton](#), AVCOG's Land Use Planner.



Feeding Maine Exhibit and Events
Growing Access to Good Food in LA

On January 19, the Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn (GFCLA) hosted an opening event for a photo exhibit by photographer, Brendan Bullock, with words by writer, Annie Murphy entitled, Feeding Maine: Growing Access to Good Food at the Atrium Gallery at the University of Southern Maine, Lewiston-Auburn College (USM LAC), 51 Westminister Street, Lewiston. All are invited to stop in and view the month-long exhibit.

Feeding Maine documents some of the many people working to address the persistent problem of hunger in communities across Maine. The exhibit was created by the Good Shepherd Food Bank and Maine Farmland Trust, a statewide organization working to protect farmland, support farmers, and advance farming. Community members will be invited to leave their thoughts, art, or photos, relating to their experiences with/reactions to the issues of hunger and food insecurity in Lewiston-Auburn on the interactive art wall where the exhibit will be on display from January 16-February 23.

A closing event titled, Creating a Path to Feeding L-A, will be held February 16, 5-8 p.m. and will feature light refreshments and music from Greg and Jessie Boardman. The events and exhibit are free and open to the public. Additional information can be accessed at the GFCLA's website, www.goodfood4la.org.

Growing Access to Good Food in L-A is made possible by generous community sponsors: Austin Associates, P.A., Pinetree Garden Seeds, Bangor Savings Bank, Rinck Advertising, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Auburn-Lewiston YMCA, and others.

Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services Grant

Maine State Government's Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services was established in 2005 to encourage intergovernmental cooperation on projects that will result in cost-savings, and ultimately a reduction in property taxes. In support of this, the Fund provides monetary assistance to municipalities, counties and state agencies that work together for this purpose.

Grants will be awarded for qualifying projects that are designed to achieve significant and sustainable savings in the cost of delivering local and regional government services, and that ultimately reduce the demand for property tax revenues. Savings must be achieved through collaborative approaches to service delivery, enhanced regional delivery systems, consolidated administrative services, broad-based purchasing alliances and interlocal agreements. Grants will not be awarded on proposals that serve a single entity; collaboration with other eligible government entities is required. Click here for more information about the fund.



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