



Insurance Made Easy

Spring 2013
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Agency



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Allen/Freeman/McDonnell Staff Members Involved in Their Professional Association

This article shines the spotlight on two members of our Agency; Kathy Case and Tammi York for their involvement in "Insurance Professionals of Eastern Maine".

This local chapter is one of seven in Maine and is under the umbrella of the International Association of Insurance Professionals. The organization supports its members by offering a variety of opportunities to learn more about their profession, support efforts to further insurance awareness in Maine and to support various community service projects. Recent events involving IPEM members include: an educational seminar for insurance producers, support for the State of Maine's new program to optimize the involvement of parents with their teen driver's education, and a blood drive at the Red Cross Blood Center, as well as opportunities for networking.

Kathy Case currently serves as the Eastern Maine Chapter President and Tammi York is this year's Secretary. Tammi recently represented IPEM at a press conference in Augusta where Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap announced a new program to enhance the educational process for teenage drivers. (Please refer to the article "The Parent's Supervised Driving Program" in this newsletter.)

Tammi has been a licensed insurance producer since 2003 and serves in our Personal Lines department. Kathy has been licensed since 1996 and serves as the Manager of our Personal Lines department.

Spring is here!
Don't forget to insure your sports
car before you put it on the road!

Take Some of the Worry Out of Your Retirement Planning

"Stock Markets Post Record Highs!" is a common headline we see these days. We can party like it's 2007! But what does that really mean for your retirement accounts? For those baby boomer investors does it mean our portfolios are just 6 years behind where we expected them to be in 2013? That news would be bad enough, but also consider the downturn in the fall of 2001 and then there was that crash in 1987 when stocks plunged 508.32 points on October 19th of that year.

While the rise and fall of the values in our retirement portfolios may help turn a boomer's hair white, for many of us there is a way to help guard against unexpected setbacks to our retirement Planning: **life insurance**. "Oh, I have some of that" you may say. When reviewing your path to retirement, don't overlook that security blanket, and make sure it isn't thread bare!

Unfortunately for the past 30 years, the types of policies most often purchased have been ones that can be expected to pass away before you do! The amount and types of coverage that best suit your needs usually change over time, as your health, financial security and family obligations evolve.

Every year Sue sends an invitation to our life insurance customers to meet and reassess their current circumstances. Even if you didn't buy your coverage through us, please consider this her invitation to meet with you. She will give you an honest opinion based on over 30 years of experience and make recommendations, from which you can determine your best course of action. Contact Sue McKay, Life/Health Department Manager at 942-7371, or sue@insurancemadeeasy.com.

“The Parent’s Supervised Driving Program” Unveiled in Augusta

Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap recently announced at a press conference in Augusta, that a new program is available to help parents and their teen drivers.

The program is no cost to parents and designed to optimize the 35 hours of supervised driving teens are required to complete under parental supervision prior to receiving their license. Going forward, parents of teens will be given a copy of “The Parents Supervised Driving Program” by the driving instructor at the conclusion of the required parental involvement component of driver’s education.

The program is divided into skill sets. i.e. parking, backing up, city and highway driving; and asks parents and teens to initial in the log section of the materials after each section is completed.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths in the U.S., accounting for more than 1 in 3 deaths in their age group. Per miles driven, teenage drivers aged 16-19 are four times more likely than older drivers to be involved in a car accident.

Research has found parents need to be more involved with their child’s driving preparation and to conduct more oversight with their youthful drivers.

“As young people across Maine learn to drive our roadways with obvious excitement, I hope the availability of The Parents Supervised Driving Program will ease some of the stress and concern often experienced by the parents and guardians of new drivers” said Dunlap.

The materials will help parents with teaching the cognitive aspects of driving, and not just vehicle handling, among other necessary skills essential to driving, moving toward being a “wise” driver rather than simply a “skilled” driver.

This article includes information adapted from the State of Maine website. For more information visit:

http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/SupervisedDrivingProgram_ME_2012.pdf or www.theparentssuperviseddrivingprogram.com

Please ask us about other tools available through our office, such as teen/parent driving contracts.

Time for Two Wheels



The weather’s warmer and you may be getting the urge to take the bike out of storage. Many policies include “lay up” periods when coverage is limited. Check on your motorcycle coverage **before** you head out for that first ride of the season!

Motorcycle policies, while similar to auto policies, have some special features. In general, motorcycle policies do NOT cover rented or borrowed machines. You may qualify for discounts if you are the member of a riding group, have completed a safety course, have an anti-theft alarm, or wear a helmet. Allowances for safety gear may be included in your property coverage. If you plan on carrying a passenger, be sure to add guest passenger liability. If you have after factory installed extras, please list them separately to ensure coverage. You may add trip interruption coverage and roadside assistance coverage. If your bike is over 30 years old, you may qualify for “Classic” programs.

We can customize your motorcycle policy to fit your lifestyle. Please call us for a quote or review before the warm weather tempts you.

Staying Afloat

Insuring your “boat” doesn’t have to be confusing, but it is important to understand where coverage can be found for different situations.. Many styles of boats are included under personal watercraft such as:

rowboats, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, inboard and outboard motorboats, jet skis, and yachts. While most people focus on protecting their interest in the boat itself, perhaps more important is protecting yourself from liability claims that might arise from owning and operating a boat.

Personal Auto Policy: Only the **boat trailer, NOT the boat**, may be covered under your auto policy! List the trailer, choosing comprehensive and collision coverage, if you want property damage coverage. Liability coverage is available when an “eligible trailer” (one that is designed to be towed by a personal vehicle) is attached to your insured vehicle.

Homeowners’ Policy: Liability coverage may be available for the **boat trailer** when it is NOT attached to a vehicle. Liability coverage for your **boat** is limited by the sizes of the boat and of the motor. Property coverage is very limited and many exclusions apply. Some insurance companies offer endorsements to increase these coverage.

Personal Watercraft Policies: There is no “standard” policy. Each insurance company develops their own policy language. Call us today and we can assist you in finding the policy and company that fits your needs and keeps you floating worry-free.

