

Camden Rotary to Host Talk on Mid Coast Economic Development Trends

CAMDEN – October 8, 2020 – Bill Najpauer, executive director of the [Mid Coast Economic Development District](#) (MCEDD), will discuss local economic trends with the Camden Rotary Club at noon on Tuesday, October 13. Anyone who wants to attend this Zoom meeting can obtain connection details from Stephanie French <steph.griffinsg00@gmail.com>.

Najpauer's talk is the second in a monthly series the club is hosting to foster learning about and finding creative solutions for economic challenges in the Midcoast. In the first talk, Martha Bentley, director of economic development coordination for the State of Maine, provided an overview of the State's 10-year economic development strategy.

Najpauer will give a more local view, focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities of the coastal area between Damariscotta and Searsport.

MCEDD is a municipally led economic and community development serving members in Sagadahoc, Lincoln and Knox counties, plus Brunswick, Harpswell, and Lincolnville. As a federally designated economic development district, MCEDD follows a comprehensive economic development strategy that incorporates economic, community and workforce development, education, transportation and environmental efforts. MCEDD aims to build the region's capacity to expand opportunities.

Najpauer has 35 years of planning and community development experience in Maine and has worked in municipal and regional planning and has operated a private planning consulting business.

Jason Judd, executive director of [Educate Maine](#), will address the club on November 10. His talk will focus on the work of [Spark Maine](#), an educational initiative that brings schools and universities, nonprofits and foundations, government agencies and businesses to position Mainers for success through education and workforce credentials.

The speaker series stems from the club's recent efforts to identify community needs as part of a comprehensive strategic planning process. Members' interviews with local government officials, business leaders, nonprofit managers, and other stakeholders pointed to workforce development as a means of alleviating poverty, food insecurity, and other difficulties faced by residents.

During its 95-year history, Camden Rotary Club has supported charitable causes through grantmaking and hands-on service. Members learn about community needs during their weekly meetings. For more information about the club, please visit <https://www.camdenrotary.org>.