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615 Wilton Road, Farmington
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April 2016

A letter from the president

In mid April, what is on most people's mind? Taxes. I saw a statistic the other day that Maine is one of the states with the highest overall tax burden. With multiple taxes assessed for many things, this all has a profound affect on the economy. Although high taxes can provide for many necessary services, it can also discourage economic growth. From the Chamber of Commerce's perspective, tax rates can be a deciding factor for many people as they choose a place

to live or work.

Taxes were first being imposed in this country back in colonial days (I guess that's really before we were a country) and ultimately led to the American Revolution and our independence from Great Britain. Not so much because they were high taxes, but because they were being imposed on a group of people who didn't have any representation in the parliament that was levying them.

But what are taxes really for? Do we need taxes? If so, how much and who decides? All of these questions are certainly being pondered by current politicians. So I thought that for this month's newsletter we could take a quick look at what our taxes go to.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities about half of state income tax is used for education (K-12 and higher education) and health care. The remain-

ing funds go towards transportation, corrections, assistance to the poor and "other" state funding projects. Ironically enough, there seems to be more articles and publications listed on "how to file your taxes" then on what your taxes are used for.

Federal taxes go to Social Security (24 percent), Medicare/ Medicaid (25 percent), defense (16 percent), Safety Net programs (10 percent) and interest on the national debt (6 percent) with the remaining 19 percent used for transportation infrastructure, education, science

and medical research and other items.

Our taxes serve a vital purpose in ensuring both state and federal needs of the country are met. We use tax money to provide for our national security as well as assisting the most vulnerable populations. It helps shape our public education system for future generations.

How much is enough? Can the 'tax burden' be distributed in a fair and equitable system that allows for everyone to contribute without being overtaxed? Who

decides what is the best use of the money that individual citizens and businesses have earned? These are the questions that have long been asked and will continue to be argued and discussed by politicians, business owners and citizens alike.

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except *death and taxes*." - Benjamin Franklin

Glenn Kapiloff, President

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Time for you to tap into tourism

By Dina Jackson
Maine Lakes and
Mountains Tourism Council

Each year, the Maine Office of Tourism spends millions of dollars (about \$10 million) to promote Maine as a vacation destination through paid advertising (print, TV and online), an e-newsletter, social media, a quarterly digital magazine and proactive public relations, and their efforts successfully drive traffic to VisitMaine.com and all the

Maine businesses listed there, resulting in 1.8 million unique visits and 6.7 million page views in 2015.

Is your tourism business taking advantage of this FREE opportunity to be seen by the millions of people interested in visiting Maine each year? If not, what are you waiting for?

It's so easy, and it takes just a few minutes to create your basic business listing. And it gets even better with step by step instructions, options

to expand your listing with photos, videos, logos and PDFs of your brochures or menus, etc., and the ability to promote specials, deals and events you are hosting.

And did we mention it's FREE?!

Don't wait — go to www.maine.bvk.geoconsensus.com/login to set up your account now. You can always login later to add more pizzazz to your listing, just like our friends at Wilson Lake Inn

have done. Nice job!

At the risk of sounding like an infomercial, there's another added benefit. Once you've posted your business on VisitMaine.com, your listing will automatically populate Maine's Lakes and Mountains' (MLMTC) regional website at www.MaineLakesAndMountians.com without any extra work on your part.

Not familiar with MLMTC? Here's a brief recap.

Maine's Lakes & Mountains Tourism Council (MLMTC) is a regional collaboration

of ten chambers: Bethel, Flagstaff, Franklin County, Greater Bridgton, Jay-Livermore-Livermore Falls, Lewiston-Auburn, Oxford Hills, Rangeley, River Valley, and Sebago. Since 1992, this nonprofit has been working in partnership with the Maine Office of Tourism to promote the state's identified Lakes and Mountains Region as an attractive lakes and mountains vacation destination to new and returning visitors. Think of MLMTC as a vehicle to bolster your chamber's reach outside of Maine.

Last year, MLMTC was

awarded \$125,000 from the Maine Office of Tourism to market the region and here's a snapshot of what they did.

MLMTC refreshed their regional website and positioned the "Request a Guidebook" call to action in a more prominent position, resulting in more inquiries for the guide.

Regional advertisements were placed in the following print publications: Maine Invites

Tourism
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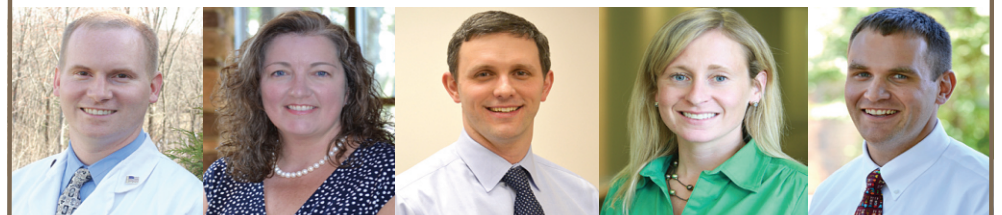


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Calendar of events

May 1

HOSPICE HOUSE 5K & REMEMBRANCE WALK

TIME: 9 a.m. – 12 a.m.

LOCATION: FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT HOUSE ON MAIN STREET IN FARMINGTON

Proceeds support patient care and family support services at Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice's Hospice House. Registration: \$25 before the event; \$30 Day of (13 and older) No fee for children ages 12 and younger. Kids fun run open at no cost — donations accepted. Awards will be presented. For more information and to register visit: www.HHRunWalk.org

May 1

ST. MARY SCHOLA CONCERT

TIME: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

LOCATION: NORDICA AUDITORIUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON

Arts Institute of Western Maine is presents St. Mary Schola. Directed by Bruce Fithian, and based at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary in Falmouth, the highly-respected ensemble was founded in 2008 by Fithian and the Rev. James Dalton-Thompson. The program entitled "Ode to Music" is dedicated to the praise of music's power to touch our hearts. Farmington's own John and Kathryn Sytsma perform on viola da gamba in "City Cries", as well as previous Farmington residents,

Dr. Phillip Carlsen (UMF Professor emeritus) and Mary Jo Carlsen, violinist. Tickets, \$12 (students free), may be purchased at the door.

May 5

ENTREPRENEURS CONNECT

TIME: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

LOCATION: FAIRBANKS MEETING HOUSE, 508 FAIRBANKS RD. FARMINGTON

Entrepreneurs Connect is an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to get inspired, think big, be bold and challenge themselves to grow their business and take it to the next level. Keynote speaker Pete Roberts, owner of Origin USA, is a serial entrepreneur, and teaches and trains Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. This May event, will focus on the Journeys of three area entrepreneurs including Andrew Marble, Marble Family Farms; Matthew Swan, Tumbledown Brewing; and Meghan Allen, Richards' Florist. Other presenters include Glenn Rudberg, Co-founder of Ethos Marketing and Design speaking on the topic of marketing; Tom Gale, President of VONT Performance Digital Marketing discussing about advertising; and Chelsea Fournier, Attorney at Opticliff presenting on trademarks. Register for this event at www.entrepreneursconnectspring.eventbrite.com

May 7

FRANKLIN COUNTY WELLNESS FAIR

TIME: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

LOCATION: NORTH DINING HALL AT UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, FARMINGTON

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce's 1st Wellness Fair will showcase local wellness related businesses and give the community a chance to receive information and tools that help support a healthy lifestyle. Seminars and demonstrations include a cooking demonstration by Healthy Community Coalition at 9:30, a Mindfulness workshop at 10:30 a.m., How to Exercise without Equipment by UMF Fitness & Recreation at 11:30 a.m., Essential Oils seminar by End of the Rainbow Alternatives at 12:30 p.m. Admission is free and there will be door prizes! FMI, call 778-4215 or visit www.franklincountymaine.org

May 7

FIDDLEHEAD FESTIVAL

TIME: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

LOCATION: UMF, Emery Community Arts Center patio, FARMINGTON

The Fiddlehead Festival, now in its fifth year, celebrates the abundance of locally grown and foraged foods in Franklin County. Enjoy live acoustic music, learn about responsible harvesting and safe preparation of fiddlehead ferns, meet local farmers and food vendors, learn things like home-steading skills, weaving, and goat raising at one of our "tent talks", antique tractors, supervised children's activities, the farmer's market and more. Get together with old friends and meet new. Have a conversation with a local

food producer! FMI, visit www.maine.fiddleheadfestival.com

May 19

MAY'S BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT SANDY RIVER CENTER

TIME: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

LOCATION: SANDY RIVER CENTER, 119 LIVERMORE FALLS RD, FARMINGTON

Join us for May's Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business After

Hours hosted by Sandy River Center. Take a tour, enjoy 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

May 20

RELAY FOR LIFE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

TIME: 5 p.m. – midnight

LOCATION: FARMINGTON FAIR GROUNDS, HIGH ST, FARMINGTON

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life fundraising event to end cancer. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. Support the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce team at the Relay for Life event. FMI, visit www.relay.acsevents.org

entrepreneurs
CONNECT

Get inspired to think big, be bold and take risks. Challenge yourself to grow your business and take it to the next level.

May 5, 2016 | 4pm-7pm
Fairbanks School Meeting House
508 Fairbanks Road, Farmington

dream

Entrepreneurs Connect Event Focuses on Marketing, Advertising, and Trademarking: Features Keynote Local Entrepreneur, Pete Roberts

When: May 5, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Where: Fairbanks School Meeting House

Pete Roberts, owner of Origin USA, is a serial entrepreneur, and teaches and trains Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He founded his first company Insyt New Media, a high-end marketing and branding firm, in 2000. Pete now owns and operates Ethos Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Farmington and is the founder of Origin USA which manufactures dynamic training gear for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu on a global scale. On May 5th Pete will be the keynote at the Entrepreneurs Connect event at the Fairbanks School Meeting house in Farmington. There, Pete will share his entrepreneurial journey.

Entrepreneurs Connect is an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to get inspired, think big, be bold and challenge themselves to grow their business and take it to the next level. This May event, will focus on the Journeys of three other area entrepreneurs including Andrew Marble, Marble Family Farms; Matthew Swan, Tumbledown Brewing; and Meghan Allen, Richards' Florist. Other presenters include Glenn Rudberg, co-founder of Ethos Marketing and Design, talking about marketing; Tom Gale, president of VONT Performance Digital Marketing, talking about advertising; and Chelsea Fournier, attorney at Opticliff talking about trademarks.

The Greater Franklin Development Council, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Business Center at CEI are co-sponsoring this Entrepreneurs Connect event. This is their second Entrepreneurs Connect event which will now be held bi-annually in the spring and fall, to help create a culture for entrepreneurs and small businesses to challenge themselves to grow their business. It is well known that regions are strengthened when entrepreneurs connect with one another; together we are working on strengthening our entrepreneur community.

If you are interested in attending this event, please register by April 29. For more information, and to register, go online to <https://entrepreneursconnectspring.eventbrite.com> or call (207) 778-5887.

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Chrissy St. Laurent
Franklin Savings Bank

Rhonda Irish
Wilton Town Manager

Mt. Blue TV hosted March's Business After Hours

Mt. Blue Community Access TV hosted a wonderful March Business After Hours event. Mt. Blue Community Access TV showed off their new location at 270 Main Street in the lower level of the Roberts Learning Center. Attendees experienced being a weather person using the green screen set up. Thanks to Ron's Market for the great variety of appetizers.

Shelly Lowell from Skowhegan Savings won the door prize of a sponsorship for the televising of the Mt. Blue High School Baseball and Softball season. Contact Mt. Blue TV for more information on sponsoring the televising of Mt. Blue High School sports at 778-8146. Make plans to join us at the next Business After Hours on May 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Genesis Health Care Sandy River Center, 119 Livermore Falls Road, Farmington.



Contributed images

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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MEMBER FDIC

Member Spotlight: Friends of Wilson Lake

The Friends of Wilson Lake (FOWL) was created to address a problem — seagulls. In the 1980s, the Town of Wilton still had an open dump and it attracted scores of seagulls who ate at the dump and who left their calling cards in Wilson Lake. Concerned about the potential for declining water quality, a group of conscientious Wilton residents formed FOWL in 1989, with the goal of preserving and protecting the “Jewel” of Wilton. The dump was eventually converted into a transfer station, the seagulls disappeared, and now with over 300 members, FOWL continues to pursue its original goal through regular testing for water clarity and for dissolved oxygen.

FOWL has broadened its activities over the years. Together with the Town of Wilton, FOWL sponsors a Courtesy Boat Inspection program,

whereby boats entering Wilson Lake are inspected for invasive plants such as milfoil. Area businesses are sponsoring summer weekends in 2016. Send an e-mail to wynnemuller@comcast.net if your business would like to be involved.

FOWL participates in the LakeSmart program, which seeks to limit the amount of potentially negative runoff that can enter the lake through lakeside properties. FOWL, at no cost, will work with landowners to discuss ways to create buffers to limit runoff into the lake.

FOWL sponsors a Loon Education Program that is held each year for all third graders at Academy Hill School, Wilton. The children learn about loons, their characteristics, their habitats, and how important

it is to avoid them and their chicks.

FOWL also sponsors the David Prince Memorial Scholarship, an award given to a graduating senior at Mt. Blue High School who intends to go on to college.

FOWL is sponsoring a Watershed Survey in September, 2016. The survey seeks to identify potential sources of negative runoff into the lake and then explore ways to correct them.

If you would like more information on FOWL's projects, or are interested in working or volunteering for FOWL, contact friendsofwilsonlake@gmail.com. Also see www.friendsofwilsonlake.org.

Rob Lively
President
Friends of Wilson Lake

Franklin County
WELLNESS FAIR
2016
Saturday, May 7
9am-2pm
North Dining Hall, University of Maine at Farmington

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is partnering up with Franklin Savings bank for a wellness fair from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, May in the North Dining Hall at UMF. Admission is free and there will be several workshops and door prizes throughout the day.

This is a great opportunity to learn about holistic and integrative health care services around Franklin County while supporting community and personal wellness. This year's fair will provide people with information, tools and

workshops that help with cultivating a healthy lifestyle.

Healthy Community Coalition will be having a cooking demonstration and mindfulness workshop, UMF Fitness will teach people how to exercise without equipment, End of Rainbow Alternatives will have an essential oils presentation and there will also be The Elks Drug Awareness, a body analyzer, blood pressure checks and much more. For more information, please call 778-4215.

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Tourism

from page 1

You, Yankee Magazine, Maine Innkeepers Guidebook, Maine Camping Guide and East Coast Traveler Magazine. The council also placed online ads with Yankee, CampMaine and Facebook, sponsored two e-newsletters and promoted a weekend giveaway on www.Yankee.com.

The Council published and distributed 15,000 regional guidebooks — up from 10,000 the previous year. Additional copies were distributed via CTM Media Group at key locations throughout New England.

Members of the Council represented the region at the

following consumer travel shows: Washington D.C. Travel & Adventure Show, Boston Globe Travel Show, New York Times Travel Show and AAA Travel Marketplace in Foxborough, MA.

Social media remained an important part of the mix with promotions on Facebook and new attention focused on Twitter and Instagram.

As you can see, a great deal of thought, time and money is being spent to position Maine a must see destination and we'd love for you to benefit from all this work. Now, it's your turn to make it easier for visitors to find you — simply go to visitmaine.com at the bottom of the page click on partner login to create your new listing or update an existing one.



Contributed image

Allied Realty's grand opening was celebrated on Thursday, March 31. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce joined in the celebration with a ribbon cutting event. A representative of Representative Bruce Poliquin's office presented a letter of best wishes. Allied Realty gave tours of their newly renovated office. Visit Allied Realty at 915 Route 2 East, Wilton, approximately a mile west of Franklin Memorial Hospital, or call 778-9999. Pictured from left to right is Penny Meservier, Executive Director of Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Aaron Bolster, Colin Durrell, Melissa Bolster and Glenn Kapiloff, Chamber President.