



207.778.4215

645 Wilton Road, Farmington  
[www.franklincountymaine.org](http://www.franklincountymaine.org)

## Letter from the president of the Chamber

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce would like to introduce our newest two members to the Chamber's Board of Directors, Susi Pearson and Angela LeClair.

Susi Pearson is a native of Farmington and graduate of Mt. Blue High School, she started her real estate career in Carrabassett Valley with the Sullivan Agency in 1978. In 1983, she moved to the Farmington area and became affiliated with ERA Alltown Realty in East Wilton, and in 1987, started her own agency, Pearson Real Estate, on Route 2 in West Farmington. Shortly thereafter, she purchased the Coldwell Banker franchise and operated that for a few years until the Department of Transportation bought the building her office was in and tore it down to make way for the new bridge, which is

there today. Since that time, she has lived in Florida, Colorado and Arizona selling real estate, fine jewelry, furniture and window coverings, just to name a few. With 22 years of real estate sales experience, she is excited to have come back to her home town, close to family and old friends, doing what she loves to do the best — "assisting people in selling or buying all facets of real estate."

Angie LeClair is the Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the University of Maine at Farmington. She began her career at UMF in 1989, working in a variety of departments over the years, including Humanities, Admissions, Educational Outreach, and Information Technology. Angie is a 2013 graduate of UMF, earning her degree in Art and Business while continuing to work at



2016 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Board Members — Front row, left to right: Shannon Smith, Ken True, Glenn Kapiloff, Greg Patterson, Pam Dixon and Susan Atwood. Back row, left to right: Angela LeClair, Heidi Elliot, Rhonda Irish, Susi Pearson, Tammy Hutchinson, Jodi Cordes, Chuck Ellis and Penny Meservier. Not pictured: Patty Ladd and Chrissy St. Laurent.

*Contributed image*

the university. She is currently serving her ninth year on the RSU 9 School Board as a representative for the Town of Wilton. She has also been a member of the Mt. Blue All Sports Boosters for nine years, serving as a director for nine. She and her husband Mike live in Wilton and have four children and three

grandchildren.

If any members would like to be a part of the board or would like to volunteer to help with a committee, please contact Penny Meservier at the Chamber office.

Recently the Chamber partnered with The Greater

Franklin Development Council and the Women's Business Center at CEI to host an Entrepreneurs Connect event. This event was designed to showcase and support our small businesses. Small businesses are a major component of the economic landscape of Maine. Here are some interesting facts taken

from Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy.

Maine's small businesses employed about three-fifths or 278,957 of the state's private workforce in 2012.

**Chamber**  
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# Calendar of events

## May 28

**4TH ANNUAL HOME, GARDEN, & SPORT SHOW**

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**LOCATION:** THE RANGELEY INN & TAVERN, 2443 MAIN STREET, RANGELEY

4th Annual Home, Garden, & Sport Show sponsored by The Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce is Saturday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Rangeley Inn & Tavern, 2443 Main Street, Rangeley. There will be inside and outside vendors, door prizes, food, displays and local information for your home, garden, and sport activities.

## May 31

**CARING FOR A FAMILY MEMBER WITH DEMENTIA: 6-WEEK CLASS**

**TIME:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION:** SENIORSPLUS FARMINGTON OFFICE

SeniorsPlus is facilitating a 12-hour class taken over a 6-week period for unpaid family caregivers of people with dementia living in the community. Learn strategies that work, in a supportive class with other caregivers like you. Tuesdays, 5/31/16 to 7/5/16 2 to 4 p.m. at the SeniorsPlus Farmington Office (218 Fairbanks Rd.) Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-427-1241 to reserve your seat.

## June 4

**FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS COURSE - PART 1**

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** COMFORT INN, 1026 US-2, WILTON

Learn everything you need to know about the home buying process with University Credit Union's popular two-part course with HoMEworks! Attendance at both days of this course could make you eligible for the \$3,500 Maine State Housing Advantage grant to apply towards closing costs.

**When:** Part 1 - June 4, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Part 2 - June 5 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Where:** Comfort Inn, 1026 US-2, Wilton, ME 04294

Register today at: [https://www.u.c.u.maine.edu/?page=about\\_events](https://www.u.c.u.maine.edu/?page=about_events)

## June 4

**KINGFIELD'S CENTENNIAL BRIDGE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**LOCATION:** KINGFIELD

Following the town meeting, all Kingfield residents will be invited for a group photo on the Centennial bridge, followed by a group photo in front of the historical Grand Herbert Hotel. A celebration with a birthday cake and birth history will follow.

## June 16

**JUNE'S BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT LEAP**

**TIME:** 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**LOCATION:** 482 Farmington Falls Rd. (Look for the balloons at the end of the road!)

Join us for June's Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours hosted by LEAP. Learn about all the great services LEAP offers to the community and take a tour of their Stone Soup Gardens and Fit trail. Enjoy barbecued appetizers while socializing and making new connections. Don't miss your chance to win door prizes, too. For more information, call the Chamber at 778-4215 or email [info@franklincountymaine.org](mailto:info@franklincountymaine.org)

We hope to see you there!

## June 18

**HIPPACH FIELD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** HIPPACH FIELD, FARMINGTON

It was 100 years ago when the athletic fields were named for Howard Hippach, a talented athlete and Abbott School student. The Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club, a nonprofit living history organization which tours the state playing by the old time rules and wearing authentic looking mid-19th century

Join us for a **Business After Hours** at **LEAP** Hope • Wellness • Joy

**June 16 5-7pm**

**482 Farmington Falls Rd. Farmington**

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BAH BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

uniforms, is scheduled to play at Hippach Field at 7 p.m. Event festivities will include hot dogs and boxes of Cracker Jack, a little history about the park, possible unveilings, members of the Hippach family in attendance, and the old-time baseball game to be played under the lights. For more information, call (207) 778-3464.

## June 18

**MAINE MOUNTAIN CHAMBER MUSIC**

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** NORDICA AUDITORIUM, MERRILL HALL, UMF

Sponsored by the Arts Institute of Western Maine, MMCM co-directors Laurie

Kennedy, viola, and Yuri Funahashi, piano, are joined by guest artist Lisa Hennessy, flute, in a program of the music of Maurice Durufle, Ernest Bloch, Sergei Prokofiev and Rebecca Clarke. Nordica Auditorium, Merrill Hall, UMF. Adult admission \$12; FREE for 18 and under and students with ID.

## June 24, 25 & 26

**WILTON LIONS CLUB ANNUAL YARD SALE**

**TIME:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION:** ROUTE 2 & 4 NEXT STORE FROM BIG APPLE IN WILTON

Treasures abound at this year's Lion's Club Yard Sale. Find a large collection of assorted goods; you never

know what you'll end up finding.

## June 25

**KINGFIELD POPS**

**LOCATION:** KENNEDY FARM, KINGFIELD

This year's festival will truly please the crowds featuring once again the Bangor Symphony Orchestra conducted and directed by Grammy Award winner Lucas Richman. Ticket holders will also experience the sights and sounds of our co-headliner and BSO guest artists, The Mallett Brothers Band. Additionally on the slate to kick off the 14th annual is The Fogcutters, Ghost of Paul Revere and possibly more.

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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.

## Member Spotlight: Rustic Roots Farm

Erica Emery started Rustic Roots Farm in 2013 and is now going into her fourth growing season this year. Though she's a first generation owner of the farm, her father's side of the family was involved in dairy farming, so she's always been close to the farm. Located at 120 Vipah Lane in Farmington, the farm is about two acres with an additional acre rented near the Chesterville/Farmington border where they grow sweet corn.

Rustic Roots has always farmed without synthetic chemicals and uses crop rota-

tion conservation practices to make sure that the land is preserved and healthy for future crops. By using local sources for fertilizers such as a local fish-based organic fertilizer made at Living Acres in New Sharon as well as local organic compost, seeds and practices, she makes sure that her practices are as sustainable and community-supported as possible. Being a small farm, they use mainly hand tools, but are also making an effort to stay updated with new implements or practices being used in the field.

With 35 different kinds of produce and 80-plus varieties represented, Rustic Roots Farm has a wide variety of vegetables for people to purchase through either Community Supported Agriculture Farm Shares (CSA) or through the weekly farmer's market at the Court House parking lot every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in Farmington. CSA farm shares are still available to purchase at their website [www.rusticrootsfarm.com](http://www.rusticrootsfarm.com) where you can sign up to get a box of vegetables every week for 20 weeks. There is always a variety of different produce



depending on the season. New this year is Farmer's Market Share which works more like a gift card where you use at the farm stand

more suited for people who aren't going to be around all summer for the weekly boxes or those who want to receive a smaller amount of produce.

## Chamber

from page 1

(Source: SUSB)

Almost all firms with employees are small. They make up **96.9 percent** of all employers in the state. (Source: SUSB)

Firms with fewer than 100 employees have the largest share of small business employment.

In Maine, small businesses created **5,076** net new jobs in 2012. The biggest gain was in

the smallest firm size category of one to four employees. (Source: BDS)

The number of people who were primarily self-employed in 2013 decreased by **4.1 percent** relative to the previous year.

The state's private-sector employment growth increased over the 12-month period ending in October 2014 by 1.3 percent. This was below the national average growth rate for this period of **2.3 percent**. (Source: BLS)

This emphasizes the important role that small businesses have in the Maine economy. At the Entrepreneurs Connect event, attendees heard a keynote presentation from Pete Roberts of Origin USA as well as presentations by Andy Marble of Marble Family Farms, Matt Swan of Tumble-down Brewing and Meghan Allen of Richards' Florist. All local Farmington area residents, three of the four went to school at Mt Blue and all of them shared a similar drive

to succeed. They shared the trials and tribulations of starting and owning your own business. I was inspired listening to how they persevered as they followed their dreams of being their own boss.

Although they all possessed some unique qualities that allowed them to be successful, they all shared that it doesn't come without a lot of work and a lot of drive. I imagine their stories are similar to the others that

make up the large percentage of small business in Maine.

As the Chamber continues to support our small business sector, please watch for more Entrepreneurs Connect events to help those with the dreams of business ownership with those that have succeeded.

Thank you,

Glenn Kapiloff, President

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce



## 2016 FCCOC Board Members

**Glenn Kapiloff**  
President

Foster Technology Center

**Greg Patterson**

Vice President  
Walmart

**Pam Dixon**

Treasurer  
Franklin Savings Bank

**Susan Atwood**

Secretary  
Wilson Lake Inn

**Shannon Smith**

Membership Chairman  
FMH Auxiliary

**Ken True**

Member at Large  
Wiles Remembrance Center

### Directors

**Jodi Cordes**

Franklin Community  
Health Network

**Heidi Elliott**

Bangor Savings Bank

**Charles Ellis**

Key Bank

**Tammy Hutchinson**

Comfort Inn & Suites

**Rhonda Irish**

Wilton Town Manager

**Patty Ladd**

Wilton Career Center

**Angela LeClair**

University of Maine  
at Farmington

**Susi Pearson**

Allied Realty

**Chrissy St. Laurent**

Franklin Savings Bank



L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School instructors will be coming on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to the 34<sup>th</sup> Wilton Blueberry Festival to teach fly casting at Kineowatha Park. There is a pre-registration to make sure there at least 100 /150 people interested by July 10<sup>th</sup>. The classes will go from 9AM-3PM every half hour. A max of twelve per class. The cost is FREE. You may call **Shannon Smith** to register at 778-4726 or e-mail: [scsmith.wbbf@gmail.com](mailto:scsmith.wbbf@gmail.com)

Any child 8 to 14 years old will have to have a responsible adult present while they are casting.

15 to 17 year olds can cast without a responsible adult present if the parent comes with them and fills out our waiver.

## SAVE THE DATE

14<sup>th</sup> Annual

Seth Wescott & Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

# Scholarship Golf Classic

There's still time to sign up a team or be a sponsor!

Call the Chamber at 778-4215 or email [info@franklincountymaine.org](mailto:info@franklincountymaine.org) for more information



September 30, 2016 | Sugarloaf Golf Club

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## April's Business After Hours hosted by Colonial Valley Motel

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's April Business After Hours was held at Colonial Valley Motel on a sunny spring evening. The many attendees enjoyed a time of networking while enjoying a variety of refreshments from Steve's Market.

The cheerful staff of Colonial Valley Motel gave tours of the newly renovated rooms. They have renovated 21 of the 28 rooms on their way to renovating all of the rooms in the motel.

Millette Pepin of Colonial Valley Motel said, "Thanks everyone that came out the

Business After Hours event. It was great to see everyone."

Join the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at our June Business After Hours at LEAP on June 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring a friend and network while enjoying appetizers, learning about the good work done by LEAP, and you may even win a door prize. For more information, call the Chamber office at 778-4215. You can find the details and updates of this event and other upcoming chamber and community activities on the calendar at [www.franklincountymaine.org](http://www.franklincountymaine.org).



Colonial Valley Motel hosted a great Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event in April. Pictured are: Penny Meservier, Chamber executive director; Wanda Adams, Colonial Valley Motel; Mellette Pepin, Colonial Valley Motel; Abbie Hartford, Colonial Valley Motel; Tina Collins, Colonial Valley Motel; Linda Gagnon, Colonial Valley Motel; Glenn Kapiloff, Chamber board president.

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Event goers had a great time networking at the Colonial Valley Motel BAH! Pictured are: Tina Collins of Colonial Valley Motel socializes with Greg Patterson of Walmart and Alison Hagerstrom of Greater Franklin Development Council

Pictured are: Sarah Sanford of Comfort Inn Suites conversing with Rob Lively of Friends of Wilton Lake