



207.778.4215
615 Wilton Road, Farmington
www.franklincountymaine.org

Letter from the president of the Chamber — the power of networking

The weather has not only warmed up in Franklin County, but it has now gotten hot. The foliage has also turned an amazing green. It is truly a beautiful state we live in. Something else that makes our state great, especially in Franklin County, is the power of working together.

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce hosts monthly Business After Hour events to help provide people with the ability to network. These events are open and free to attend to anyone. It's an opportunity for visitors to see and hear about local businesses in the area. It's also a time for business owners to network with each other.

This networking time allows individuals to handout their business cards, explain new products and make connections with potential new customers. The idea of networking goes in both directions. You may be handing out your business information in hopes of gaining more customers, but could also get the one lead you need on how to improve your business. The improved computer or phone system you've been looking for, a better way to market your product or simply a deal on a new outside sign.

The individual networking that happens at

these events between people is great, but what's even more powerful is when organizations collaborate to make the best use of resources. This type of business networking is going to be the wave of the future as we slowly realize the power in cooperation — sometimes between dissimilar partners.

We have seen many groups in our area that have worked together successfully in the nonprofit and civic organizations. Groups such as the Franklin Resource Collaborative have worked on bringing together many nonprofit health care organizations in hopes that they can work together. The resources are out there, they just need to be woven together and communicated. Sharing of talents and making the best use of resources will help make everyone's job a little easier.

The Franklin County Network (fcNET) (www.franklinnetwork.org) is an organization that brings together training resources such as those from Central Maine Community College, University of Maine at Farmington, Franklin County Adult Edu-

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Member spotlight: Dutch Treat

If anyone has driven on RT 2 in Wilton, they're sure to have seen or even used as a landmark the large windmill atop the ice cream and fast-food take-out place known as Dutch Treat. Owner Alison Welch says that it was designed after a lamp her grandfather brought back from Holland and the construction company he began (K&H Foster) helped build it.

Owned for over 50 years by the same family,

Dutch Treat continues to have a wide selection of fast-food fare ranging from burgers, seafood, and fries to sundaes, shakes and soft and hard-served ice cream and more. They are also home to grapenut soft-serve ice cream which, according to Welch, is an uncommon

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Calendar of events

July 30

WELD BICENTENNIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

TIME: 9 p.m. - 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 & 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 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. <http://www.weldbicentennial.com/>

August 5 Farmington Friday Art Walk

Time: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Location: Downtown Farmington

Farmington's Friday Art

Walk & More takes place from 5pm to 8pm. featuring local artists and musicians as well as businesses offering specials and other events. Walk our historic downtown and view art in a variety of shops and galleries. As a part of the First Friday Art Walk, Sugarwood Gallery has their Artist of the Month reception, The Merry Plinksters Ukulele Ensemble can be found performing at Minikins, Calico Patch and Enchanted Herbs & Botanicals host local artists and the some restaurants and pubs have local musicians. The Farmington Historical Society opens the North Church and offers either historical or art displays. Walking maps of First Friday locations area available at participating venues. Participation is free of charge and open to the public.

August 5 & 6 Wilton Blueberry Festival

LOCATION: Wilton, ME

Two days of fun events throughout Wilton. This year's parade theme is sports. FMI see page 3 or www.wiltonbbf.com

August 11 FAMILY FUN DAY

TIME: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
LOCATION: 216 Whittier Rd., Farmington, ME

Come join the Franklin County Children's Task Force on August 11th for a Family Fun Day being held for children up to 6th grade, it will be held in the surrounding areas

and is open to the public. The day's festivities are being held at the Farmington Conference Center at 216 Whittier Rd., Farmington, ME (right across from CMP.) There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, veggies, chips, drinks, and plenty of fun activities to be had with your children. Must RSVP by calling (207) 778-6960 or by emailing Milissa Cousins at mcousins@fcctf.org

August 13 3 ALARM AUTO SHOW SPONSORED BY THE PHILLIPS FIRE DEPARTMENT AUX

TIME: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
LOCATION: 138B Park St (behind the fire station) PHILLIPS

Come see the new classic cars, Asian/euro, trucks, motorcycles, big rigs, pull & mud trucks, customs! Vendors, live band, BBQ food, Chili cook off, Games, bean bag toss, horse shoes, bouncy house, raffles and door prizes! All vendors or vehicles who would like to participate, call Lt. Rousseau 446-5389.

August 14-21 PHILLIPS OLD HOME DAYS

TIME: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Phillips

Old Home Days is always the third week in August, the most beautiful time of the year. It's a week of festivities, contests and celebration. There are bathtub races, bike races, and running races. There's a parade, a street dance, and a lumberman's competition. There's a flower

Join us for a Business After Hours at

Wilton Farm & Home Museum

August 18 | 5-7pm
10 Canal Street, Wilton

Sponsored by:

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show, a quilt show, a photo contest and the Duck Derby pulls up the rear. People come from towns around and it's the highlight of community life in Phillips. For more info: phillipschamberofcommerce@yahoo.com.

Wonderland

Wonderland is an event that takes place on the Friday of Phillips's Old Home Days week. It was conceptualized by Dr. Susy Sanders and is held in her front yard. Everything in Wonderland is free. Faerie wings, faerie crowns, painting magic wands, sewing gypsy skirts, pirate hats, cowboy hats and many other kinds of hats that boys like will be free as well as magic faerie dust in little silk bags, gold coins, Gypsy scarves, bangles, and necklaces; face painting; helium

balloons, coloring books and crayons, fishing for a prize (as many times as you wish!); a craft table where children and their parents can decorate boxes and pins and make a faerie house; and a photo spot where the children have their pictures taken, printed off and glued into special folders. Free sno-cones, popcorn, a tour of faerie alley, and soon there will be pirates' cove, where you can dig for treasure. Wonderland is an event that children talk about all year long.

On Saturday enjoy the 6th Annual Raid on the Sandy. Skirmishes take place alongside the tracks and from the train on each hourly run, and are choreographed by you, the reenactor. The SR&RL RR have close to 100 acres to camp and fight on. Wood, restroom facilities, and water

Please join us for a

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AUGUST 25 | 5-7PM
Wilson Lake Inn • 183 Lake Rd, Wilton

Chamber Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

provided. Also, free dinner provided for authentically attired reenactors and railroad personnel on Saturday. Register at TophatsSutlery@aol.com or 207-639-2889

August 18 AUGUST'S BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT WILTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

TIME: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

LOCATION: 10 Canal Street, Wilton

Join us for August's Business After Hours at The Wilton Historical Museum sponsored by Expenet! Enjoy refreshments from Calzolaio's and an evening of socializing and networking. Take a tour of the museum and don't miss your chance to win door prizes! FMI: info@franklincountymaine.org or 778-4215

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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.

Wilton Blueberry Festival has plenty to offer this year

What's new this year?

- Sports theme
- Free fly casting class by L.L. Bean on Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (No sign up necessary)
- Meet and Greet all the mascots who were in the parade on Saturday from Noon to 2 p.m. under the Lions tent downtown by Key Bank
- OTG Trailer Display with Game Warden Chris McCain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
- Country music artist Debbie Myers performance Friday at 7:15 p.m. followed by Elvis Presley impersonator EP Rock at the Academy Hill School Gymnasium (Free!)

What's the biggest event?

- Free children's activities in Kineowatha Park Friday

from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Usually 500-600 kids attend and participate in several activities like puppet shows, face painting, games, snacks and more from the Calvary Hill Baptist Church

What are other events people should check out?

- Free horse-drawn wagon rides at the beginning of RT 156 Weld Rd. in Wilton Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 3 road races on Friday- 5k & 10k and a fun race for children. Registration 5:30 p.m., starting time 6 p.m.
- Free boat rides and firetruck rides Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Blood drive at the school gym in Wilton 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
- Lots of food, crafters, vendors and more!

June's Business After Hours hosted by LEAP

The warm weather and bright sun gave those who attended June's Business After Hours hosted by LEAP a beautiful premise for enjoying an evening of socializing and networking outside at their Stone Soup Gardens in Farmington. LEAP's executive director Darryl Wood shared information about the programs and services they offer and led guests through their Fit Trail (available to the community to use) and gardens, some of which are available for community members to reserve. Handicap-accessible fit stations and raised garden beds are also available and allow those with disabilities to participate in fitness activities and gardening as well.

Guests enjoyed delicious barbecued meat and vegetable kabobs provided by LEAP



employees and some took home door prizes including LEAP t-shirts. Stop by at 488 Farmington Falls Rd. in Farmington to check out their

Stone Soup Gardens and Fit Trail or call 778-3443 for more information.



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Chamber awards David Robie Scholarships Spotlight

This year's Franklin County Chamber of Commerce David Robie Scholarship awards ceremony took place at the Comfort Inn on June 21. Applicants from all over Franklin County applied and eight were awarded the scholarship: Alexa Perkins of Jay, Autumn Clair of Chesterville, Park Laflin of New Vineyard, Cody Gould of East Wilton, Cordell Ellis of New Vineyard, Madison Eagan of Rangeley, Cortland Talmage of Kingfield and Kailee Newcomb of Jay.

The Chamber awards scholarships to residents of Franklin County who are planning on or are currently attending an accredited, post-secondary school and



encourages higher education or continuing education for students going to school for a new career or skills training. The scholarship is named after the late David Robie who played a key role in establishing the scholarship during his time on the Chamber board. Funding for the scholarship is from the annual

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce & Seth Wescott Scholarship Golf Classic held each fall at the Sugarloaf Golf Club. This year's will be held on September 30. For more information or to sign up a team visit www.franklin-countymaine.org/events/annual-events or email info@franklincountymaine.org.

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flavor in the ice cream world. During the Wilton Blueberry Festival (August 5-6) they offer blueberry specials such as blueberry soft and hard served ice cream and frozen yogurt.

A trademark event at Dutch

Treat is "Cruise Night" that takes place every Wednesday (weather permitting) during the summer from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. where people from all over are welcome to come display their classic cars and enjoy live music. The take-out restaurant also has other local talent that performs during the weekends and welcomes any artist to come schedule a time to perform.



Dutch Treat is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week in the summer and is located at 291 US Rt. East Wilton, ME. (207-645-2145)

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education and Foster Career and Technical Education Center among others. The purpose of the group is to make higher education and training available and affordable to local residents. This unique

partnership is built on cooperation verses competition. It's about what members can bring to the table for the betterment of the community.

I believe that we will start seeing more these type of collaborative efforts taking place in our business community as well. The idea of "package

deals" for consumers that offer low cost extras that they may not have otherwise purchased, but would find useful. It starts with having the conversation with a business that you might otherwise not have considered as being a partner. It starts with Networking.

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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 demonstration 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