



Northeast Kingdom Maple Syrup Producers Invited to Free Public Program, Oct. 21st

Dr. Timothy Perkins, Director of UVM's Proctor Maple Research Center, and Bradley Gillilan of Leader Evaporator Co. will speak to all interested maple syrup producers in the Northeast Kingdom about high-yield maple syrup production. This event will take on Wednesday, October 21st, at the Barton Memorial Building, from 6:00 -- 8:00 p.m.

This free public program will describe the research and development of a check-valve spout and the impact this new technology will have on the region's maple sugar industry, in addition to other equipment and methods to increase maple sap production.

NVDA is hosting the event. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Lorna Higgs at 802-748-5181, or lhiggs@nvda.net.

Newport City Downtown Awarded USDA Grant

The City of Newport recently received a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Opportunity Grant for \$120,000 with assistance from NVDA. Funds will be used to support the work of the Newport City Renaissance Corporation (NCRC) over a two year period.

"These funds will help sustain the efforts of Newport City Renaissance to revitalize downtown Newport," said Newport City Manager John Ward.

Newport City Renaissance Corporation is a private 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization which is based on the National Main Street Center model for downtown revitalization. The organization currently leads and operates four volunteer committees to address design, economic development, promotion, and organizational capacity issues.

The award follows on the heels of Newport City's Rural/Urban Design Assistance Team held earlier this year. This intensive five-day national envisioning "charrette" was led by the American Institute of Architects and drew a large turnout from the public. The event resulted in a long-range plan for preserving and enhancing Newport's historic downtown, as well as leveraging its strongest assets, such as the waterfront and recreation opportunities.



Marselis Parsons, who recently retired from WCAX-TV following a quarter-century career as reporter, anchor, program producer, and news director, was the guest speaker at NVDA's Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 3rd at the Jay Peak Resort. The annual meeting drew more than 125 attendees from across the state. Left to right: NVDA Executive Director Steve Patterson, NVDA Board President Marty Feltus, Marselis Parsons, Julie Parsons, Mary Jane Stenger, and Jay Peak Resort President Bill Stenger.

Planning

Municipal Planning Grant Program Put on Hold

The Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development has put the Municipal Planning Grant Program on hold this year, due to lack of state funding. If the department plans to fund the program later on in the year, municipalities will be notified at least four weeks in advance of any future application deadline. One important clarification: This recession does NOT impact grants that were already awarded last fall.

Nevertheless, NVDA would like to remind our communities that as your Regional Planning Commission, we are able to provide a limited amount of technical assistance free of charge. We can also provide more involved planning consulting services for a low set cost. Pricing will depend upon the project and range of services involved, so we encourage you to contact us to discuss how we might tailor a consulting package to your municipality's needs. Please feel free to contact NVDA in order to discuss the specifics of your local planning projects and how we may be of service to your municipality. Any of our planning staff can be reached at (802) 748-5181 or through Planning Director David Snedeker at dsnedeker@nvda.net.

Flood Regulations Assistance Available

NVDA has received federal funding that will allow us to assist those communities who wish to update their flood bylaw regulations or incorporate low-impact development standards into their bylaws. Maintaining effective flood regulations is especially important for those communities who are in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and need to meet federal regulation standards in order keep their NFIP program status.

More NEK Municipalities are Actively Planning

At the annual meeting on September 3rd, the NVDA Board voted unanimously to confirm the planning efforts of thirty-four municipalities in the Northeast Kingdom – an all-time high for our region. According to Vermont Statute, a municipality may be “confirmed” by its regional planning commission if it:

√ has a valid town plan approved by NVDA;

√ has an active planning commission; and
√ provides local funds for local and regional planning.

Congratulations to all of our confirmed towns for their hard work.

H1N1 Preparedness

Like a snowstorm, we can't stop the flu from happening, but we can all work to lessen its impact on our families and communities. Local Emergency Planning Commissions #9 is sponsoring a free public forum, where public health officers will be on hand to discuss preparations, including actions you can take to cope with the flu.

Charles E. Carter Business Resource Center, St. Johnsbury-Lyndon Industrial Park, October 28, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, call Lorna Higgs at 748-5181

Zoning Officers: Do You Need More P Signs?

NVDA is considering bulk printing the “**big red P Signs**” for our municipalities, which would significantly reduce our municipalities' per unit costs. Please contact Alison Meaders at 748-5181 or alison@nvda.net if you are interested.

Staff Notes

NVDA Regional Planner Laurie Zilbauer married Thomas Stillwell on July 12th, in Buffalo, NY. Mr. and Mrs. Stillwell make their home in St. Johnsbury.

Shannon Bedor became Property Manager of the Charles E. Carter Business Center. She assumes the duties of Spike Wellman, who retired this summer.

Congratulations are in order to NVDA GIS Specialist Tracy McIntyre, who received his 20 Year Service Award from NVDA at the Annual Meeting on September 3rd.



Before & After: New Life for North Troy Brownfield

In September, the NVDA Brownfield Assessment Program completed initial site work at the Former South Street Gas Station in North Troy Village. The property, which housed a gas station and service garage since the 1920's, had been abandoned for 10 years and was leaking petroleum products into a groundwater plume that stretched onto neighboring properties and towards the Missisquoi River.

Site work conducted by ATC Associates and MARCOR Remediation included the demolition of the building, removal of hazardous solid waste and six underground storage tanks. Funding for this work was provided by the Town of Troy, Village of North Troy, Vermont Petroleum Clean-up Fund, and the NVDA, which provides environmental assessment funding through its U.S. EPA Assessment Grants.



The project has already received enthusiastic support from the community. "We've heard how residents watched and cheered the building demolition, and later, as the site work was finishing up, expressed thanks and appreciation to our contractors for a job well done," said NVDA project coordinator Laurie Stillwell. Follow-up environmental sampling will be conducted over the next several months as the site is prepared for sale and redevelopment.

Top: Abandoned and partially collapsed gas station, immediately prior to demolition and cleanup.

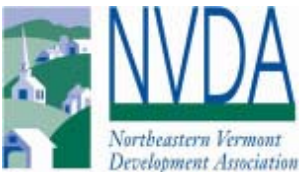
Middle: Wet demolition of the property.

Bottom: Reclaimed site prepped for reseeded and mulched.



P.O. Box 630
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Save the Dates (details inside):
Oct. 21: Maple Sugar Producers Program, Barton
Oct. 28: H1N1 LEPC #9 Public Forum, St. Johnsbury



Northeastern Vermont Development Association serves the three counties of the Northeast Kingdom – Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans – as the region’s economic development and planning entity. Visit www.nvda.net.

Coming March 27th: Northeast Kingdom Energy Fair II

NVDA’s 2009 NEK Energy Fair at Lyndon State College was an unqualified success! 500-600 attendees met with exhibitors and attended workshops, and received renewable energy information from geothermal, solar, wind and biomass experts.

Exhibitor information will be available in November. For more information, contact NVDA Project Manager Lorna Higgs at 802-748-5181 or lhiggs@nvda.net

Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy paid a visit to the Hardwick Industrial Park in August. The park will be the site of Vermont Food Venture Center2, a 13,400+ sq. ft. multipurpose processing facility for specialty food and value-added entrepreneurs. Senator Leahy’s enthusiastic support for the project made the funding for this facility possible. Andrew Meyer of Vermont Soy is in the background.



NOW LEASING

The Charles E. Carter Business Resource Center in the St. J./Lyndon Industrial Park has approximately 4,500 square feet of warehouse space available for lease. Two bays are adjacent and could be combined for a total of 3,000 square feet. Another 1,500 foot bay is also available. The space could be used for light manufacturing, warehouse, assembly, etc. Approximately 1,000 square feet of office space is available that could be configured to meet specific needs. Includes heat, electric, trash removal, grounds maintenance, and snow removal.

Call Shannon Bedor or Steve Patterson at 748-5181 for further information.