

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 2015

207.778.4215

615 Wilton Road, Farmington
www.franklincountymaine.org

Greetings!

This marks the end of the business year for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. We celebrate it with the annual dinner each year and recognition of Business of the Year awards. What a great event we had this past October. With over 160 guests in attendance it marked the largest event of its type we have held. I believe this is indicative of the excitement surrounding the Chamber as we head into another year. With membership now exceeding 200 businesses in Franklin County, the Chamber has had a busy year.

Our first order of business this past year was to hire a new executive director. We are very pleased that hiring one has not become a yearly event. Penny Meservier has exceeded all expectations for filling that position. She has become an equivalent of the "Wedding planner" for Business After Hour events. Her first job was to hire a part-time assistant to the director, who is Kaitlin Frost. Again, we were very fortunate in adding these people to the Chamber's board.

The Chamber has continued to improve relationships and

coordination with other organizations. Working with the Farmington Downtown Association, the Rangeley Chamber of Commerce, the Jay/Livermore, Livermore Falls Chamber of Commerce, River Valley Chamber of Commerce, Flagstaff Area Business Association as well as the Greater Franklin Development Corporation and others.

We partnered for Business After Hours with local businesses:

- Franklin Savings Bank
- Franklin County Animal Shelter
- University of Maine at Farmington
- Greater Franklin development council & WMCA career center.
- Franklin County Community College Network
- Dead River company
- Franklin printing
- Complete dentistry
- KeyBank
- Wilson lake inn
- Farmington Coca Cola
- Food provided by - Calzolaio's Pasta Company, Ray Ray's Café, Douin's Market, Homestead Bar and Bakery and Tumbledown Brewery.

The Chamber was involved in ribbon cutting ceremonies for:

- Expenet
- Wilton hardware
- Farmington Coca Cola
- Enchanted herbs and botanical
- Barclaycard
- Old Wilton Tannery building.
- Azulene Day Spa

We also participated in hosting seminars and community events such as:

- Smart Assets – investing in your employees
- Managing conflict - Resolving employment difficulties
- Entrepreneurs connect - Tips from small business owners in starting your own business.
- We also hosted the United States Air Force Band concert
- Supported Farmington's Summerfest, Kingfield pops, and the Wilton blueberry festival

This is in addition to our annual events we organize each year such as:

- The Home and leisure show.
- Chester Greenwood day events.
- Gerry Wiles holiday food basket drive.
- Participating in the Farmington fair.
- As well as the Seth Westcott and Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic to benefit our scholarship fund.

Certificates for Citizen Awards were presented to over 30 people recognized for what they add to our community.

This next year we need to continue moving in the direction we have been going. We need to continue to increase membership while still supporting our current membership.

As we look to next year, I believe that as a Chamber we need to take a more active role in promoting economic prosperity in our area by doing the following three things:

1. Taking a stand on political issues. During this next year we will work to become more involved and connected with our local politicians to provide a conduit for information about the issues that affect us all.
2. Investing more to foster growth in small and medium businesses by helping them survive those first few years.
3. It also means that the Chamber needs to do more to support tourism by promoting the great things that Franklin County has to offer.

If any chamber members are interested in having a more active role in the events or direction of the Chamber, please do not hesitate to contact us. We have some openings on the Board of Directors and you are always welcome to be part of any of our events committees.

I would also like to congratulate the businesses that were recognized as our businesses of the



Left, Past President Mike Blanchet, right, Glenn Kapiloff, president

year. Three finalists were recognized in each category. This is never an easy decision as we have so many worthy nominations. The committee, led by Shannon Smith, did a good job putting the entire event together. We also can't forget the tremendous support for the Gerry Wile's Food Basket drive. Each donation of \$25 for a basket made that evening was represented by a balloon. It was a great visual representation to see over 150 balloons around the room the night of the event. Many needy families will eat well this holiday season thanks to everyone's generosity.

Finally, a group of board members and myself had the privilege of attending the

Maine State Chamber dinner in Augusta. The dinner honored Maine Senator Susan Collins for her years of dedicated service to the citizens of Maine. It was a nice presentation that was highlighted by Senator Collin's speech. Her speech was a positive recap of all the places and businesses she visited in Maine this past year. It was an inspiration to all of us.

Thank you,

Glenn Kapiloff

President

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A fun, event-filled Chester Greenwood Day



On Saturday, Dec. 5, in downtown Farmington, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is kicking off the 39th Annual Chester Greenwood Day Parade. In celebration of Farmington native and earmuff inventor, Chester Greenwood, several events will be taking place throughout town. This year's parade theme is "Favorite Character" so show us your favorite book, movie or tv character and don't forget to include earmuffs on your float!

8am Chester Greenwood Day 5K Run/Walk - Registration time begins 8AM at the large field adjacent to Prescott Field. Start time is at 9AM and the trail is the perimeter of the field. Cost is \$10. Proceeds go to the Maine Brain Aneurysm Awareness. FME: MaureenMcCool@gmail.com, or 778-0801

8am-1pm Cookie Walk & White Elephant Sale - At Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, 110 Academy St. Farmington.

9am American Legion #28 Craft Fair - At the corner of

High St. & Middle St. Farmington- treats and treasures abound!

Coats for Kids - Drop off gently used coats at Franklin Savings Bank and they'll have it cleaned for another child to use.

9am - 3pm Franklin County Arts & Crafts Association Annual Craft Show - At the University of Maine at Farmington Student Center, Farmington.

9am-2pm Emblem Club #460 Craft Fair - At the Farmington Elks Lodge. A great collection of

vendors and items.

10am Parade Line-Up - At Mallet School in Farmington, the Quebec St. entrance. Free!

10am - 2pm Open Houses:

The Titcomb House - free (corner of Academy and High Streets) will be open and free of charge to the public. Members of the Historical Society will be present to give tours and will be selling fresh decorated wreaths.

The Octagon House - \$5 donation (corner of Perham and Broadway) home will be open and filled with music. Freshly decorated wreaths for sale.

The North Church - free - open to the public showcasing a display from the Mantor Library.

Kids can meet Elsa - Bangor Savings Bank - And other events, stop in to see what is happening!

10am - 6:30pm Rotary's Festival of Trees - The Festival of Trees will be held at the Greenwood Dining room on Front St. with musical entertain-

ment throughout the day. Tree auction begins at 6:30 p.m. 10:30am- noon InClogNeatO clog performance at Bangor Savings Bank.

11am Parade Begins! - Parade will occur rain, snow, or shine, throughout downtown Farmington.

Flagraising ceremony will take place at the Franklin County Courthouse after the parade.

11am-1pm 8th Annual Gingerbread House Contest - Entries may be dropped off at Bangor Savings Bank, Main St, Downtown Farmington between 8:30am-9am.

Polar Express - At Narrow Gauge Cinema. Time TBD

Noon until 1pm (While it lasts!) Chili Challenge - At Enchanted Herbs & Botanicals. Pre-register by contacting the Chamber. Free. Traveling trophy and Chamber Bucks awarded! Drop off your entry between 11-11:45am. Come & vote for your favorite! Free and open to the public.

Noon-2pm Coat Closet Open House - Select a clean, gently used coat from a large collection of hats, gloves, mittens, snow pants etc. Cookies and

hot chocolate will be served. Located in the basement of the Old South 1st Congregational Church, Main Street.

1pm - 3pm Open House - The Pierce House will have memorabilia pertaining to the Greenwoods on display celebrating its connection to the Greenwood Family. Cookie decorating and old fashioned refreshments will be available.

2pm-5pm Horse-drawn wagon rides from Kendrick Charles.

3pm Annual Polar Bear Dip - At the breakwater on Clearwater Lake, Industry. Members take an annual dip into the frigid Clearwater Lake in Industry, always a crowd pleaser! Dip if you dare!

5pm Camp-Out-For-Heat - The Old South Youth Group will camp out in front of Holman Parish House to raise awareness and funds for Ecu-Heat, the ecumenical fund that helps provide heating assistance to families in need in Franklin County.

5pm Evening tree lighting - with hot chocolate and popcorn at 198 Front Street. Sponsored by Franklin Savings Bank and Western Mountain Financial Services.

Gerry Wiles Holiday Food Basket Drive

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is getting ready for its annual holiday food baskets to provide Franklin County families with a delicious meal this December. More than 145 families enjoyed

a warm dinner last holiday season thanks to the amazing support of area businesses, individuals and volunteers.

The Chamber is striving to help even more people this year. The food basket drive is

named in honor of local resident Gerry Wiles who left us in October of 2010. As shared in a tribute to Mr. Wiles, "It would be Gerry's personal request that wherever you are, whenever you can, do so much for a child as is possible

by sharing your time, talents and values."

The Chamber seeks donations of food and monetary contributions in preparation for this community service project. Food baskets are distributed to families referred by local service agencies, schools, Operation Santa Claus volunteers, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, members of the Chamber's board of directors, and other area businesses and agencies.

Visit the chamber office or online at www.franklin-countymaine.org to find the donation and basket request forms online. Donations of food are also being accepted at these locations: the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Farmington;

KeyBank, Wilton; Skowhegan Savings Bank, Kingfield; and Otis FCU, Jay. Please submit request applications for food baskets to the Chamber no later than Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. Monetary and food donations will be accepted until Dec. 11 at 4 p.m.

All applications will be reviewed by the food basket committee and granted based on eligibility and availability. If contacted, baskets will be available for pick up by individual recipients on Dec. 18, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce office, 615 Wilton Rd in Farmington.

Each little contribution makes a big difference in our communities, thank you for your consideration!

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Mission

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization of business and civic leaders. It exists to promote its members and their services, and to provide a voice for the interest of area businesses. Through partnerships with others, the Chamber seeks to promote economic growth, job creation and retention, tourism, civic pride and cultural awareness.

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Franklin Savings Bank

Rhonda Irish
Wilton Town Manager

Citizen Recognition Award: Charlie Bennett

On Nov. 11, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce recognized Charlie Bennett with a citizen recognition award. This award acknowledged Charlie's support of Franklin County through community service and support of local veterans.

Charlie Bennett is an active member of American Legion Post 28 and participates in Flag Day programs at the local schools, honors veterans in our nursing homes, and has worked tirelessly to refurbish the Briggs Cemetery

site. His fundraising efforts include the very successful promotion of car washes to raise money for the Post and veterans programs, and fundraising for the Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Meetinghouse Park.

The Chamber promotes civic engagement, community involvement, and economic development. Through this civic recognition award we recognize and appreciate Charlie's contributions to our community.



Citizen Recognition Award presentation. From left: Chamber Vice President Greg Patterson, Charlie Bennett and Chamber President Glenn Kapiloff.

Business After Hours and ribbon cutting at Farmington Coca-Cola

Farmington Coca-Cola hosted October's Business After Hours and invited the community to join the event. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the distribution facility and view the new fleet of Coca-Cola trucks. A delicious buffet by Douin's Market was enjoyed by all. The celebration included a ribbon cutting ceremony and prize drawings. The Chamber would like to thank Farmington Coca-Cola for hosting a great Business After Hours.



Ribbon cutting ceremony held at Farmington Coca-Cola on Oct. 3, 2015.

Welcome to our new 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.

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Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner in the North Dining Hall of the University of Maine at Farmington with the largest attendance to date.

The growth of this event matches the increase in membership. The Chamber membership had reached 200 by the time of the event.

An hour of socializing and enjoying hors d'oeuvres by Aramark helped kick off the evening.

Following was hilarious and uplifting entertainment from Maine humorist, Gary Crocker. Attendees then enjoyed a delicious buffet

dinner while listening to music from Mark Gentle.

The Chamber's Gerry Wiles Holiday Food Basket drive was kicked off that evening in which balloons representing food basket funds were sold. The money raised will buy holiday food baskets for local families in need.

Capping off the evening was the Chamber's annual business awards presentation which recognized the top three business nominees in each category for their achievements and contributions to the community. A plaque from the

Chamber was awarded to the winner of each category. The Business of the Year Award nominees and awards were as follows:

Small Business of Year nominees included the Wiles Remembrance Center, Robin's Flower Pot and Tumbledown Brewing LLC. **Wiles**

Remembrance Center was named the **Small Business of Year**.

Medium Business of the Year nominees included **Hammond Lumber Company**, **Hight Chevrolet** and **Douin's Market**. **Hammond Lumber** was named **Medium Business of the Year**.

Large Business of the Year

nominees included **LEAP Inc.**, **E.L. Vining & Son** and **Franklin Printing**. **E.L. Vining & Son** was named **Large Business of the Year**.

The Nonprofit of the Year nominees included the **Franklin County Animal Shelter**, **Buttons for Babes** and the **Western Maine Play Museum**. **Buttons for Babes** program was selected as the **Nonprofit of the Year**.

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank our generous partners who made this evening possible.

Platinum Event Partners: Franklin Savings Bank and Complete Dentistry, along with **Gold Event Partners:** Dead River Company, Comfort Inn and Suites, Key Bank and Wilson Lake Inn.



www.franklincountymaine.org

Wiles Remembrance Center, Cremation Services and Funeral Home was selected as the Chamber's Small Business of the Year. From left: Chamber Vice President Greg Patterson, Chamber President Glenn Kapiloff, Ken True, Ernest Lowell, Steve Bunker, Kent Wiles, Chamber Executive Director Penny Meservier, Roma Wiles, Rhonda Wiles-Rosell, Bucky Leighton and Emily Gordon. Robert "Doc" Underwood was absent.

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Award winners, from left: representing Hammond Lumber, the Chamber's Medium Business of the Year, is Al Feather; representing E.L. Vining & Son, the Chamber's Large Business of the Year, are Judy and Kevin Vining; and Buttons For Babes, the Chamber's Nonprofit of the Year, was represented by Chris Bourassa.