



December 2016

# Business Insider

Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce  
[KennebecValleyChamber.com](http://KennebecValleyChamber.com)

## Upcoming Events

### December

- 12/1 **Cynergy Christmas Theatre**  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
@ the Theater at Monmouth
- 12/6 KLI Committee, 12:00 p.m.
- 12/7 **Business Insider Breakfast**  
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.  
@ The Senator Inn
- 12/7 New Member Orientation,  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
@ KV Chamber of Commerce
- 12/13 KVCC Board of Directors,  
5:30 p.m.
- 12/14 **Women's Network Luncheon**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
@ The Senator Inn
- 12/14 **Business After Hours**  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
@ Quarry Tap Room

### January

- 1/10 KVCC Board of Directors,  
5:30 p.m.
- 1/11 **Women's Network Luncheon**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
@ The Senator Inn
- 1/18 **Business Insider Breakfast**  
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.  
@ The Senator Inn
- 1/25 **Business After Hours**  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
@ The Quarry Tap Room
- 1/27 **The Kenney Awards**  
5:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
@ The Augusta Civic Center

\*bolded items are open to the public

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# the kenney awards

The Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce is proud to present again in 2017 The Kenney Awards! The Kenney, named for the region we hail from, is awarded annually to area businesses and professionals that are deserving of our attention and recognition.

This event is the premier opportunity for the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce to highlight and celebrate the success in our community. The Kennes will recognize six awardees; Peter G. Thompson Lifetime Achievement, Large Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, President's Choice, Community Service and the Cynergy Young Professional.

You are guaranteed to feel like a star from the moment you arrive and step onto our very own red carpet—from the 'paparazzi' snapping pictures of your grand entrance into the awards ceremony to the custom designed Kenney award—this will be the formal affair of the season.

The winners of the Peter G. Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award, Large Business of the Year and Small Business of the Year will be announced prior to the ceremony. *New this year* the remaining awards will be chosen via live voting from the audience.

**Save the date!** Friday, January 27, 2017 at the Augusta Civic Center. **Tickets are available!**

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**Business Insider**  
 December 7th  
 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
 @ The Senator Inn



### NASA in Maine!!!

### Developing Maine Talent in Aerospace-related Research and Technology

Dr. Terry Shehata has been involved in some capacity over the past 30 years supporting economic development in Maine with a special emphasis on building the state's science and technology talent infrastructure. During his tenure as Vice President of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, Dr. Shehata wrote the proposal that led to a NASA award to the Foundation in 1991 to establish the Maine Space Grant Consortium, supported by NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. After the Foundation was dechartered by the Maine State Legislature in 2001, Dr. Shehata transformed the Consortium into a 501(c)(3) corporation with full approval from NASA. The Consortium is the only non-profit corporation in the national network of state-based consortia which are housed in universities.

RSVP to [Info@kennebecvalleychamber.com](mailto:Info@kennebecvalleychamber.com)

### Business Insider sponsors:



**Women's Network**  
 December 14th  
 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 @ The Senator Inn



### Tree Spirits 101

Karen Heck and Bruce Olson are co-owners of Tree Spirits, an Oakland-based winery and distillery. The company has won international competitions since 2011 for its wines and distilled spirits made from locally sourced apple, pear, and maple syrup, and is the sole distiller of absinthe in New England. Their wines and spirits have won awards in San Francisco and New York at international festivals. She shared the 2002 Women of the Year award from the Maine Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs with Brown and Cole, her co-founders at Hardy Girls Healthy Women, and received the 2006 Achievement Citation Award from the Maine Statewide American Association of University Women. She was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 2008.



RSVP to [Info@kennebecvalleychamber.com](mailto:Info@kennebecvalleychamber.com)

### Women's Network sponsors:



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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www.Augustakiwanisclub.org

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*Communications*  
Beth Steward, 582-8244  
www.Cmctechgroup.com

**N.C. Hunt Lumber**  
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## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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Maine State Credit Union  
MOFGA  
Sam's Club  
Southerie Chiropractic Associates

### 15+ YEARS

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Camden National Ice Vault  
Crisis & Counseling Center, Inc.  
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Clark Marine  
E.S. Coffin Engineering & Surveying, LLC  
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.  
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center  
Vickerson Appraisal Services

### 10+ YEARS

Alternative Manufacturing Inc.  
Capitol Clubhouse  
Central Maine Fire Pros  
Dance Unlimited, LLC  
Friends of Lithgow Library, Inc.  
Servpro of Augusta/ Waterville  
Steve's Appliance Services & Sales, Inc.  
Turner Publishing

### 5+ YEARS

Aging Excellence  
Business Communications of Maine  
Central Maine Pyrotechnics  
Dennis Keller State Farm Insurance  
Kennebec Performing Arts Co.  
Pat Jackson, Inc.  
Quirion Construction  
Sargent Corporation  
SJR Engineering Inc.  
Workplace Health, MaineGeneral  
Medical Center

### ALSO RENEWING

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Bay Area Title Services  
Budget Blinds  
Choice Investments  
Ideal Electrics  
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Law Office of Ronald Bourget  
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# the kenney awards

January 27, 2017

5:00 - 10:00 PM



## Peter G. Thompson Lifetime Achievement Winner - Mark Johnston

Mark Johnston started his banking success at a young age. Fresh out of college Mark began a job at The Bank of Maine on his 22<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. In the four decades to follow, Mark stayed in banking until the culmination of his career in 2015, when he retired as the President of Kennebec Savings Bank on his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Mark's days have always started with an invigorating run. Though his pace has slowed to a brisk walk, he continues to collect trash along his route in shopping bags. This morning routine regularly produces 2 bags of trash each morning and distributes the recyclables and returnables, to those in need. Since 1975 Mark has donated over 21 gallons of blood to the Red Cross. The impact of this donation reaches far outside the Kennebec Valley; in fact, some of his platelets are currently being used to help a cancer patient in Richmond, Virginia.

## Large Business of the Year Winner - PERFORMANCE Foodservice– NorthCenter

The roots of PERFORMANCE Foodservice– NorthCenter reach back to the birth of a special division of Joseph Kirschner Company in 1963. H. Allen Ryan, Dave Crowell and current President Greg Piper are three original management personnel that have grown the company to where it is today, maintaining a philosophy that it is all about the people, associates and customers alike. Greg says "the Kennebec Valley workforce is loyal". Greg is not alone in his story of success. Over half of the 360 employees, have been with the company for over 10 years - many have over 30 years of service: all together the employees bring nearly 3,000 years of experience to the table.



## Small Business of the Year Winner - Emery's Meat & Produce

At six years old, Leon Emery stood on a milk crate watching butcher Herbie Wentworth cut top round at Seekins General Store in Hartland. Herbie handed the knife to Leon, and history was made. The Monmouth and Augusta locations merged in 2015 into a new and hugely successful Gardiner location. The Emery's are grateful for the supporters and community who have contributed to their success. "The people who put us here are the reason we are driving to grow our communities and provide for the future of business".

## President's Choice Finalist - Maine Technology Group

Scott MacDonald moved from Chicago to Maine in 2010 to be near family. After working for a local IT company for 18 months, Scott felt the need to provide businesses the tool needed to reduce expenses in the manual paper process and Maine Technology Group (MTG) was born in January of 2012 in a small basement office. MTG focuses on customer service, acknowledging that techies don't always communicate well, or in terms that clients can understand. They pride themselves on not only being ahead of the customers needs, but provide the right solutions with the right attitude.



## President's Choice Finalist - Premier Marketing Group

In 1981, Mike ran a business renting portable signs. When he was delivering signs, clients would express a desire for additional products such as stickers and other printed items, and at that point Premier Marketing was created. Premier Marketing recognizes the unique experience afforded businesses located in the Kennebec Valley Region and appreciates getting to know their neighbors through service. The company provides products to business, musical, sports and theater organizations in 20 countries. In the early 1990's Greg and Rick joined the team then shortly after in 1996, they got the contract to provide materials for the WIC program's 20th Anniversary Health & Nutrition Calendar, which was distributed in 2400 agencies nationwide. Other prominent clients include the Susan G. Komen foundation. In 1999, the company moved again, this time to Manchester.

## President's Choice Finalist - Snow Pond Center for the Arts

Located in Sidney on 175 acres along Messalonskee Lake, The New England Music Camp was founded in 1937 by Dr. Paul E. Wiggin and his wife Nina. In 2010, the third generation of the Wiggin family, John and his wife Kim, took the helm as directors. In 2016 they opened a four year public high school, the Snow Pond Arts Academy, with an initial student body of 80 9th and 10th graders. The goal is to have 400 students with residential options by 2020.



## Community Service Award Finalist - Darek Grant

Darek Grant returned to the Kennebec Valley region after college announcing, "I'm not going to abandon the community that raised me, I'm going to go back and make a difference." Since 2002, Darek has worked in various positions at the State house and is currently Chief of Staff for the Senate Democratic office. Darek was elected to the City Council in 2010. He is also involved with the Children's Discovery Museum, Eastside Planning Committee, Kid's Pantry at the Buker Center and has been monumental in promoting awareness of childhood hunger in the Augusta area.

## Community Service Award Finalist - Jobs for Maine's Graduates

Jobs for Maine's Graduates was created in 1993 by the state legislature to mitigate the High School dropout rate and provide transitional assistance for students. The successful program was expanded to middle schools in 2000 and college level students in 2014. CEO Craig Larabee and his team of 100 plus employees helped almost 700 students succeed in 2016. Additionally, through their volunteer programs, over 600 kids contributed over 3200 hours of community service in the past year and raised over \$12,000 for non-profits.



## Community Service Award Finalist - Margaritas

The team at Margaritas in Augusta, led by Mark Lakeman and Shawna Maddocks, fundraised through the Noche Mexicana Fundraiser events and Full Moon Margarita Madness parties have raised over \$8,000 in donations that went to 20 different non-profit organizations and schools in 2016. As a whole company, Margaritas has donated well over \$120,000 through their popular fundraising events! The management team of Augusta has built relationships with surrounding schools to assist in the company's Education Outreach Program, which introduces the students to the Mexican culture, art and food. Through the Visiting Artist program. Margaritas brings an artist up from Mexico twice a year to visit schools and restaurants to give art demonstrations and teach students about Mexican art and culture.

## Cynergy Young Professional Finalist - Chelsea Moeller

After vacationing in Maine, she joined the Americorp "River Coalition" office in Old Town. Chelsea Moeller was hired as Event Coordinator at MaineGeneral, December of 2007. Following their capital campaign, Chelsea tried to return to Missouri, only to return to MaineGeneral after they restructured and reached out to bring her back. She became Director of Philanthropy in 2014. She loves connecting with people hearing their stories, acknowledging "There's an education in every single person". She credits her mother for her belief in community effort. Chelsea serves on the Board of Directors for the Children's Center and the Family Violence Project. She currently lives in Hallowell with her husband Travis and they are expecting the birth of their first child.

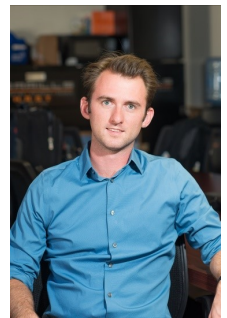


## Cynergy Young Professional Finalist - Matthew Tardiff

Matthew Tardiff is a graduate of Bentley University, class of 2009 and completed his MSA and CPA degrees in 2010. Returned to Maine in 2011 to join J.S. McCarthy as a controller. In 2012, Tardiff became part owner of the company. Matthew is a Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce board member as well as Cynergy's Steering Committee member. He is active with the Augusta Boys and Girls Club, is on the board of MaineGeneral Health and sits on their finance committee, and is a member of Printing Industries of New England.

## Cynergy Young Professional Finalist - Chris Voynik

While other young men and women were playing sports, this budding entrepreneur, Chris Voynik, was selling flowers by the side of the road and energy drinks to sleepy students from his locker. In 2011, Chris started Wag Rags. Chris started selling his dog toys at craft shows for the first couple of years. He had \$8,000 in sales the first year and over \$35,000 in sales in 2015. Also, in 2014 he was a semi-finalist in the Gorham Savings annual Launchpad competition. Wag Rags is one of 26 Greenlight Maine semi-finalists in 2016.



Thanks to Leah Haraden Photography for the wonderful portraits

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT— PREMIER MARKETING

PMG had a quiet beginning 35 years ago renting portable signs out of their Whitefield location under the name Whitman Communications. Today they no longer rent signs but they have grown into a promotional product company that serves a customer base all across the United States from their small Manchester office. While PMG serves local customers providing anything from pens to custom apparel, their larger success has been with national groups such as the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program and Community Health Centers. “We don’t just sell stock items that have been customized for our customers. If we see a need, we create a product to fit that need. That has been a big success with these groups.” said Mike Whitman, owner and founder. “Recipe books, games that encourage healthy eating and activity, and employee incentive programs have been very popular with our customers.”

PMG has also provided cutting-edge solutions to their customers by adding products and services that take advantage of today’s technology. The two most recent additions are Premier Texting, a mobile messaging program that helps remind customers of appointments or events, and Direct Mail 2.0, a service that ties a mailed postcard or letter with Google tracking to compliment the mailing with online advertisements thus significantly impacting the promotional value of a simple mailed postcard or letter. Changing with the times has been the an integral part of PMG’s success.



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### Meet The Board: Michal Kleinlerer

Born in New York City to immigrant parents, I went to school and grew up in Midtown Manhattan. After highschool, I attended the University of Pennsylvania and double-majored in Physical Anthropology and Communications. I started college planning on becoming an architect, after a couple of years planned on going to law school, and upon graduation decided to pursue dentistry. I moved back to NYC and worked as a dental assistant during the day while taking my science requirements at night. After two years of post-baccalaureate studies, I applied to dental school and attended dental school at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. While at Harvard, I did my research on temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMJ). After four years in dental school, I graduated in 2004, I applied and was accepted to the Orthodontic Residency at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. During my residency that lasted three years, I did research in bone biology while learning the skills necessary to be an orthodontist. Although I planned on returning home to NYC after I was finished with my residency program, I met my now husband Jonathan Shenkin, a pediatric dentist, who was living and practicing in Maine. I graduated in June 2007 and moved to Bangor. I associated with an orthodontist in Bangor for a year, after which I took over an orthodontic practice in Waterville and six months later I expanded MK Orthodontics and opened in Augusta.



My involvement with the KV Chamber started in 2011, when I joined as a Board Member. Along with Chris Paszyc, we helped to revive Cynergy, the 21-40 networking group. Over the past few years, MK Orthodontics has taken part in the Whatever Family Festival, helped support fundraisers for local schools, sports teams and causes. I truly love being able to help showcase my patients' self-confidence by creating beautiful smiles.

## Golden Pond Wealth Management

Bert Languet attended the 2016 Broker Dealer and Investment Advisor Symposium at the Augusta Civic Center on October 5th. The day included Senior Safe Training and a panel discussion with the SEC's Boston division. "It was great to learn how we can better protect our senior clients from fraud and abuse. Unfortunately there is more elder abuse financially, physically, and emotionally than one would expect", said Bert Languet, CFP.

## Kennebec Valley Community College

Two Kennebec Valley Community College students each received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Maine Real Estate & Development Association (MEREDA) for study during the current academic year. Sharon Dearborn of Newport is a second-year Business Administration – Accounting major. April Knapik of Fairfield is a second-year Business Administration – Marketing major.

## Maine State Credit Union

Maine State Credit Union is excited to announce that Erin E. Campbell has joined Maine State Credit Union as the Assistant Vice President of Finance. She will report to Duncan MacKellar. "We are excited to have Erin on the team," said Duncan MacKellar, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Maine State Credit Union. "We were lucky to find someone with her skills and talents as well as knowledge of the credit union industry." Campbell was previously the Chief Financial Officer at Brewer Federal Credit Union. She has also worked for Macpage LLC as an audit manager. Campbell is joining the team as long-time AVP of Finance, Rita Briggs, retires after 20 years with Maine State Credit Union.

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All of the members of Cynergy are grateful for your support, as we continue to grow and develop within this community. And a special thank you to our sponsors, Maine State Credit Union & O'Connor Auto Park.

Interested in learning more about us? Join Cynergy as we partner up with Eaton Peabody and Kaplan University on Thursday, January 12, 2017 to present "New Manager Skills: The Essentials" from 5-7PM at Kaplan University.

RSVP today by emailing [Cynergy@kennebecvalleychamber.com](mailto:Cynergy@kennebecvalleychamber.com)



*Happy Holidays  
from Cynergy to you*

## KVCC Board of Directors

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Cross Insurance Agency

**Stacey Morrison, Chair-Elect\***

Ganneston Construction Corp.

**Steven H. Marson, Vice Chair\***

Central Maine Pyrotechnics

**Matthew R. Tardiff, Treasurer\***

J.S. McCarthy Printers

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## Business Insider

*Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce*

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*[www.KennebecValleyChamber.com](http://www.KennebecValleyChamber.com)*

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### KVCC Staff

**Patty M. Hewett**, Vice President, Operations

**Katie L. Doherty**, Program Director

**Kate M. McAllister**, Membership & Marketing Coordinator

**Deborah R. Camporale**, Information Coordinator

### Our Mission:

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

## Join us at The Quarry Tap Room!



The Quarry Tap Room will host the **December Business After Hours** on **Wednesday, December 14th** from **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** at The Quarry Tap Room in Hallowell. KV Chamber members and guests are welcome to join us for networking and great food!

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 and beverages will be available. Be sure to bring a large stack of business cards to share with your new business contacts.



122 Water Street, Hallowell

To RSVP call 623-4559 or email

[info@kennebecvalleychamber.com](mailto:info@kennebecvalleychamber.com)

Look forward to the next Business After Hours at

**Maine State Museum, on January 25, 2017!**

Business After Hours events are sponsored by

