

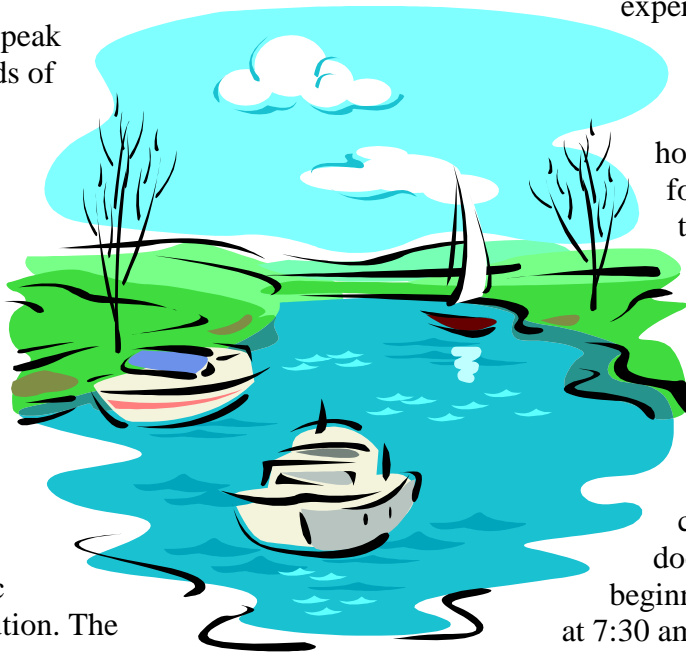
Chamber News

April 2011

WINTHROP AREA CHAMBER BREAKFAST MEETING TO FEATURE NEW HEAD OF FRIENDS OF COBBOSSEE

Ken Smith, executive director of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, will be the speaker at the Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on Thursday, April 7. The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed was established 10 years ago to protect and improve the 28 lakes and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed. Smith is one of the founding members of the organization and became executive director last September.

Smith will speak about the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed's educational programs, special activities and events, and plans for the future. He will also discuss the organization's fight against invasive aquatic plants and pollution. The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed is known for popular special events, such as the Friends on the 4th 5K on Independence Day in Winthrop; the ice cream boat—the Otter II—which may be found on 11 lakes and at community events throughout the summer; and year-round educational offerings in both the summer (Tadpole Patrol) and during the school year in schools located in the Cobbossee Watershed.



Smith, who formerly owned and operated Custom Electronics in Falmouth, took over the reins when Bob Moore, the organization's first executive director, took a position at Thomas College. Smith's background includes many years of service on the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed's board, as well as rich business management experience in the digital equipment and electronics fields. He also has fundraising and membership experience due to professional development and volunteer work.

Having grown up in East Monmouth, Smith has spent countless hours on Cobbossee Lake. He has a passion for the lakes, streams, and communities of the watershed making him a natural leader for the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed.

The Chamber breakfast meeting on Thursday, April 7 will be held at the Winthrop Area Federal Credit Union (located at the intersection of Route 202 and Highland Avenue in Winthrop). The cost is \$5 per person, to be paid at the door. A light breakfast will be provided beginning at 7:15 am and the meeting will start at 7:30 am and end promptly at 8:30 am. The meeting, which is generously sponsored by **Brian S. Berry & Associates, CPAs**, is open to the public. No reservations are required.

For more detailed information, please go to www.winthropchamber.org, send an email to info@winthropchamber.org, or call 207-377-8020.

SAVE THE DATE--SEE PAGE TWO FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars for These UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS!

Chamber events coming up in May include the Chamber Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, May 5 featuring Hoyt Chiropractic and the next Texas Hold'em Tournament on Sunday, May 8. Stayed tuned for more details coming soon!

Chamber Member Online Survey TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

As we make plans for the Chamber's future direction, we want to get a clear sense of what our members want going forward. To accomplish this, we need to hear from you!

We ask that you please complete the online survey—see link below—in order to provide us with your feedback about the Chamber. We encourage you to share your ideas and suggestions for making improvements!

Information gathered from the survey will be used to make recommendations for changes to the Chamber.

Your input is very important and valuable to us. Thank you very much for taking the time to go online and complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MYBVK9L>

Call for Artists for Winthrop SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL

Applications are now being accepted for the 24th Annual Winthrop Sidewalk Art Festival to be held (rain or shine) on Saturday, August 20, 2011, from 10 am to 4 pm in downtown Winthrop.

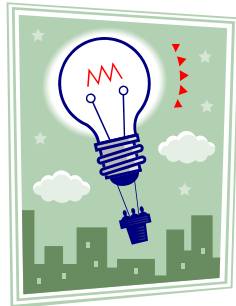
Known as one of the best art festivals in Maine, the event features many high-quality artists and draws attendees from throughout the region.

The art festival is complemented by many other activities held in Winthrop, including the library book sale, church bake sales and luncheons, and numerous specials at local merchants.

Applications are being accepted for this juried event from artists who work in a variety of media. The categories of media have been expanded to include fabric, leather, metal, wood, and other categories. Please refer to the application form for more detailed information about the media categories.

Application forms are available for downloading on the Chamber website—http://www.winthropchamber.org/documents/2011SidewalkFestivalApplication_000.pdf—and by request by calling 207-377-8020 or sending an email to info@winthropchamber.org.

See Page 6 for 24th Annual Winthrop Sidewalk Art Festival Application.



Member News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) continues its 2011 Lyceum, New England Nature Writers on the Land, with A Party in the Woods: Loss and Celebration under a Changing Sky on Monday, April 11 at 7 pm at the Olin Center at Colby College in Waterville. John Elder, environmental activist and author of *Reading the*



Mountains of Home and *The Frog Run*, will focus on sugar making as a chance to both register the damage to our woods from climate change and seek a more community-based and inviting approach to

environmental activism.

In addition, KLT will host Earth Week: Birding, Hiking, and Nature Writing at Gannett Woods and Wyman Forest on Saturday, April 23 from 8 to 10 am. KLT stewards Jeff Janell and Dave Courtemanch and birder Tom Danielson will lead a hike that will feature spring birds, pristine Shedd Pond, and the Wyman-Gannett trails. Nathalie Woolworth, KLT Conservation Assistant will lead an optional nature writing activity.

For more information and directions call KLT at 207-377-2848.

Help the Chamber Share the NEWS ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS

Do you have news about your business that you'd like to share with your Chamber colleagues? Send an email message to info@winthropchamber.org and we'll put it in the *Chamber News*.

Advertise Your Business on THE CHAMBER WEB SITE

The current state of the economy makes it more important than ever to promote your business—and advertising on the Chamber's Web site is a cost-effective way to do it. Advertising rates are posted online at www.winthropchamber.org. For more information about advertising on the Chamber site, call 207-377-8020 or send an email to info@winthropchamber.org.



Your resource for life.

MaineGeneral
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Workplace Health

For more than 20 years, MaineGeneral's Workplace Health has partnered with employers throughout the Kennebec Valley to assist with controlling costs associated with workers' compensation and improving employee health and productivity. These expert occupational health services are available close to work, because they are located right at the Winthrop Commerce Center. Treating your employees' on-the-job injuries in Winthrop means less travel for medical care, less time away from work, and more cost-effective care.

Services available through MaineGeneral's Workplace Health include but are not limited to: treatment and follow up for work-related injuries, pre-placement screenings, and DOT and school bus driver exams. For an appointment, call 207-623-6631.

For more detailed information, contact Sharon Crowe at 207-872-4455 or Sharon.crowe@mainegeneral.org. Or visit MaineGeneral's Workplace Health website: <http://workplacehealth.mainegeneral.org>

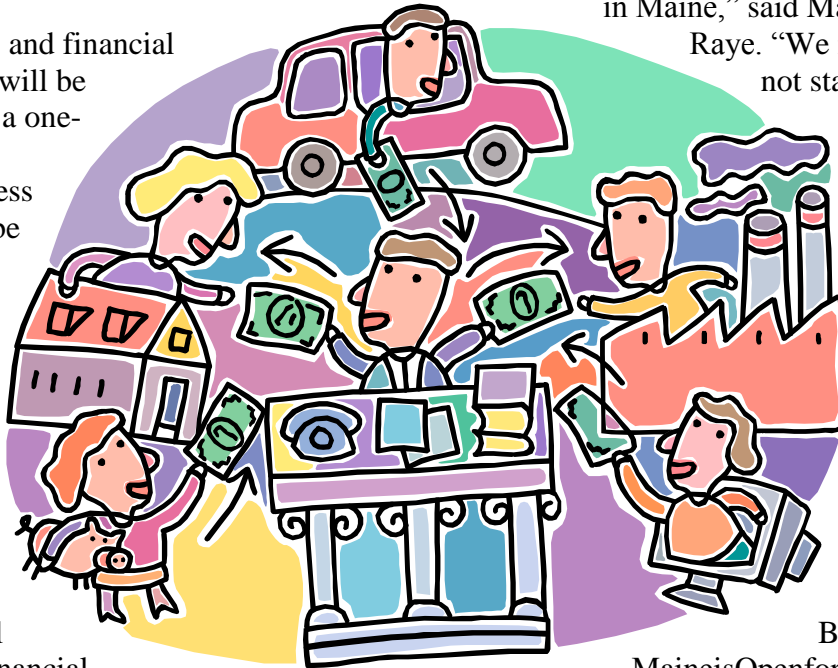
Business Assistance Meeting SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14

Businesses and employers will have an opportunity to learn about the wide range of practical and financial assistance available to them at a public meeting at Goodwill Workforce Solutions (located at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station) on Thursday, April 14 from 10 am to noon. The meeting, "Put Some Spring into Your Business," is open to the public and offered at no cost.

Business and financial information will be presented in a one-stop setting where business people will be able to ask questions and get answers, as they learn about grants and loans to bridge gaps in traditional financing; financial assistance with the cost of training workers; tax credits for hiring veterans and others; and business planning and other advice.

Invited presenters include Midcoast Council of Governments, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Coastal Enterprises Inc., Goodwill Workforce Solutions, Maine Small Business Development Centers, Midcoast Economic Development District, Women Work & Community, and the Maine Department of Labor. Immediately following the presentations, there will be refreshments and time for networking.

Seating is limited to 100. Those interested in attending should make a reservation by calling 207-373-0754.



New Website Tracks Efforts to IMPROVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

In mid-March, a new website that tracks the State Legislature's work on improving Maine's business climate was launched.

MaineisOpenforBusiness.com is a central hub for the ongoing discussion of reform measures necessary to improve Maine's economy.

"The 125th Legislature is focused on enacting laws that will encourage private sector job creation in Maine," said Maine Senate President Kevin L.

Raye. "We need to make sure government is not standing in the way of job growth.

MaineisOpenforBusiness.com will serve as a key component of this ongoing work and discussion."

The website features video from recent public hearings on regulatory reform, as well as aggregated news and information about economic reform legislation. In addition, the site includes an area where Mainers can submit their ideas for improving Maine's business climate.

Be sure to learn more by visiting MaineisOpenforBusiness.com.

April 14th Regional Reception: ON THE ROAD WITH MAINEBIZ

Step number two in the On the Road with *Mainebiz* event series will take place in the Augusta/Waterville region. Meet and mingle with other business execs by joining *Mainebiz* on Thursday, April 14 from 5 to 7 pm at the Senator Inn on Western Avenue in Augusta. A cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be available. Admission is free but pre-registration is required.

To register, go to www.mainebiz.biz/forms/AugustaRR2011. Questions? Contact Jenna Grant at jgrant@mainebiz.biz or 207-761-8379 x41



Your Chamber at Work:

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Local businesses, individuals, and organizations receive great benefits from Chamber membership:

- **ADVERTISING:** Members get a FREE listing on the Chamber WEB SITE and a FREE entry in the Chamber's VISITORS' GUIDE. They also get the opportunity to LINK THEIR WEB SITE to the Chamber Web site; ADVERTISE in the monthly newsletter; participate in special promotions and free distribution of MARKETING materials; and purchase advertising in specially designed brochures that PROMOTE TOURISM in the Winthrop Lakes Region.
- **AFFILIATING:** Members get a FREE membership decal; are encouraged to do BUSINESS with other members; and are given REFERRALS from inquiries made to the Chamber. Members also get to participate in the CHAMBER CASH PROGRAM, available to member businesses *only*.
- **LEADING:** Members get to be part of a lobbying effort to REPRESENT CONCERNS of the business community on a LOCAL AND STATEWIDE LEVEL.
- **NETWORKING:** Members get to KNOW ONE ANOTHER in casual meeting, reception, and other event settings. They also get to WORK TOGETHER on committees and as volunteers.

For more information about becoming more involved or joining the Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce, please call 207-377-8020, send an email to info@winthropchamber.org, or go to www.winthropchamber.org.

Maine State Chamber Launches SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

The Maine State Chamber recently launched an innovative and unique website targeted to serve the specialized needs of Maine's small business community. The Maine Corner Store portal (www.MaineCornerStore.org) provides a gathering place reminiscent of local corner stores, albeit in a modern medium. Maine's smallest businesses and entrepreneurs are now able to access timely information and discuss applicable topics--tailored specifically to their unique needs.

Small companies do business outside of their town or state boundaries. They are affected by laws, rules, regulations, and trends from Augusta, Washington, and beyond. For the first time, the Maine Corner Store brings online common-sense perspectives to some of these critical issues. The key "departments" found on www.maineCornerStore.org are:



Maine Corner Store

- Policy Blogs by the Maine State Chamber's advocacy team of experts, and what they are doing to represent small business interests at the Statehouse;
- HR Blogs by representatives from the Maine State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), which works to advance HR professionalism and serve its practitioners through seven chapters statewide and the Diversity Hiring Coalition;
- Profiles of small business case studies, as well as the programs and services of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce;
- Links to Partners and Resources designed to assist and promote the interests of small businesses; and,
- A Member Forum where you can swap stories, share tips, and ask questions of your fellow entrepreneurs.

Be sure to check out the new Maine Corner Store portal at www.MaineCornerStore.org.



24th Annual Sidewalk Art Festival

Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Main Street-Winthrop, ME 04364

Sponsored by the Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce

Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce * 2011 Sidewalk Art Festival

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Do you have a pop-up tent? Y or N Size: _____ Is it a walk through? Y or N
(Note: No tent larger than 12' x 12' total is allowed)

Type of Art: Painting ___ Digital Photography ___ Pottery ___ Jewelry ___ Wood ___ Metal ___
Ceramic ___ Leather ___ other ___

[**Note: Along with the application, first-time participants must provide a photo sample of their work since this is a juried event.**]

Return this form with and \$55.00 entry fee to (**Deadline: August 1, 2011**):
Winthrop Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 51
Winthrop, ME 04364-0051

If you have any questions please call the Chamber office at 207-377-8020.

P.O. Box 51, Winthrop, ME 04364 * 207-377-8020 * Fax: 207-377-2767
Website: www.winthropchamber.org Email: info@winthropchamber.org