



FREE

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Serving Albion ★ Benton ★ China ★ Palermo ★ Unity ★ Vassalboro ★ Windsor ★ Winslow ★ Fairfield ★ Somerville ★ Whitefield ★ Liberty ★ Sidney
Chelsea ★ Jefferson ★ Washington ★ Oakland ★ Freedom ★ Skowhegan ★ Madison ★ Norridgewock ★ Anson ★ Solon ★ and other Somerset County towns

Beginning next week!



**80,000 lbs.
vs.
100,000 lbs.**

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Transportation notified the state of Maine that it was in violation of federal vehicle weight requirements. As a result, trucks weighing more than 100,000 had to divert from I-95, using secondary roads through rural towns (such as Lakeview Drive, in China) to deliver their payloads.

In 2010, Congress passed a one-year pilot project to exempt Maine's federal highways from the 80,000 pound federal truck weight limit. The program is due to expire, and an effort is underway to extend the exemption.

In the next few weeks, we will provide facts regarding the issue through a series of informational articles.

**Statewide
Any-deer
permit deadline
approaching
page 14**

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Governor visits Vassalboro farm project and students who work the soil

by Lyn Rowden

Along Route 201 between Dunham Road and Riverside Drive is an acre for community farming. It is part of the former Fred Rancourt Farm, noted for its three blue silos. No longer in use, the silos are now the "signature" of Sunset Meadow Farm, a project of Jim and Susan Lowell.

The farm is managed by Peter Victor of Maine Farmlands LLC, an investment company which provides financing to help preserve farmland from development and support sustainable local agriculture. He, the Lowells and Victor Esposito, Project Reach Specialist at Vassalboro Community School, have been working together to create a unique community farm experience.

"The garden was given to the Project Reach program this past fall," said Esposito. "The kids worked on planning what to plant, what they like to eat, what we could grow for the school cafe program, and what we would sell at our roadside stand."

Early this spring they contacted Johnny's Selected Seed who donated literal seed money – \$1,000 towards seed and tools to get the project off the ground.

"Lou Zambello is the gentleman that I worked with...Great guy!" stated Esposito,

With lettuce to sown and plants to be grown the students continue their work over the summer. They were working on July 19 when Governor Baldacci and his wife, Karen, came to visit the Lowells and tour the farm.

Baldacci asked the hard-working kids what they were getting out of the program. "I'm just waiting for the food to pop up," Joey Frederick replied.

With many ideas in the works, the future

use of the farmhouse has not been determined, although a farm family would be welcome. Esposito and Lowell envision an expanding community program with high schoolers getting hands-on training in sus-

Titus.

Last spring Esposito had applied for a grant to help with this project. This week, while putting together some information for this article, Esposito got word from



Vassalboro Community School Project Reach students met the governor while working Monday at their community farm at Sunset Meadow Farm in Vassalboro. Students, front row left to right, are Willie Dutton, Michael Willet, Jasmine Ellis, Megan Forbes, and Joey Frederick. Behind them are their teacher Project Reach Specialist Victor Esposito, owners Jim and Susan Lowell, manager Peter Victor of Maine Farmlands LLC, Governor John Baldacci and First Lady Karen Baldacci.

Photo by Emily Rowden

tainable agricultural sciences, small-motor repair skills at the farm's shed, and experience in chicken farming with fresh eggs as a reward. Both men commended the town manager, Mary Sabans, for connecting the school and farm, and give much credit and thanks to local agriculturalist Lauchlin

Willie Grenier who is the head of the Ag in The Classroom Department, that his grant was approved for \$2,000.

"My kids will be pumped!" he wrote with five exclamation points.

Vassalboro farm students and the community will reap the benefits.

Reach Work Camp visits Windsor

by Emily Rowden

Last week a gang of youth was spotted on a housetop in Windsor. When people started calling *The Town Line* I went over to check it out. I discovered they are part of an organization called Reach Work Camp. Over 300 junior and senior high schoolers and their leaders are at 30 different sites across the nation, in crews of seven to eight.

They do relief work on houses - roofing, drywall, sealing, cleaning, and more, to help people who need it. Raising their own money to do this volunteer work the groups travel in vans from one location to another. Those in Windsor were from New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. These kids loved Maine, which included a visit to Peaks Island.

According to their website, the workcamp is a life changing experience for teenagers: "They learn through their week of hard work that real, hurting, loving people live behind what seems to be the immovable barriers of poverty. A teenager will no longer look on the needy with a casual glance. A workcamp enhances the teenager's faith and provides them with the opportunity to experience the empowerment that comes with making a difference. A workcamp enables the youth to create changes in their lives and in their world."

A spiritual component is added with evening programs and journaling. Many youth pastors volunteer to chaperone.

For more information about Reach Work Camp call 1-888 -REACHWC or visit them at www.reachwc.org.



Top photo, Joe Zach, of New York; Scott Springer, of Pennsylvania; Nicki Hayes and Brook LaGreca, also from New York, perch on the rooftop while fixing up a house in Windsor. Above, Kat Spieler, of North Carolina; Scott Lotze, of New York, and Katie Heyl, of North Carolina, cut shingles as part of the Reach Work Camp project that helped refurbish a home in Windsor last week.

Photos by Emily Rowden

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