



February 2016

207.778.4215

615 Wilton Road, Farmington
www.franklincountymaine.org

From the President's desk:

As the membership of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce continues to climb to over 200 members, many folks are asking how they can get more involved. Here are a few ways that members can become more active with the Chamber.

The easiest way to get involved and to network with other business members is to simply show up at any of the events the Chamber hosts – events such as our monthly Business After Hours held at different businesses throughout Franklin County. You can also simply drop off your brochures and business cards at the Chamber office for visitors to see.

If you have a website or Facebook page, you can add links or 'like' the Chamber page. This not only helps identify you as a proud member of the Chamber, but it also helps promote all the businesses that belong to the Chamber. By sharing our event messages on your page, you will help spread the word about what's going on with the Chamber.

Anyone who wants to be more involved with the Chamber can sign-up to host a Chamber Business After Hours or have a

booth at the Home and Leisure Show on March 19. There are even more benefits for those who would like to partner with the Chamber on any of our sponsored events.

To be an even more active member, you can help with a committee for one of the yearly events we run. This will give you an opportunity to offer your suggestions and ideas for making the events better. Volunteering for even a day at an event can make a big difference to the committee that is organizing it.

Finally, we are always looking for energetic and creative people to be members of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Board members meet monthly to discuss the issues that help shape the Chamber's activities. You could be that one person we need to make a difference.

If you are interested in learning more about ways you can become more involved with the Chamber of Commerce, contact Penny Meservier, our Executive Director.

Thank you
Glenn Kapiloff, President
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Forum offers useful information

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce presented an evening of legislative updates for businesses and community members on Dec. 15, 2015 at the Mt. Blue Campus.

The evening began with socializing over light

appetizers and attendees were invited to submit questions for the legislative panel.

Our state legislators discussed topics including minimum wage, Land for Maine's Future and MaineCare Expansion.



Submitted photo

Featured speakers at the legislative forum included State Representative Thomas Skofield, State Representative Russell Black, State Senator Tom Saviello, and Paul Mills, Esq. who served as the event moderator.

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Calendar of Events

February 4-6

Polar Blast

Held in the Villages of Eustis and Stratton, Maine. Don't miss Game Night, The Great Polar Silent Auction, Bonfire, Crazy Cardboard Sled Slide, Fireworks, Karaoke Contest, 8th Grade Polar Break-fast, Bake/Yard sale, Chili/Chowder/Stew contest and Arnold Trail Snowmobile Club's Radar Run. www.facebook.com/PolarBlast

February 6

Winter Family Fun Day

Mt. Blue State Park 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cross-country skiing, sliding, snowshoeing, ice skating, tote sled rides, hayrides, nature walks, lunch provided and warming hut. Ski and Snowshoe Trailer on site for free equipment loans. \$1.50 for adults and youth 12-64; all others free. For more information, call (207) 585-2261.

February 13

Wilton Fish and Game Annual Michael J. Rowe Memorial Ice Fishing Derby

Presale tickets available at Shelley's Hometown Market and Wilton Hardware. Reg-

istration available 6 a.m. day of event at boat launch. Youth and adult prize categories. Free family fishing clinic 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Wilson Lake boat launch. For more information, call (207) 778-2450.

February 16

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

Tumbledown Brewing from 5 - 7 p.m. Join us for an evening of networking. Bring your business cards and a co-worker or friend.

March 10

The Business Connection, Come Meet Your Business Resources

Adapting in the face of change is often overwhelming and we get that. Take this opportunity to get to know the resources available to local businesses. Be on the lookout for more information. St. Rose Parish Hall at 5 p.m.

March 17

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

Mt. Blue TV from 5 - 7 p.m.

March 19

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's Home and Leisure Show - a business expo.

Meet some of the great businesses from Franklin County. Event includes food, music, giveaways and activities for all ages at the Mt. Blue Campus in Farmington from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 21 - 22

2016 Maine Governor's Conference on Tourism

The two-day conference provides a free afternoon of business resources trainings, then a full conference day of professional development sessions, valuable networking and the opportunity to meet with tourism professionals. It is the only statewide event of its kind and attendees are from all segments of the tourism industry. The conference offers the exchange of ideas and best practices that benefit our state's most vital and valuable industry. Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River. \$75 registration.

The J·L·LF Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to host the first session (of a series) called

The Business Connection - Come Meet Your Business Resources

Adapting to the face of change is often overwhelming and we get that. Take this opportunity to get to know the resources available to local businesses.

Save the Date!!

Who:

Local Business Owners

Where:

St. Rose Parish Hall

When:

March 10, 2016 @ 5:00PM

Be on the lookout for more information.



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.

Save the Date: Home and Leisure Show

The Home and Leisure Show, a business expo, is one of Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's signature events. The 2016 Home and Leisure Show will be held at the Mt. Blue Campus in Farmington on March 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person.

The Home and Leisure Show has become a great event showcasing a variety of area businesses, including building suppliers, realtors, media, health care, florists, garden and landscaping services. Attendees will enjoy entertainment and many giveaways while seeing some of the best businesses and organizations that Franklin County has to offer.

"We are pleased to be continuing to host this signature event at the Mt Blue Campus. Each year, it proves to be a fantastic event with a great turnout," said Glenn Kapiloff, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce president and committee chair for the event. "This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase one's business."

The event allows for community members to visit around 70 different business and talk directly with the business owners about what they have to offer. The event has drawn as many as 1,000 visitors from around the area. This gives vendors an ample audience to showcase their products. An assortment of entertainment and

several drawings add to the event along with local radio station WKTJ broadcasting live throughout the day.

Sponsors help make this a great event. Contact the Chamber office today to discuss sponsorship benefits and opportunities.

Do you want to showcase your business at the Home and Leisure Show? Vendor registration forms can be found on the Chamber website at www.franklincountymaine.org or by contacting the Chamber office 778-4215.



2016 FCCOC Board Members

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President
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Greg Patterson
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Patty Ladd
Wilton Career Center

Peter Osborne
UMF

Chrissy St. Laurent
Franklin Savings Bank

Rhonda Irish
Wilton Town Manager

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.

Beebow Family Crafts

70 Spruce Mountain Road
Livermore, ME 04253
415-4557

amy@beebowfamilycrafts.com
www.beebowfamilycrafts.com

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At Beltone Hearing Aid Centers, we are committed to providing our patients with the highest level of service and quality products in the industry. Our hearing instrument specialists are continually trained in new technology and service techniques, allowing them to offer reliable care to our patients.

Welcome our newest Chamber members!

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Enchanted Herbs and Botanicals is an Herbal Apothecary (specializing in traditional Chinese herbal medicine and Western herbalism) and Healing Arts Center offering acupuncture, massage and Reiki, herbal consultations, as well as classes and workshops (including yoga and qigong). In addition to raw herbs, herbal teas and books, Enchanted Herbs and Botanicals carries a variety of New Age and metaphysical products. Enchanted Herbs and Botanicals is now pleased to be able to offer psychic/medium readings. Our philosophy is simple: We want to help build a healthier and happier community.

Herb and Earth, LLC

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best experience. The book-keeping, tax preparation and other services we provide are tailored to the unique needs of each client, ensuring the best possible results and maximized returns within the legal limits of the tax code.

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Member Spotlight:



Max-Traps

Max-Traps builds quality, handmade ice fishing traps. Max-Traps is a small Maine based business that started building ice fishing tip ups in 2003 after a local sporting goods store changed hands and decided to do away with

outdoor sporting goods.

As a family oriented business, Max-Traps frequents sportsman shows throughout the northeast promoting and selling their products.

Every outdoorsman knows

the importance of high quality, durable equipment. Max-Traps not only builds the tip ups, but regularly uses them. A fun day of ice fishing can quickly be ruined with common fishing trap problems. Max-Traps tip ups have features to prevent these issues including: high line capacity, durable reel, adjustable drag control, flag-guide to prevent wind flags, hook keeper built into the flag guide, stainless trip wire, lithium grease trip tube to prevent freeze up, quality components and construction, and native hardwood components.

Max-Traps produces several trap sizes and configurations. This allows for a trap



for every fisherman's preferences. Whether you fish the local pond a few times a year with the kids or never miss a day on the ice, fishing big water, these tip ups are quality built trap that you'll enjoy for years. Max-Traps reminds their loyal customers that Max-traps tip ups are "guaranteed to catch fish - if they don't, you are in the wrong place."

Max-Traps supports the Wilton Fish and Game Ice Fishing Derby with a donation of a commemorative box of Max-Traps that will go to the youth fisherman with the heaviest fish. Also, Max-Traps has donated a special prize for the youth that registers the smallest fish. Join the fun of the ice fishing derby on Saturday, Feb. 13 on Wilson Lake.

To purchase your own set of high quality Max-Traps ice fishing tip ups visit www.maxtraps.com or contact Brian Maxham at (207)645-4423.

Chamber Bucks support shopping local

Over \$5,000 in Chamber Bucks were purchased in December to be given as gifts, bonuses or awards.

Community members, businesses and even the Farmington Police Department are supporting our local businesses by purchasing and distributing Chamber Bucks. An anonymous family and the Benevolent Fund along with other donors gave the Farmington Police Department money to hand out in memory of former Police Chief Richard E. Caton III. The Farmington Police Department purchased Chamber Bucks and distributed them at the officer's discretion when they felt it was the right fit and if a person or family could benefit.

Chamber Bucks are gift certificates to businesses belonging to the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Each business that chooses to participate accepts the Chamber Bucks as cash. The business turns them in to the Chamber, who then reimburses the business.

Chamber Bucks are available from anyone at the Chamber office. Chamber Bucks support local businesses and here at the Chamber, we want to

encourage people to shop locally.

A current list of participating local businesses can be found on the Chamber website at www.franklincountymaine.org. By supporting the Chamber Bucks program, you can spend exactly what you want, and keep your investment local. You can feel good about supporting your community, while giving the people you care about exactly what they're looking for.

For supporters, using Chamber Bucks is as easy as cash. Simply write in the business name on the line provided and apply it toward your purchase. Businesses simply drop by or mail the redeemed Chamber Bucks and we write a reimbursement check. It's that simple.

We at the Chamber enlist creative approaches to encourage people to shop with our local merchants and keep their support in the communities. The Chamber Bucks program makes shopping and gift-giving easier for our customers from near and far by allowing them to give and receive the gift of options. Chamber Bucks are gift certificates appropriate for all occasions.

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