

## February's Business After Hours Spotlight on Exceptional Women

The Women's Business Center at CEI hosted the February Business After Hours for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at the North Church in Farmington. The event focused the spotlight on exceptional women-owned businesses in Franklin County.

The evening started off with networking while enjoying some hors d'oeuvres. Hillary Wojcik of Upright Frameworks gave an update of the progress and fundraising efforts for the Western Maine Play Museum. Lisa Laflin of the United Way spoke about the Community Change Challenge currently happening.

Betty Gensel of the Women's Business Center at CEI spoke about the work CEI does supporting businesses and the owners of eight local businesses gave an introduction to their business and spoke a little about themselves. Conversations continued as attendees viewed the displays showcasing the presenters' products and services. The presenters included Arlene Masselli of Knowlton Corner Farm; Shirley Bourgault of End of the Rainbow Alternatives; Erica Emery of Rustic Roots Farm; Ellie Duley of Duley College Counseling, LLC; Robin Jordan of Robin's Flower Pot; Mary Lello of Farmington Acupuncture; Janice Atwood of Sugarwood Gallery; and Susun Therese of Minikins.

A focus on features of each business that the attendees may not know about the businesses included the fact that you can call in an order and pick up your freshly baked items from Knowlton Corner Farms. Robin's Flower Pot is known for their plants in the spring and summer, but also has a gift shop open year round. End of the Rainbow Alternatives display showcased products to help their customers find an alternative to help their body heal. Rustic Roots Farm has a traditional CSA farm share but is also offering a salad share for those who want to have fresh greens to make a healthy salad. Sugarwood Gallery display included works from the 28 women artists that are displayed at Sugarwood Gallery.



The Chamber Business After Hour events are hosted by our Chamber members to allow for networking and for attendees to know more about the member's products and services. We welcome anyone to attend the Business After Hours to meet our Chamber members and network. Join us on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm at the Senior Planning Center, 648 Wilton Rd., Farmington.

### Member Spotlight:



Brenda Brooks has owned Frost Antiques for over 40 years and continues her family's history of antique selling at her location of 151 Fairbanks Road in Farmington. Frost Antiques has a very eclectic assortment of merchandise including everything from jewelry, books and children's toys to silverware, tools, cookware, furniture, and more. Brenda's son Matthew blows glass on the premises and sells through his company Frost Glassworks vases, tumblers, ornaments and custom-made blown lampshades as well. By buying primarily out of local homes, Frost Antiques is able to have a wide variety of one-of-a-kind antiques and vintage items available with their inventory always being updated. They are open year-round (winter hours are Wed-Sat 10am-4pm and summer hours are Wed-Sun 10am-4pm) and they are always interested in purchasing more antiques to add to their inventory. Visit [www.frostantiquesandgifts.com](http://www.frostantiquesandgifts.com) or call 778-3761 for more information.



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### US Cellular Grand Ribbon Cutting

US Cellular celebrated their new larger location at 646 Wilton Road on Tuesday, February 14th. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce joined the celebration with a ribbon cutting ceremony. US Cellular's expansion provides more space to provide service to their valued customers.



Pictured from left executive director of Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Penny Meservier, Caity Harris, U.S. Cellular Northern New England area sales manager Jeff Brown, U.S. Cellular Sales Managers Cassie Read and Joel Grier, Tiffany MacGregor, Gary Begin and Skowhegan Savings Bank Manager Shelly Lowell.

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