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615 Wilton Road, Farmington
www.franklincountymaine.org



From the president

So this is my final newsletter as the president of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Susan Atwood will be taking the position at our Annual Dinner event on Oct. 26. I am confident that Sue will continue the Chamber moving in the right direction. It has been 12 years that I have been on the board with the last two as president. The Chamber has undergone many changes over that time. Building on the direction started by Scott Landry and Mike Blanchet, the chamber has continued to become a solid contributor to Franklin County as well as to our over 200 members.

This was exemplified in the Entrepreneurs Connect event held earlier in the month. The event was sponsored by Greater Franklin Development Council, CEI and the Chamber. Participants heard information about how to grow and expand your markets. Before the information session started the audience heard the 'story' of four area businesses. Bob Berry presented the history and growth of Main-Land Development Consultants in the keynote address. That was followed by a panel comprised of Kelley Cullenberg and Sarah Doscinski of Spandits!, Monica Chandler from Azulene Day Spa and Anne Holloway, co-owner of El Toro Maine.

The stories that these business owners had were almost magical. You could feel the apprehension, anxiety and excitement

that come with starting and growing your own business. These are truly the stories that inspire economic growth and development in the area. I am proud that the Chamber was a part of it.

This was just one of several events the Chamber has been involved in over the last couple of months. We had a ribbon cutting at University Credit Union and the new Thai Smile and Sushi Restaurant as well as CDL Maine. The Chamber was also involved with a ground breaking for the Woodland Memory Care Center and a Grand Opening for Polycor. We sponsored a Business After Hours with the United Way. The Chamber manned a booth at the Farmington Fair as well as sponsored a horse blanket at the races. We participated in Experience Farmington and an internship fair at UMF as well as held the Golf Classic tournament at Sugarloaf to help support our scholarship fund. The chamber hosted a Referendum Forum on the ballot questions as well as a Legislative Candidate Forum at UMF. Then co-hosted the Entrepreneurs Connect event. The final event of the month will be the Annual Dinner.

All this was just in the last two months! This doesn't account for the board meetings, committee meetings and daily activities. So, where am I going with all this? None of this would be possible without a dedicated, committed and competent Executive Director. We are very fortunate that over the last two years we have had that, in Penny Meservier.

Penny has been the solid constant that the Chamber has needed. The countless hours of time she puts in to ensure that events and activities go as planned are invaluable to the overall success of the Chamber. Her ability to be everywhere at any time has allowed an organization that is directed by a volunteer board to be successful. I believe that she has been able to establish herself as the 'face of the Chamber.' Thank you for your work!

In closing, I would also like to publicly thank Kaitlin Frost for her efficient work in the office. Thank you to all the members of Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce, who volunteer their time and expertise for the good of the community. Most of all, I would like to personally thank the over 200 businesses and organizations that are the membership of the organization. Without you, we don't exist.

Sincerely,



Glenn Kapiloff
President

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce



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Business After Hours

On Sept. 15 the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area hosted the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's Business

After Hours. This event saw a great turnout with over 40 attendees. The theme was Evening in Paris. Guests

enjoyed a tasting of French wines and Robin's Flower Pot provided French flowers to add to the festive theme. Delicious French appetizers were prepared by United Way and attendees enjoyed

an evening of socializing and making new connections with community members. Guests also participated in a trivia contest with questions about the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and Paris. Door prizes were awarded at the end of the evening including a French themed gift

basket, a massage gift certificate and more. The next Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours will be on Nov. 15 at Franklin Savings Bank. Plan to join us and bring a guest. People do business with people they trust and an after hours event is a great place to strengthen relationships.



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Angela LeClair
University of Maine at Farmington

Susi Pearson
Allied Realty

Chrissy St. Laurent
Franklin Savings Bank



Thai Smile Ribbon Cutting celebrated their new location and expanded menu on Sept. 27 with a ribbon cutting ceremony provided by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.



On Sept. 7, members of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce joined the University Credit Union's Grand Re-Opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony.



A groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction of Woodlands Memory Care of Farmington on Sept. 9.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Gerry Wiles Holiday Food Basket Program

Your \$25 donation will help purchase a Holiday Food Basket for a family in need living in Franklin County to enjoy a festive Holiday Dinner

We welcome donations of any non-perishable food items at one of our drop off locations:



Name: _____

Company: _____

Number of baskets @ \$25 each: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please detach this portion and enclose in envelope. Make checks payable to Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Return form and donation to:
615 Wilton Rd. Farmington, Maine
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On or before December 9th, 2016 4pm

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Calendar of Events

NOV 5

The University of Maine at Farmington's Annual Arts and Crafts Show

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: UMF Olsen Student Center on South St. in Farmington

The UMF Arts and Crafts Show has a wealth of hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind art and gift items, clothing, hand-sewn crafts, holiday items and much more for sale from local crafters and artisans. For more information call the UMF Conference & Events Office at (207)778-7344 or email Ernestine Hutchinson at eleight@maine.edu.

NOV 10

Totally Trades; Career Expo; Employer Symposium; Career Fair 2016

Time: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Mt. Blue Campus

In partnership between Foster CTE Center, New Ventures of Maine, the Franklin County Network, and the Wilton Career Center, a four-event program will be offered to Franklin County on Nov. 10, 2016 at the Mt. Blue Campus featuring events: Totally Trades, sponsored by New Ventures Maine 8 to 11 a.m.; Career Expo, sponsored by Foster CTE Center and MBHS Jobs for Maine Grads 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Employer Symposium "Meeting the Challenges of Hiring and Retaining Employees," sponsored by fcNET (Franklin County Network) 2 to 4 p.m.; Career and Job Fair, sponsored by the Wilton Career Center 4 to 6 p.m.

NOV 15

Business After Hours at Franklin Savings Bank

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

Location: Franklin



40th ANNUAL
CHESTER GREENWOOD DAY
- DECEMBER 3 -

- ✦ Get your float ready for this year's theme "Holiday Celebrations Around the World"
- ✦ Enter the Gingerbread House Contest and Chili Cooking Contest!
- ✦ Look out for new events!

WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTYMAINE.ORG ✦ 207.778.4215

Savings Bank, 197 Main St., Farmington

For the November Business After Hours, Franklin Savings Bank puts the focus on Giving Thanks and Giving Back. The bank will use its spotlight to showcase one of its beneficiaries, Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. The November event is 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the bank's main office.

NOV 19

Farmington Downtown Association Presents Ladies' Day Out

Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Downtown Farmington

Farmington downtown businesses and organizations will offer retail and dining specials and some well-deserved pampering. Check-in for the day's events starts at 10 a.m. at City Lights. Goodie bags are available to the first 250 women to check in, and last year they went fast!

The schedule of events is quickly expanding. For a complete guide to Ladies' Day Out, please visit www.downtownfarmington.com/events/ladies-day-out. New details are posted almost daily.

DEC 3

Chester Greenwood Day

Time: All day

Location: Downtown Farmington

The 40th celebration of Chester Greenwood Day! Farmington resident Chester Greenwood was only fifteen when he designed the first pair of ear protectors out of wire, beaver fur and cloth. The annual Chester Greenwood Day is hosted by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and brings thousands to the area to watch and/or participate in the hour-long parade. This year's theme is "Holiday Celebrations around the world."

Come inside and warm up as you enjoy taste testing the chili entered in the Annual Chili Challenge or view the wonderful gingerbread houses that many have spent hours on in the Annual Gingerbread House Contest. As you stroll through the downtown area, you'll see folks of all sizes and ages having great fun while shopping, enjoying food from the wonderful eateries, or enjoying a scenic horse and buggy ride through the downtown area. You may even run into one of Chester's family as many make the trek to Farmington each year to participate in the parade and visit with relatives who still live locally.

Community Events on

Chester Greenwood Day Include:

Franklin County Arts and Crafts Association Craft Fair

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: UMF Olsen Student Center

Artists and crafters will be offering various one-of-a-kind handmade items perfect for gifts for the holiday season. Jewelry, hand-sewn clothing, decorations, accessories and more will be showcased by local artisans. Call (207)778-3943 or (207)778-2791 for more information.

Farmington Emblem Craft Fair

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Farmington Elks Lodge

FMI or tables call Debbie (207)778-3133

Coat & Cupboard

Time: noon - 2 p.m.

Location: Holman Mission House

The "Coat & Cupboard" offers a large selection of free gently-used coats, sweaters, hats, mittens, and blankets. A project of Old South church's youth group, "Coat & Cupboard" is located in the rear of the Holman Mission House, 227 Main St. We will be open Saturday, Dec. 3, noon to 2 p.m., and again Sunday Dec. 4, 9 to 11 a.m. We also welcome your donations of clean, warm outerwear.

Member Spotlight: Divine Inspirations

Divine Inspirations owner Tammy Parsons has always had a passion for crafts and opening her own store. The opportunity to fuse her two passions together came when the owner of the "Forget Me Not" gift shop on Front St. decided to close and offer the building to her to rent. Parsons' brother was vice president of engineering for Clarks shoes so she decided to sell shoes in the back of the store and gifts in the front. The demand for shoes was high as there were not any shoe stores in Farmington. As the store began filling up with shoes, the gift section became smaller.



When Parsons heard about Trask Jewelers downsizing in their downtown Farmington location, she seized the opportunity to rent a second store that sold mainly gifts, linens, table cloths, signs and other primitive home décor items. The business in downtown Farmington has been running for a year now while her store on Front St. has been open for 9 years. By displaying a home scene in the window downtown, Parsons is able to give a preview of what she sells while demonstrating how her merchandise can be used to decorate any home space.

Though she loves coming up with new ideas for how to decorate the window and store, her favorite aspect of her job is building connections with the community and helping people find a new pair of shoes that they are happy with.

"I love meeting the customers and I've gained so many friendships just working with the people of the town and community," says Parsons.

Divine Inspirations' two locations are 283 Front St. and 174 Main St. in Farmington. For more information call (207)778-0303.



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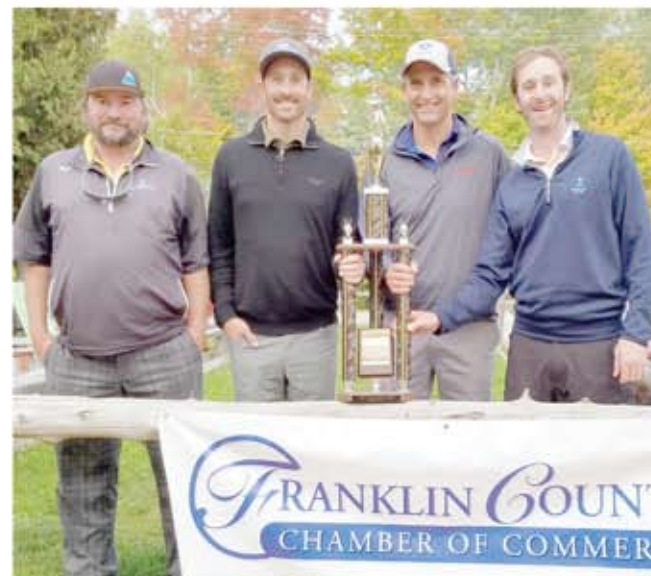
14th Annual Golf Classic

The 14th Annual Seth Wescott and Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic was held at on Sept. 30 at the Sugarloaf Golf Course and was a great turn-out on a beautiful autumn day. 30 teams partic-

ipated in the tournament to help raise funds for the David Robie Scholarship awarded by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and to support the Level Field Fund.

This year, Dead River Company, Rob Elliott Excavation & Trucking and Darlings each sponsored a Cancer Survivor team. This allowed for the teams of Cancer survivors to enjoy a day of golf at the golf classic.

The Rack hosted our delicious appetizers and BBQ lunch. The awards ceremony followed with a variety of prizes were awarded to participants thanks to generous prize donations by area businesses.



Results of the tournament were:

First Place Gross:
Team Wescott

Second Place Gross: ARC

First Place Net: Servpro

Second Place Net:
Skowhegan Savings Bank

Individual accomplishments include:

Closest to the pin (hole #3):
Erik McClure

Closest to the pin (hole #11):
Travis Gilmore

Closest to the pin (hole #15):
Peter Carlisle

Longest Drive Men:
Travis Gilmore

Longest Drive Ladies:
Doris Tuttlis

Putting Challenge:
Joel Osgood

hole sponsorship and prize donations.

The Chamber and Seth Wescott wish to thank Rob Elliott Excavation & Trucking, Coca Cola, Dead River Company, Poland Spring, Skowhegan Savings Bank, Darling's and Franklin Savings Bank for their generous major partnerships. We also thank others who contribute to this event through

It takes support from businesses and volunteers to make this event successful. We sincerely thank all of our partners, prize contributors, golfers and volunteers who helped to make this event a continuing success for local aspiring students. We hope to see you next year at the 15th Annual Golf Classic.

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