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**"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions and the roots spring up and make new trees" - Fredrick William Faber**

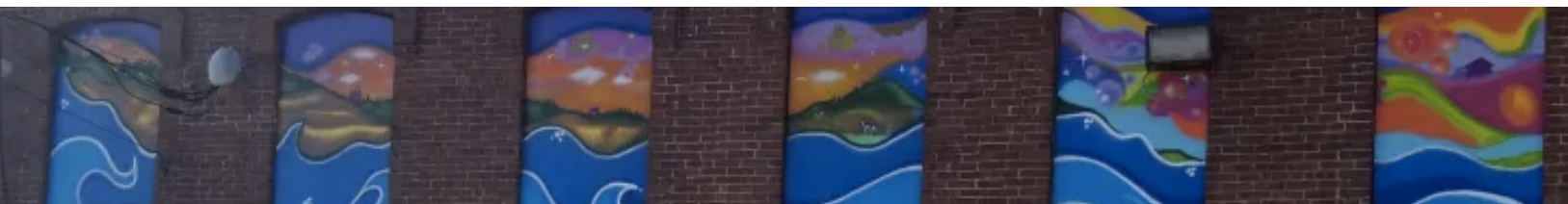
Our goal is to provide useful information to existing and potential business owners and the community as a whole while keeping residents connected with various local happenings. This quarterly publication will be sent out via email and posted to the Economic Development Committee's webpage. Sign up [HERE](#) to receive a newsletter via email!  
Farmington Economic Development Committee

## ***Pop-up and placemaking projects that inspire and improve communities for people of all ages***

Many of us pass and admire the murals on the side of Cumberland Farms on Civic Street which bring welcome color and cheer. These murals were completed during the pandemic by artist Donald DefRock Maker as conceptualized by Elise Pothier Haig who was "inspired for it to represent the "old way to the Bay" as Farmington is the gateway to the lakes and mountains." Seacoast online mentions that, "she hopes it will work as a catalyst to get Farmington revitalized and back to its vibrant era during the industrial revolution with all its shoe factories and shops" (2020).

The term "placemaking" is defined as "the work of improving a particular public space or overall area to make it more of a destination and shared gathering place." AARP's and Better Block's "The Pop-Up Placemaking Tool Kit, was created to inform a broad audience of local leaders, policymakers, advocates and neighborhood residents about the many ways temporary projects can inspire positive community change." It is described that, "the most successful pop-up placemaking demonstrations put people at the forefront of creating change in their community. When residents help identify and solve the challenges that affect their daily lives — whether it's a half-vacant Main Street or roads that make walking or bicycling unsafe — communities and local leaders are more likely to achieve and sustain success. When communities of all types (urban, suburban, rural) and sizes experiment and demonstrate solutions, the quicker their methods can be refined and positive change achieved" (AARP, 2019).

The FEDC is looking to set up a Placemaking sub-committee with a representative from every community group in town. This will help create a channel of communication so we can share what events and community projects each group is planning for visibility and potentially collaborate on a larger initiative in future. If you are a member of the community that would be willing to donate your time and talents on a potential future project – please [follow](#) and [contact](#) the Farmington Economic Development Committee.



## **Connecting People, Business and the Economy**



*Image of potholes on Ten Rod Road*

Our town's bridges connect people, businesses, and supports the economy as a whole. Leading bridge builder, BridgeScope states "rural roads and bridges are an essential component of the U.S. economy. They connect the country and support a network of product transportation that is vital to our nation. Despite its importance, America's rural transportation network lacks the necessary funds for proper maintenance" (2023).

Even our "rural" dirt roads serve significant purpose in connecting our first responders, grid operators, commuting taxpayers, our beloved businesses and farms, tourism and needed funding to our community, while also acting as a major route for Dairy and Timber industries to name a few. Regular maintenance and long-term solutions can also help ensure less damage and funding needed for tax-funded and personal vehicles. In the 2021 State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation's municipally-owned Red List Bridges List, published in March 2022, Farmington had one of the highest numbers of red-listed bridges, specifically bridges located on Hornetown Road, Spring Street, River Road, and Sheepboro Road. This year the number is anticipated to



increase to five "red-listed" bridges with an additional 2 bridges that are at risk of being red-listed. The increase in severe weather such as last year's flooding has only put greater wear on our roads and infrastructure. The public can report potholes, road issues, etc. on [Farmington's website](#). Farmington's Board of Selectman continues to move forward to ensure plans are in place to address the town's infrastructure needs as soon as possible. You can follow along for updates through the [weekly BOS minutes](#). In addition, you can vote and hear updates on how taxpayer and town funds are utilized in infrastructure and all other matters in the upcoming **Annual Town Meeting on March 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The public is welcome and strongly encouraged to attend and vote. Don't forget to also vote on Town Election Day, which was rescheduled due to snow to Tuesday, March 28, 2023!**

## In The Spotlight

### Forty to One

Pure New Hampshire Maple Syrup



### FORTY TO ONE

Pure New Hampshire Maple Syrup



Forty to One, is a small family-run business offering pure New Hampshire Maple Syrup for sale since 1990, when they first became members of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association. Customers say their syrup is the best they've ever had!

Pure Maple Syrup is a true delicacy of nature, made from the sap of the northern sugar maple trees. The sap is gathered in the early spring, usually while snow is still in the woods. Weather conditions must be just right for the sap to run — dropping below freezing at night and warming to above freezing during the day.

Sugar maple trees are ready to tap when they are at least 10" in diameter. As many as three taps can be placed in a large tree. Each year, new holes are drilled and the old tap holes heal within a year or two. The holes are cleaned and plastic spouts are connected to tubes that carry the sap to the main line. At the end of the main line, the sap is collected for transport to the sugar house where it is filtered into a stainless steel holding tank. Maple sap as it comes from the tree is a clear, slightly sweet liquid, with a sugar content ranging from one to four percent. Sweeter sap is favored because less water will have to be evaporated to make the syrup. The sap must be evaporated as soon as possible because the freshest sap makes the best quality syrup.

The sugar house has an evaporator used to boil the sap into syrup. Evaporators are made up of one or more flat pans which sit on an arch, or firebox. They use a very hot hardwood fire to heat the sap to boiling. The evaporator pans are divided by partitions, to keep the sap continuously flowing through the pans. Fresh sap enters at the back pan, where a float valve keeps the sap about an inch deep. As the water is boiled off the liquid becomes sweeter, and travels around the partitions, moving towards the front pan. The float valve allows fresh sap into the rear pan, keeping the level constant and the sap flowing through the pans. In this way water is constantly evaporated away, concentrating the natural maple sugar in the remaining liquid. The temperature and density of the liquid in the front pan are monitored until the boiling point is about 219 degrees and the sugar content reaches about 67 percent. This finished syrup is then drawn off, filtered, and bottled while still very hot. Most of their fresh sap has a sugar content of about 2 percent, and it takes about FORTY gallons of this slightly sweet sap, boiled down, TO make ONE gallon of pure maple syrup.

After a busy 2022 season, the much anticipated Maple Syrup selections from the season's new crop will be available for sale late March, 2023. The team has been busy getting the sap lines ready, hoping for little ice-storm damage over winter, and looking forward to the first boil in Spring. Check out their [webpage](#) for updates on 2023 crop available for sale while supplies last.



Photos courtesy of Forty to One







### Shepherd's Gate

Shepherd's Gate Flower Farm is a micro farm located on 3 acres in historic Merrill Corners, Farmington, New Hampshire. Owners are purveyors of unique and heirloom flowers following regenerative agricultural techniques, their flowers and plants are grown in a sustainable and natural manner which is healthy and safe for the environment. Their local specialty is a mason jar bouquet of seasonal blooms. They also offer custom arrangements, and consulting services for special events are handled by their in-house certified coordinator. Their mission is to positively affect the lives of others through flowers, education, and events on the farm.

### FLOWER SHARE BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!

Shepherd's Gate reopens for flowers, classes, and events in April for the 2023 season! Flower shares may be purchased on their [website](#). Their class and event schedule may also be found in the "Happenings" section and is updated regularly. If you have any questions about their services, please use the ["contact us" form](#) on their website and follow both their [facebook page](#) and [Instagram](#) account for updates!"

*Photos courtesy of Shepherd's Gate*



### Clyde Farm

Clyde Farm is operated by Jimi Tutor and Kristen Klenow. Located at 63 Meetinghouse Hill Road, they bought the 135 acre conserved property from the Carlsen Family who operated it as Dairy from the 1930's (first called "Shemung Farm") until the late 1980's. They milked Guernsey Cows, renowned for their "Golden" milk. The Carlsen Family conserved the property in 2021 and sold it to Jimi and Kristen who were leasing land in Brentwood, NH producing poultry, lamb and cut flowers. The conservation easement will ensure the property will remain farmland and timberland forever while allowing for all commercial farming and forestry activities.

Since moving to Farmington, Clyde Farm LLC has expanded to produce market vegetables and beef as well. In 2023 they are expanding once again to begin producing forest raised pork and will be selling cut and split firewood as well. The majority of their products are sold by the "Community Supported Agriculture" (CSA) model where customers sign up and pay for shares in the winter and early spring to receive their fresh and seasonal food during the summer. This model helps the farm pay the bills over the winter, but is also used to pay for the seeds, fertilizer, supplies and new livestock for the upcoming season.

Through grants, the farm is able to offer SNAP benefit (food stamp) receiving members of the community. SNAP members only pay 1/4th of the value of the vegetable CSA and the farm is reimbursed with local, state and federal funds available through their alliance with "Seacoast Eat Local", a non-profit that oversees farmers market and social programs relating to nutrition and access to local food. The farm can also process SNAP card payments for any food items they sell.

### CSA SIGN UPS!

There is a waiting list for new customers who are paying with cash, check or credit card. On March 1st the farm will start taking those customers on the waiting list. More information on the farm can be found at [clydefarm.com](http://clydefarm.com).

*Photos courtesy of Clyde Farm*





## In the Community

March 1st marks the beginning of Women's History month. The Farmington Historical Society collects, preserves, and protects the stories, records, and artifacts relating to the Town of Farmington in order to discover, document, and record the history and evolution of our Town. The Society believes that by showcasing our past, and providing opportunities to share and learn from those experiences, we can help develop community and belonging for our members and fellow citizens of the Town of Farmington.

The Museum of Farmington History and Farmington NH Historical Society are located in the lower level of the Goodwin Library. The museum is open by appointment and on Farmington Hay Day each year. Visit the Farmington NH Historical Society online museum on their [website](#), which has a small representation of what is at the physical museum, but as time goes on, more items are being added. Check their [facebook page](#) for events!

**Did you know?** On May 20, 1910 the Farmington Woman's Club was formed and held it's first meeting. The Farmington Women's Club remains active today – follow their [facebook page](#).



Photos courtesy of the Farmington Historical Society

The First Congregational Church announces a celebration event to honor the 25th anniversary of the Blessed Bargains Thrift Shop and one of their co-founders, Dottie Bean by hosting a **Community Fashion Show**. This free event will take place at the church on **Saturday, April 15 at 10 a.m.** and will showcase models from the community. Model applications can be picked up at Blessed Bargains and at locations around town. Models will shop for their outfits at the thrift shop during regular business hours or by appointment.

Their first Blessed Bargains Fashion Show was held in 2019 and was a huge success. Their models included school and town personnel, students of various ages, entrepreneurs, grandparents, grandchildren and even a pet! We expect this year's line up will include several favorites from the past as well as newcomers who will likely join that list. Door prizes will be drawn during intermission. Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss out!

*Courtesy of the First Congregational Church*



Community Fashion Show

### Friends of Farmington Presents:

- **Winter Markets!** Be sure to catch the last two Winter Markets of the season for incredible locally made treats, crafts, and handmade products on **March 25 and April 29, 2023 from 9 a.m. to noon** at 480 Main St. Farmington, NH.
- **THINK OUTSIDE THE BIN** on **Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2p.m.** at 480 Main Street. This **Earth Day Art Exhibition** encourages the community to reduce, reuse and recycle by turning your recycled materials into art! Interested? Call or text 603-978-5741 or email [friendsoffarmington@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffarmington@gmail.com) for more information. All ages and abilities are welcome!

**Friends of Farmington**



Meet at the Municipal Offices

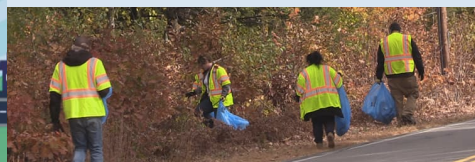
## BUILDING BLOCKS

Business Resources

- [Strafford Regional Planning Commission Development](#)
- [SRPC Economic Development Resources](#)
- [Farmington NH Master Plan](#)
- [Farmington NH Business Resource Page](#)
- [NH Small Business Development Center](#)

Join the **Annual Community Cleanup** hosted by the Farmington Conservation Commission on **Saturday, April 22, 2023** in honor of Earth Day to help clean our town and preserve our natural resources! Please meet at the Municipal Offices at 8 a.m., where the hosts will provide trash bags, gloves and reflective vests. You decide what roads you would like to address and let them know. Call when you are done and bags will be picked up! The last record was 3200 lbs of waste was cleaned up from town. Everyone is encouraged to get out and help clean our environment, and as always please dispose of waste responsibly. Please call Bill Fisher, Sr. at 603-834-8806 with any questions!

*Photos Courtesy of the Conservation Commission*



## STAY CONNECTED!

The Economic Development Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 365 Main Street. Come join us or visit our webpage for more information and resources.

## CALL-TO-ACTION:



Seeking artists, muralists and builders for potential future projects!

Please email us at: [FarmingtonEDC@gmail.com](mailto:FarmingtonEDC@gmail.com)