

Letter from the President of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

My fellow Americans, vote for me because... Have we heard that recently? With all the campaigning going around out there, I thought we should talk about everyone's favorite subject — politics!

Enough already! Don't call me any more and ask me about my views on abortion, healthcare or Isis. Don't ask me again how "angry" I am with government. Bottom line — I am very happy that I live in this country. I'm happy I live in Franklin County.

But there is always more we can do.

As names like Ted, Bernie, Marco, Hillary and Donald have become household names — like the dysfunctional family members we all know and love. We want to make sure that everyone knows that there is no D, R or I in Chamber of Commerce. Your local Chamber does not support any par-

ticular political party. We do support any candidate that is looking out for the best interests of our citizens. We know many times politics is a part of getting what we want and need to make Franklin County a great place to live, work and recreate. Sometimes, it's just a matter of balancing the special interests of those three things.

This is where the Chamber needs to become more involved in the issues that affect Franklin County. We benefit from the support of our local legislators in Augusta. Representatives Russell Black, Paul Gilbert and Tom Skolfield have all worked with the Chamber and it's members to bring about needed changes in legislation (though they may not all agree on how).

State Senator Tom Saviello is a strong advocate for the Chamber and what it stands for. He takes the time to

support our businesses and our students. Foster CTE Center recently had some students from our forestry program visit Augusta to comment on a bill that would provide funding to our state high school forestry programs. He not only made them feel welcomed, but took the time to show them around the capital building. This is something these students will always remember.

We also have close contact with Carlene Tremblay of Senator Collin's office, Samantha Warren of Congressman Poliquin's office and Ben Tucker of Senator King's office. These connections help keep the line of



communications open for both the people of Franklin County and those that represent them.

The big issue that is coming up now is the increase to the minimum wage. Is it long overdue or is over done? Will it bring greater prosperity to the area or cause small business to struggle? We are starting to survey our members to determine their opinions on this issue. If we

have a definitive opinion from our members, then it's the responsibility of the Chamber to support or not support the initiative. More to come on that soon.

Last week I had the pleasure of traveling to Washington D.C. to advocate for Federal funding for Career and Technical Education. While I was there, I was able to meet with staffers from Congresswoman Pingree's office,

Congressman Poliquin's office, Senator King and Senator Collin's office. Myself and two other representatives from Maine were able to discuss with them the issues we had and why we think they should support certain legislation.

Not only did we speak with the staffers, but we were able to meet with the representatives and senators themselves. Congressman Poliquin spent over 15 minutes talking with us about the needs for Maine workers. Senator Collins was genuinely interested in what we had to say. She asked questions and took notes. Senator King actually stepped out of an Armed Services Committee hearing to speak with us directly. During all our visits we never felt rushed or that

President
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Calendar of Events March 24 to May 7

March 27

Maine Maple Sunday

Time: Hours vary – check with your local sap house
Location: Maple Valley Farms, Black Acre Farms and many other sap houses

Enjoy the first sweet taste of spring in Maine! Join maple syrup producers across the state as they open their sugar houses and offer free maple syrup samples and other maple delights as well as demonstrations on making pure Maine maple syrup. Many offer games, activities, treats, sugar house tours, music and more.

March 29

Adult Athlete Running Clinic

Time: 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Location: Stanley Health Center on the Franklin Memorial Hospital Campus in Farmington

The Franklin Memorial Hos-

pital Physical Rehabilitation Department invites adult athletes to a free running clinic on Tuesday, March 29, from 4:30–7 p.m. in the Physical Therapy Clinic in the Stanley Health Center on the Franklin Memorial Hospital campus. The clinic will provide screening for flexibility, core strength, footwear choices, diet and running gait. Staff taking part in the clinic include: Dr. Thomas Pulling, two athletic trainers, four physical therapists and a dietitian. A running analysis is provided through a slow motion computer program that shows a person's gait in millisecond increments. Through extensive research and training, a physical therapist is able to analyze multiple points of contact during running to help prevent injury and improve performance.

Participants attending the clinic should wear running clothes and shoes and bring

water. If possible, also bring an old pair of running shoes.

For more information or if you plan to attend please call 779-2621.

April 2

The 2016 Price is Right Show

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Location: Mt. Blue High School

Farmington Rotarians proudly announce the return of the Price Is Right on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Mt. Blue High School from 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Concessions will be available. This perennial favorite features fabulous prizes and giveaways, and unlike the real TV show, there is a guaranteed winner of a themed showcase featuring thousands of dollars in unique prizes. Speaking of themes, this year's theme is TV Characters. Find your inner Lucille Ball or Big Bird and join the fun in costume! There will be prizes for the best costume. General Admission is \$10. Must be 18 to play. No additional purchase necessary. Tickets are available from any Farmington Rotarian and at Madore's Market in West Farmington, Douin's Market in New Sharon, Steve's Market, in Wilton and Ron's Market in Farmington.

Proceeds from the Farmington Rotary Price is Right benefit a wide range of projects around the world and close to home. This includes helping to provide emer-

gency heating assistance, warm pajamas for children in collaboration with the Franklin County Children's Task Force, scholarships, backpacks in partnership with United Way's Packs for Progress program, and safe drinking water in Guatemala.

April 3

Synchronicity: A Concert of Piano and Percussion

Doors open: 2 p.m.
Location: Mt. Blue High School

The Arts Institute of Western Maine in collaboration with Kingfield Pops and the Mahoosuc Arts Council presents a concert by the New York piano and percussion duo Synchronicity in Bjorn Auditorium at Mount Blue High School on Sunday April 3 at 3 p.m. \$15 admission; students with ID are free. The duo, brothers Garah and Greg Landes, are known nationally and internationally for their arrangements of many well-known symphonic and chamber works by composers such as Debussy, Stravinsky, Ginastera, Bernstein, and jazz and world music.

April 21

April's Business After Hours

Time: 5 - 7 p.m.
Location: Colonial Valley Motel, 593 Wilton Road, Farmington

Join us for April's Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours hosted by Colonial Valley Motel. For more information, call the Chamber at 778-4215 or email info@franklincountymaine.org. We hope to see you there!

May 1

Hospice House 5k and Remembrance Walk

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Location: Franklin County Courthouse on Main Street in Farmington

Proceeds support patient care & family support services at Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice's Hospice House. Starting line and registration: Franklin County Court House on Main Street
Registration opens: 7:30, Kids 1 mile Fun Run 8:00, 5k Start 9:00
Registration: \$25 before the

event; \$30 Day of (13 and older) No fee for children ages 12 and younger. Kids fun run open at no cost -donations accepted. Awards presented to top fundraising team, individual and youth fundraiser. Runners awards to 1st and 2nd place in 5 year age groups. For more information and to register visit: www.HHRunWalk.org

May 5

Entrepreneurs Connect

Time: 4 - 7 p.m.
Location: Fairbanks Meeting House, 508 Fairbanks Road, Farmington

Get inspired to think big, be bold and take risks. Challenge yourself to grow your business and take it to the next level. Get inspired as you hear local entrepreneurs share their journey. Learn from experts as we focus on advertising, marketing and trademarking.

Registration required entre-

President

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we weren't being listened to.

At no time in my visit did anyone ask me who I voted for. They didn't even know what political party I'm registered with. My religion didn't matter. How much money I make didn't matter. I was treated with respect and dignity. Congressman Poliquin said several times, "I work for you."

I say all this because as we get caught up in the political quagmire of the 2016 elections and all the negative that accompanies it, you need to remember that we still live in the greatest place on Earth, where democracy still prevails!

Thankyou,

Glenn Kapiloff, President

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

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Events
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Patty Ladd
Wilton Career Center

Peter Osborne
UMF

Chrissy St. Laurent
Franklin Savings Bank

Rhonda Irish
Wilton Town Manager

Welcome our newest Chamber members!

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the newest members of the Chamber. Please join us in welcoming them by taking a moment to say hello, visit their website and patronize their business.

Farmington Historical Society

118 Academy
Farmington, ME 04938
www.farmingtonhistory.org
www.facebook.com/
HappyHistorians

The mission of the Farmington Historical Society is to discover, procure and preserve the history of Farmington, Maine. Three buildings are opened during special events and by appointment: the Titcomb House, the Octagon House and the North Church. Both the North Church and Octagon, located in Farmington's downtown historic district can be rented for parties, weddings, showers, reunions and other events. These buildings retain their historic character with modern functions. The historical society through the North Church Concert series brings a variety of musicians and bands to Farmington. Check out www.farmingtonhistory.org for a full listing of concerts and special events.

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Our office specializes in the highly effective treatment and management of musculo-skeletal conditions of the spine and extremities. Our goal is to provide the most appropriate care in a timely manner to resolve the condition as quickly as possible.

Scholarships available to Franklin County residents

The 2016 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce David Robie Memorial Scholarship applications are now available. The Scholarship is in memory of the late David Robie and is to encourage continuing or higher education for Franklin County residents through financial assistance.

The Scholarships are open to any resident of Franklin County who has lived in the county for at least the prior

12 months. This scholarship will be awarded to a resident planning to, or currently attending an accredited, post-secondary school. This includes 2016 high school graduates, current full-time college students or other residents returning to school. A high school equivalency test (GED) is acceptable.

Applications are available at the Chamber office, on the Chamber's website at www.franklincountymaine.org (in

the "Our Chamber" section, under the "Scholarship" link), or at the guidance offices of the five high schools located in Franklin County.

Applications and supporting materials are due into the Chamber no later than Friday, April 29 at 4 p.m. An application may also be requested through the Chamber by emailing Executive Director, Penny Meservier at director@franklincountymaine.org or calling 778-4215.

Franklin County
WELLNESS FAIR
2016
Saturday, May 7
9am-2pm

North Dining Hall, University of Maine at Farmington

**-FREE ADMISSION-
DOOR PRIZES**

Our mission is to showcase local holistic and integrative healthcare businesses, to encourage an informative and educational environment, and to support community and personal wellness.

Healthy Community Coalition cooking demonstration
9:30am

Mindfulness workshop
10:30am

UMF Fitness - How to exercise without equipment
11:30am

End of Rainbow Alternatives Essential Oils presentation
12:30pm

ALSO CHECK OUT:

The Elks Drug Awareness
Healthy Community Coalition
Body Analyzer
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Tumbledown Brewing hosts March's BAH

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours networking event in March was held at Tumbledown Brewing.

Owners, Matt and Meaghan Swan, gave tours of the facilities and provided samples of Tumbledown Beers. Matt explained to attendees how Tumbledown Brewing processes four basic ingredients (water, grain, hops and yeast) into beer. Tumbledown Brewing is filled with vats and fermenters that process batches of about 120 gallons. As a small brewery, much of the work is done by hand.

Beer is sold in growlers, a half gallon bottle of beer, and a new 22 ounce bottle is now sold in stores. Visit Tumbledown Brewing located in the Eastside Mall, 805 Farmington Falls Road in Farmington to try a sample and buy your favorite Tumbledown Beer.

Join the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at our next Business After Hours on April 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Colonial Valley Motel, 593 Wilton Road in Farmington.

Whether you are a chamber member or not, attend this BAH event to learn about Colonial Valley Motel and network with others.



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Events

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preneursconnectspring.
eventbrite.com or call
207-778-5887.

May 7

Franklin County Wellness Fair
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Location: University of Maine at Farmington, North Dining Hall

We are pleased to announce that the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce first Wellness Fair, will take place at University of Maine at Farmington, North Dining Hall in Farmington. The Wellness Fair is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your business to both potential and current customers, all while networking with other local businesses. The chance is yours to develop new relationships and to market your products and services.