

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome our newest members. We continually strive to connect you to one another and to the community at large. Please visit their website and stop by to say hello.

*Welcome our newest Chamber members!*

**Tinny's Automotive Outlet Inc.**

467 Wilton Rd.  
Farmington, ME 04938  
207-778-5607  
info@tinnyauto.com  
www.tinnyauto.com

Our mission at Tinny's Automotive Outlet is to value our customers as if they were

part of our family. By providing them with an energetic, professional atmosphere as well as the selection and knowledge they need to make an informed purchase decision. We will be committed to the relationship we build during this process and continue to support the customer's needs for a lifetime. Our products and services will be upheld to the highest of standards while remaining affordable to our customers.

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce hosted Mark Gentle at the Farmington Elk's Lodge for a Valentine's Dance that was SOLD OUT! The event was a great success and we want to thank our members that supported this event, OTIS Federal Credit Union was the primary sponsor, with Farmington Ford (Home Auto Group) and Calzolaio Pasta Company making donations to the raffle. Love was in the air!



Photo credit - Trisha Mosher, E.D. FCCOC

Val Pic BOD: Board Members: Shannon Smith, Becky Maxim, Levi Bailey

**Member Spotlight: Hope Association**

The Hope Association, with its central offices located in Rumford, began in 1956 when a small group of parents with children with disabilities got together to ensure that their children could live in and be counted on as valued citizens of their own community. This was the goal then, and it remains the goal to this day. Hope supports an office in Wilton for easier access to those served in Franklin County.



students became young adults who needed work and residential programs. An extensive workshop was established and residential homes (5) were established. Independent, Supported and Shared Living Programs were developed, a Community Support Program was launched and a Rural Employment Network was formed to provide real work opportunities in the community for individuals with disabilities to find employment in an area of their choice.

The official Mission Statement is a little more formal today: As partners in our community, we will provide leadership, residential, case management, vocational and community support services to individuals and their families through programs that enhance independence, dignity, choice and individual wellbeing. Our Vision Statement is: Hope Association envisions a world where all people are treated with respect.

Hope Association, in careful cooperation with likeminded service providers for people with disabilities, then began offering services and supports to individuals with disabilities in Franklin and Androscoggin Counties.

For more information on the Hope Association, please visit and like the Hope Association on Facebook, visit our web site at [www.hopeassociation.org](http://www.hopeassociation.org) or give us a call at (207) 364-4561.

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**Calendar of Events**

**Feb 25 2018**  
CHINESE AUCTION - A CABIN  
FEVER RELIEVER  
STARTS: 12:00 PM  
LOCATION: FAIRBANKS SCHOOL, 508 FAIRBANKS ROAD  
Chinese Auction - A Cabin Fever Reliever  
12:00 pm bidding starts (bid with tickets on items of interest)  
1:00 pm Drawing of tickets  
5 tickets for \$1.00 - buy 25 and get five free  
Over 100 items  
Door prize and refreshments  
Buy tickets at the door and use them to bid on items you like. That's the auction - it is easy as that! Drawing of tickets will start at 1:00pm sharp. Must be in attendance to win. Donations are being accepted. Call 778-3808, 778-4349. Benefit the schools maintenance fund.

**Feb 27 2018**  
UMF PRESENTS: "PUBLIC BY DEFAULT: PARTICIPATION IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY"  
STARTS: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: UMF EMERY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER  
How do we navigate the complexities of digital connectedness? How do we engage students and educators to critically think about their relationships and participation in a connected digital society? The University of Maine at Farmington Public Classroom Series will explore these questions and other considerations with "Public by Default: Participation in a Digital Society," a presentation by Meredith Swallow, UMF assistant professor of elementary education. This talk takes place at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the UMF Emery Community Arts Center. It is free and open to the public.

**Mar 3 2018**  
23RD ANNUAL RANGELEY LAKES CROSS COUNTRY SKI LOPPET  
TIME: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
LOCATION: RANGELEY LAKES TRAILS CENTER, 524 SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN ROAD  
The 23rd annual legendary Rangeley Lakes Loppet will be held Saturday, March 3rd at the Rangeley Lakes Trail Center. The Races are 25k and 50k FreeStyle, 25K Classic, and 25K Touring. Bring the family for a weekend of winter fun! For more information call 207-864-4309.

**Mar 11 2018**  
RANGELEY MOOSE DASH SNOWSHOE RACE  
TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
LOCATION: RANGELEY LAKES

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180 Main St., Downtown, Farmington 778-2202

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**  
Comfort INN & SUITES  
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1026 US ROUTE 2 E  
WILTON, MAINE 04294

TRAILS CENTER, 524 SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN ROAD  
The Rangeley Moose Dash 5K course takes advantage of the beautiful varied terrain we have available here at the Trails Center, from wide straight-a-ways to gradual ascent and descents, to some aggressive hill climb/descent opportunities. Views and possible wildlife sightings are included!

**Mar 10**  
Father Daughters Dances  
Time: 6pm-9pm  
Location: Spruce Mountain Middle School Gym & Strong Elementary School  
The Franklin County Children's Task Force will be holding two simultaneous Father Daughter Dances this year on Saturday, March 10 from 6:00pm-9:00pm. One dance will take place at the Spruce Mountain Middle School Gym, and the other will take place in the northern area of Franklin County at the Strong Elementary School. \*Please note the location change!\* Anyone wishing to purchase advance tickets may do so at Calico Patch in Farmington, The Flower Barn in Jay, Edmunds in Phillips or The White Elephant in Strong. Ticket sales begin in February. One ticket covers both the Father and his daughter(s). Tickets may also be purchased through the Eventbrite link on the Children's Task Force Facebook page. Cost for tickets is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. There will be a DJ and photographer at both locations. Fathers and their daughters are encouraged to come and dance the night away, enjoy give-away prizes and each other's company. For more information, please contact 207-778-6960. We hope to see you there.

**Mar 11 2018**  
ARTSFARMINGTON PRESENTS: MAINE BALKAN CHOIR WITH

SPECIAL GUEST ELITSA STOYNEVA  
TIME: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
LOCATION: UMF, NORDICA AUDITORIUM  
Join the Maine Balkan Choir with special guest Elitsa Stoyneva for a festive afternoon of old world village singing and dancing. The Maine Balkan Choir specializes in the traditional open throated singing style of the Balkan countries. The songs, with their unusually close harmonies, modal melodies and complex mixed meter rhythms are full of heart and directness and the messages that they express are universal. The choir was originally formed to perform a single benefit concert. 20 years later they are still singing, drawn together by their mutual passion for the haunting sound of Balkan music. The choir will be joined by soloist and seven time gold medalist, Elitsa Stoyneva of Turgovishte, Bulgaria. The concert will be held at Nordica Auditorium on the U Maine Farmington campus on Sunday, March 11th at 3 pm and is sponsored by ArtsFarmington. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults; anyone 18 or under is free as are UMF students with an ID. No one will be turned away. For more information about the choir please email Anne at [ancita47@gmail.com](mailto:ancita47@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook "Maine Balkan Choir."

**March 15 2018**  
Business After Hours at Comfort Inn  
Time: 5-7pm  
Location: Comfort Inn, Wilton Maine  
Join the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce for a Business After Hours hosted by Wilton Comfort Inn & Suites on March 15 from 5-7pm. Tables will be offered to other Chamber members interested in showcasing their business. Call Nicole at Comfort Inn at 645-5155 for more information.

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