



207.778.4215
615 Wilton Road, Farmington
www.franklincountymaine.org

Letter from the president of the Chamber

Last month's Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours was held at Sandy River Nursing Home. The Chamber is proud of the services that Sandy River and other nursing homes in the area provide for our community's aging population. As a member of the Board of Trustees for the Pierce House, I am always impressed with the level of commitment and compassion that employees show for our seniors.

But what does this have to do with the

Chamber of Commerce? I would say, a lot. Seniors obviously play an important role in our community, but also in our economy as well. Maine has one of the oldest populations in the country. In the next 15 years, Maine's population of over 65 will comprise over 24 percent of the total population. With such a high percentage of the population, we need to consider our seniors in everything we do.

Senior citizens could be considered one of Maine's most untapped resources. Our seniors have the knowledge, experience and

advise that can help us in so many ways — if only we take the time to listen. Within the next 20 years, 40 percent of the current workforce for most sectors will be 65 or older.

With such a large percentage of Maine residents falling into this category, local businesses should consider how to best meet their needs. Here are some things that business owners should think about to ensure accessibility to all our citizens.

How accommodating are businesses for

wheelchairs or walkers?

Do stores have parking areas that are in close proximity to sidewalks?

Are parking and walking areas kept clear of snow and ice in the winter months?

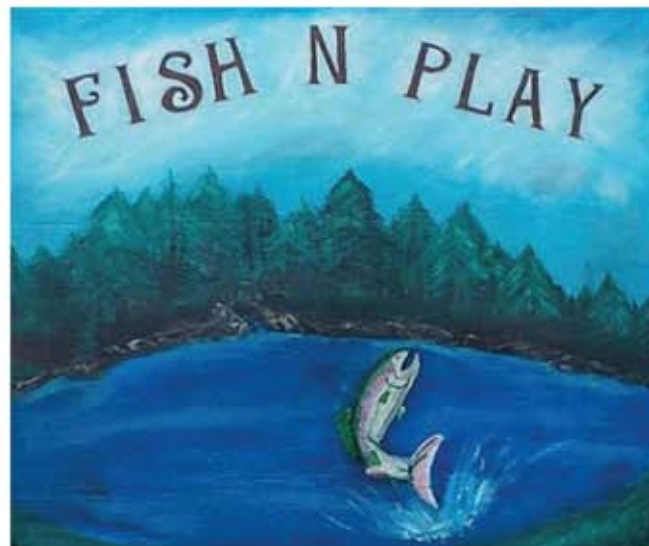
Do store aisles have signage that is easy to read?

Chamber
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Member Spotlight

Fish N Play first opened in August of 2015 and continues to be a great destination for casual fishing and recreation. Located at 429 Titcomb Hill Road across from CJ's Appliance, the pond is 28-feet deep and spans about an acre across, containing around 500 rainbow fish and brook trout ranging from 6 to 14 inches.

The owner, Clayton King, would like it to remain a family-friendly and affordable recreation area, charging only 50 cents an inch per fish and \$10 to rent a picnic table for the whole day. With picnic tables spread across the grassy area, a sand box for children and swing sets to be installed in the near future, Fish N Play is a great setting for group gatherings and makes for a great place for family picnics and outings.



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Calendar of events

July 4

FARMINGTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE

STARTS: 10 a.m.

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON

The parade will be on the 4th of July. Theme will be Serving Humanity. Line up will begin at 8 a.m. in the parking lot on High Street behind the UMF Dining Hall. Judging for awards will begin at 9:30. Any individual or group wishing to be considered for an award must be in line by 9:30. First and Second place winners will receive Farmington Chamber Bucks.

Folks can contact me, if they have questions or wish to register. Michael Cormier, [207.779.0242](tel:2077790242) or cormier48@gmail.com

July 15 through July 17

A HISTORICAL & PATRIOTIC KINGFIELD DAYS

TIME: 12 to 2 p.m.

LOCATION: KINGFIELD

Many special events to celebrate our history are being planned including, a historical reenactment of the *Kingfield Rebellion*, a marching band, a *So You Think You Know Kingfield* game show and a surprise river event. FMI: www.kingfield.me/events

July 21

JULY'S BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT STANLEY MUSEUM

TIME: 5 to 7 p.m.

LOCATION: STANLEY MUSEUM, 40 SCHOOL ST, KINGFIELD

Join us for July's Franklin County Chamber

of Commerce Business After Hours hosted by The Stanley Museum. Grab your business cards and enjoy an evening of socializing and networking and take a tour of the museum! Enjoy refreshments and don't miss your chance to win door prizes! For more information, call the Chamber at 778-4215 or email info@franklincountymaine.org.

July 23

FARMINGTON SUMMER FEST

TIME: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON

Keeping with the "Old Tyme Fun" Theme, this year's summer fest will showcase a variety of vendors, live music, street performers, art and more! Grab your float for the Great Float Race down the Sandy river with prizes for costumes, float decorations, and best times. There will also be a "Dreamin' Big Bed Race" held on Broadway comprised of teams of five people racing beds on wheels; prizes for costumes, bed design and best times will be awarded. To sign up or FMI: 207-491-5533

July 30

WELD BICENTENNIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

TIME: 9 to 10 p.m.

LOCATION: LINDA BEAN'S FIELD, AT THE HEAD OF WEBB LAKE, WELD

Events of the day include a children's parade, the big parade, arts and craft show, quilt show, chicken BBQ and more. A special United States Postal Service cancellation has been created which features the Weld Bicentennial logo — stop by the Weld Post Office. At the end of the day, come to Linda Bean's field at the head of Webb Lake to watch the grand exhibition of Weld's Bicentennial Fireworks! All the

YOU ARE INVITED TO
Business After Hours at
JULY 21
5-7PM
Stanley
MUSEUM
40 School St. | Kingfield

BAH
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

fanfare can be viewed from many vantage points in town and around the lake! Distance/safety restrictions may apply for boats on lake. Parking available on a first come, first served basis. Synchronized music will be broadcast at the field, available on WELD FM radio 89.1, and via online streaming from our website. Bring your chairs, blankets and bug spray and settle in for a spectacularly stunning event. FMI: www.weldbicentennial.com

August 5 & 6

34TH ANNUAL WILTON BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

TIME: ALL DAY

LOCATION: WILTON, ME

The Wilton Blueberry Festival, always held the first Friday and Saturday of August, started in 1982 with a simple 'Blueberry Church Bazaar.' As the years have passed, it has grown into a two-day signature event, and a time for people from town and around to gather, socialize, and celebrate the heritage of this great region.

34 years running and averaging more than 60 unique events throughout the weekend, the festival has something new to offer year after year. This year's theme is "sports and recreation" and will be featuring a visit from Slugger, music by Debbie Myers and EP Rock Elvis impersonator and much more! FMI: www.wiltonbbf.com

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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Experience to build on.

Welcome ME: A free customer service training program for Maine businesses & organizations

Welcome ME Online Quality Service Training is a statewide certification program created to support Maine's Hospitality and Tourism Industry by creating superior visitor experiences.

Welcome ME provides statewide standardized training that explains the skills that together create quality service. It provides the tools along with access to resources for all of Maine's citizens, whether they work directly in tourism or interact with visitors in other ways. Our goal is to better serve our guests.

This training is offered at no charge for anyone wishing to improve service skills and engage with others in more successful ways.

After completing the 4-part program, an assessment will check your skill level. With successful demon-

stration of knowledge about quality service you will be able to print a certificate of completion as a symbol of your expertise and knowledge about the delivery of the key success factors of service.

The Maine Tourism Association encourages all businesses and organizations to take the Welcome ME training program.

This training is provided at no charge because we are confident you will reap many benefits from the successful completion of this program.

Tourism is Maine's largest industry. The impact of tourism is seen in every part of our state, from our rural areas to our cities, from small family-owned businesses to large resort properties, stretching from the North Maine Woods to our sensational coastal and beach areas.

Maine's tourism businesses support jobs for Mainers and the Maine way of life. Success of businesses in delivering a unique and high quality experience depends on employees delivering Welcome ME service to guests.

That's where YOU come in. Taking Welcome ME customer service training helps your employer, and it helps you learn life-skills that will benefit you in many ways. YOU are Maine to our visitors - who come back again and again - and recommend us to their family and friends.

For more information or to take the Welcome ME training, visit: www.umaine.edu/centro/welcome-me-quality-service-training-home



Host of the Franklin County Chamber May Business After Hours was Sandy River Center in Farmington



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Greg Patterson
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Walmart

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Patty Ladd
Wilton Career Center

Angela LeClair
University of Maine at Farmington

Susi Pearson
Allied Realty

Chrissy St. Laurent
Franklin Savings Bank

Chamber

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Are store attendants available to assist customers with heavy or hard to reach items?

How much of your storefront business relies on "on-line" promotions or rebates?

Is your store prepared to handle a customer emergency such as a fall or medical condition?

Does your business make the most of the experience and wisdom of your older employees?

These are just a few of the points that need to be considered as we work to strengthen our workforce and our community by utilizing our largest sector of the population.

A group of concerned citizens have recently gathered to begin a program called "Thriving in Place" (TIP) project in Farmington. This is a three-year project sponsored by SeniorsPlus and funded by Maine Health Access Foundation MeHaf. They are looking at ways to support seniors so they

can successfully stay in their homes for as long as possible. This group values the wisdom and contributions to the community that seniors offer.

I'm reminded of the words of wisdom I always heard as a child, "listen to your elders."

Thank you,

Glenn Kapiloff
President

Franklin County
Chamber of Commerce

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Sandy River Center hosts May's Business After Hours

Sandy River Center hosted the May Business After Hours for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. The evening started off with networking and socializing while enjoying delicious gourmet hors d'oeuvres provided by the kitchen staff at the facility. Seafood martinis, crostini topped with feta, zucchini pinwheels and fresh fruit were some of the delicious foods that were served. The staff did a wonderful job creating an elegant setting in the lobby area with each table decorated with beautiful fresh flowers.

After the Sandy River Center staff introduced themselves, attendees were given a tour of the facilities and learned about some of the services the center provides. Many great door prizes were awarded at the end of the evening. All who attended greatly enjoyed the refreshments, atmosphere and welcoming hosts. If you would like to learn more about Sandy River Center's care services call 207-778-6591.

One more photo on page 3.



Rob Lively, President of Friends of Wilson Lake (FOWL) and Glenn Kapiloff, Board President of Franklin County Chamber of Commerce network at the May Business After Hours

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Sampling of the delicious food at the May BAH included mussels and shrimp