

"This project will prevent 800,000 pounds of pollution per day—equivalent to taking 26,000 cars off the road. It will provide enough economical power to supply the equivalent of 40,000 homes. You'd have to burn 50,000 gallons of oil a day to produce as much power."

Energy for Maine

Another exciting aspect of the project is that the power it produces is being offered first to consumers right here in Maine. In March, Maine Mountain Power, the joint venture formed by Endless Energy and Edison Mission Energy, signed a contract to sell its power to Constellation New Energy, a large supplier of power in Maine. Constellation, in turn, is selling the electricity from the Redington wind farm under 10-year fixed-price contracts. Maine towns, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other customers will have the ability to trade off "green vs. green." They can take 100% wind-generated power or choose lower cost power to save substantially on their power bills.

To ensure state-of-the-art expertise and technology on the project, Endless Energy has partnered with one of the nation's leading wind power experts, Edison Mission Energy of California, to create Maine Mountain Power LLC, the entity that will develop the Redington wind farm.

Edison, the country's fifth largest wind project owner, was a natural fit for the project, Lee says. "They're a national leader in renewable energy. Their construction, permitting, and finance people have been a huge help on this project."

Public hearings on the project's permit application are being held this August, and Lee says he hopes to begin construction as early as this winter.

"If we get our permits this fall we can begin construction and have it running by the end of next year. We've done extensive environmental studies and planning work to make this a very clean, low-impact project that will benefit both our state and the Western Maine area in particular."

As an example, Lee notes that larger wind turbines have been chosen to minimize the number of turbines that need to be built. Turbine pads and foundations have been specially designed for minimal intrusion. Power lines on the mountains have been located underground for safety and reduced visual impact. And the project will use specialized trucks that can transport the turbine components on narrower roads, minimizing the amount of road construction required.

Among the many groups supporting the project are the Maine Electric Consumers Coalition, Maine Interfaith Power and Light, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Independent Energy Producers of Maine.

For Harley Lee, the Redington Wind Farm represents a major step towards, clean, renewable energy for America. For Franklin County, it offers an exciting opportunity to lead the way towards energy independence and a clean, green future for Maine.

Breakin' It Down

Boston City Lights North Brings Hip Hop to Farmington

Every summer, the old State Theater building in Farmington jams with the funk and footwork of kids learning new moves—and learning about themselves.

For 10 days in June, dancers, singers, rappers, and artists from Boston City Lights, a non-profit company based in downtown Boston, come to Farmington to share their skills with kids from all over Franklin County.



The program is called Boston City Lights North, and it's the creation of Duggan Hill, a retired choreographer who has worked with performers from KISS and Smokey Robinson to Mel Torme.

Hill, who founded Boston City Lights to offer free programs for inner city kids in dance, singing, acting, set design, and other entertainment and communications skills, says City Lights North brings kids from different worlds together to share ideas and creativity.

"The kids up here really appreciate my children," Hill says. "They appreciate the education they're being given, and they just soak it up."

City Lights students never have to pay for classes, Hill says. The only requirement is that they work hard and demand the best from themselves. All City Lights programs are funded through a combination of grants, corporate sponsorships, and private donations.

"Farmington is just full of stuff," Hill says. "There's a great appreciation for the arts here. There's a great connection of troupes, from the Sandy River players, to what happens at the college—there's just always something of quality happening here."

And thanks to Duggan Hill and his hard-working volunteers, now there are unique opportunities for kids in Franklin County to develop their own talents at Boston City Lights North.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call **207.778-9114**

Or visit www.bostongitylights.org

Greater Franklin Purchases Former MBNA Building

Greater Franklin Development Corporation, through the efforts of Bank of America, Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Franklin Savings Bank, recently announced that it has purchased the former MBNA building on Front Street in Farmington.

The purchase will help Greater Franklin in its efforts to recruit a quality company to the community to fill the void left by the recent MBNA call center closing.



Shown in front of the former MBNA building: (left to right) Michael Mansir, Vice President of Commercial Lending for Franklin Savings Bank, Michael Luciano, Chairman of Greater Franklin Development Corporation Board of Directors, Alison Hagerstrom, Executive Director of Greater Franklin Development Corporation, and Edward David of Joyce, David & Hanstein.

"This has been an exciting process for us and a unique undertaking," says Mike Luciano, Chairman of the Greater Franklin Board of Directors. "The goal is to restore to the community the approximately 100 jobs that were lost with the recent departure of the MBNA call center and to retain the tax revenue."

Greater Franklin hopes to secure a company that can utilize the space with minimal change to the infrastructure. The 10,000 square-foot facility is equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

"This is just great," said Theo Kalikow, President of UMF, many of whose students were employed at the MBNA call center. "We are excited about the possibility of a company returning to the campus neighborhood. When it happens, we will send our students knocking."

For more info: contact Alison Hagerstrom **207.778.5887**

New Biz Specialist for Franklin County

Brian S. Hodges, an area native with strong family and community ties to Franklin County, has joined the Dept of Economic & Community Development as Business Development Specialist for Franklin, Kennebec, and Somerset counties.

Brian is experienced in working with companies and economic organizations to respond to their specific needs. He can help businesses and organizations take advantage of many business assistance programs, including State and Federal financing programs, training programs, tax credit programs, and tax exemption programs.

Brian will be maintaining a presence at the Greater Franklin office in Farmington on a part-time basis, but can be best reached by calling his Fairfield office at **207.453.6911** or emailing him at bhodges@kvcog.org.



Be a part of a business community with a vision.

Give us a call at **207.778.5887** or visit us at www.GreaterFranklin.com

greater

Greater for *Business.* Greater for *Life.*

Summer 2006

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It's Summertime!

From Rangeley to Farmington, Jay to Eustis, there's plenty to see and do. I encourage you to get out and enjoy all our area has to offer.



We have a Special Feature this issue on two of the key assets that help us attract businesses and foster economic development here in Greater Franklin County: The University of Maine at Farmington and the Franklin Community Health Network. We also have a story on the exciting Redington Wind Farm Project, plus some great news on our recent purchase of the former MBNA building in Farmington, and more.

Enjoy your summer—and don't forget to visit us at: [www.GreaterFranklin.com!](http://www.GreaterFranklin.com)

Alison Hagerstrom

Executive Director
Greater Franklin Development Corporation



Redington Wind Farm

Clean and Green

Redington Wind Power Project Offers Big Benefits for Maine

Skyrocketing energy prices. The effects of global warming. Dependence on foreign oil. These issues affect us every day here in Western Maine. But for Harley Lee, there's a clean, renewable energy resource that can lessen these problems, create affordable power for Maine, and provide good jobs in Franklin County: the power of the wind.



Lee's Yarmouth, Maine-based firm, Endless Energy, has formed a joint venture with Edison Mission Energy to build a \$150 million wind farm proposed for Franklin County.

The wind farm, Maine's first, would feature 30 wind turbines atop Redington and Black Nubble Mountains, located about eight miles north of Rangeley. The turbines would generate 90 megawatts of power and supply 250 million kilowatt hours per year of economical electricity through existing Central Maine Power transmission lines. That's more electricity than 98 of the state's 100 largest hydroelectric dams.

During its construction phase, the project would create over 100 full-time jobs, with payroll and benefits totaling about \$8.6 million. Once construction is complete, 10 permanent operations staff positions would be created, with annual wages and benefits of about \$900,000. The project would also contribute about \$10 million in property tax payments over its first 10 years of operation.

Lee, whose company has been working to develop wind power in Maine since 1987, says the project makes sense both economically and environmentally.

T National Treasures

Franklin County's Award-Winning Institutions Strengthen Area Economy, Boost Business Attraction

Franklin County is fortunate to have two major institutions that have earned national recognition for excellence: Franklin Community Health Network and the University of Maine at Farmington. As leaders in health care and education, both play major roles in the area's economic development and the strength of our communities. This special feature looks at some of the many ways these partners in innovation contribute to greater Franklin County.

Building for Tomorrow

Chartered in 1863 as Maine's first public institute of higher education, the University of Maine at Farmington today is recognized as one of the premier small public liberal arts colleges in America—one whose cultural and economic impacts extend throughout Franklin County and Western Maine.

UMF's rich cultural contributions can be seen in programs like the community-based Arts Institute of Western Maine and The Sandy River Players, both hosted by the school, in its new Emery Arts Center programs that reach out to audiences throughout the region, and in popular groups such as the UMF Community Chorus and Community Orchestra.

The economic numbers are equally impressive. UMF has more than 350 employees, over 2,300 students, and an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$22 million in the region. Its presence also serves as an important factor in helping area businesses and organizations attract the talent they need to succeed,

says Leah Binder, Vice President of Franklin Community Health Network.

"Having such a first class university right here creates exceptional opportunities for people to experience the arts, participate in clubs and associations, and experience ways to not only work together, but to play together. That's part of what makes this such a special community to live in, and makes it attractive for people when businesses and organizations are trying to recruit talent."

Another economic impact comes from UMF's students themselves: They are an important workforce in the area, offering a diverse talent pool for area businesses.

"You'll find our students working up at Sugarloaf, at Saddleback, in retail, banks, insurance agencies, in jobs all over Franklin County," says UMF Public Relations Director Jennifer Eriksen. "Our students are also strongly engaged in volunteering in the community, much more so than you might find at some other schools."

As part of the school's nationally recognized Teacher Education program, UMF students can also be found working with elementary, middle school, and high school students in classrooms all over Franklin County. "Our students get into classrooms starting in their sophomore year," says Eriksen. "Many end up staying here in Maine as teachers working throughout the state."

UMF's focus on educating teachers is the core of its mission: The school was founded as a teacher's college, and today just over half of all UMF graduates earn their degrees in Education. Each spring UMF hosts Maine's



graduating with Top Honors

Outstanding teaching talent. Strong, forward-thinking leadership. Firm dedication to its students and its community. At the University of Maine at Farmington, these are just some of the factors that have helped win national recognition for the school and for the Franklin County area.

In 2004, UMF was one of just 20 U.S. colleges featured in a study by the nationally prominent Project DEEP team of college researchers. The Project DEEP (Documenting Effective Educational Practice) study was a program of the National Survey of Student Engagement and was reported in many national publications, including *USA Today*.

And in 2005, UMF was chosen as one of "America's Best Colleges" for the 9th straight year in the prestigious *US News & World Report* annual survey—the only public college in New England to receive that distinction.

Recognition like this, says UMF Public Relations Director Jennifer Eriksen, "is a significant honor, and we're very proud to receive these distinctions. Above all, this indicates how seriously we take our mission of engaging students and faculty together in successful education, and I think they highlight a key part of what makes UMF so unique."

only education-specific job fair, attracting dozens of employers from New England and beyond who hire both UMF students and community members seeking jobs in education.

Later this year, the University will open a 43,000 square-foot Education Center to house the school's College of Education, Health, and Rehabilitation. When it opens for spring semester 2007, the state-of-the-art facility will create a wealth of opportunities for both UMF and the community as a whole.

With a high-speed, fiber-optic Distance Learning classroom, an



innovative new Curriculum Resource Center, smart classrooms, and a host of other features, the \$8 million facility will enhance UMF's position as the premier teacher education institution in Maine.

The facility is also a sort of living laboratory. In keeping with a campus-wide emphasis on sustainability, it is one of the first buildings in Maine designed to meet the criteria for Silver Certification from the US Green Building Council's LEED program, which recognizes Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—another example of the forward-thinking vision that has helped UMF achieve success for its students and for the community.

Caring for a Community

New construction is also happening at Franklin Community Health Network, in the form of a new \$12 million medical office building on the campus of Franklin Memorial Hospital that will expand programs and services to the community. With construction scheduled to start later this year, the new facility will be tangible evidence of the continuing commitment to excellence that has made FCHN a national leader in community health care.

FCHN's Leslie Hawkins, who administers many of the FCHN physician practices that will be located in the new building, says the 55,000

square-foot facility not only will accommodate the needs of Franklin's growing number of patients and providers, it also will help to attract and retain doctors, nurses and other providers.

FCHN Vice President Leah Binder says the Network's ability to attract leaders in their fields is a key part of FCHN's mission to offer health care for the entire community.

"We employ over 700 people, so we are a very significant economic engine for this community, and we've had incredible success with recruiting really top notch talent."

From programs like Franklin Health Access, which serves financially disadvantaged members of the community, to initiatives like the Franklin DirigoChoice program, which funds Greater Franklin Economic Development Council to offer local uninsured businesses a 30% discount on their share of the cost of Maine's DirigoChoice health plan, FCHN has an outstanding record of finding collaborative solutions to community needs.

Another visible sign of FCHN's ties to the community is the recently completed Ben Franklin Center at Franklin Memorial Hospital, which offers doctors and nurses, patients, and the public a broad range of learning opportunities, health education classes, a fully staffed medical library, and meeting space for conferences and special events.

"At the Ben Franklin Center we've been able to offer literally hundreds of educational programs for the community and for FCHN staff at a wide variety of levels," Binder says. "We've hosted conferences like a New England regional conference on pain management, as well as a rural health symposium. The Center allows us to offer a whole range of educational programs that we were not able to offer in the past."

FCHN's commitment to care also includes a commitment to offering the best available medical technology. This year, Franklin Memorial Hospital became the first rural hospital in Maine to offer a 64-slice CT scanner, a valuable diagnostic tool normally found only at larger medical centers. The hospital also plans to purchase an on-site MRI machine later this year, further expanding the diagnostic tools available for doctors and their patients.



a commitment to Excellence

Over the past decade, Franklin Community Health Network has become the most nationally acclaimed hospital system in New England, earning widespread recognition for its innovative programs and community involvement.

In 1996, the network received the American Hospital's Nova Award for Innovation and was a National Finalist for the prestigious Foster McGaw award, an honor given each year to just four hospital systems nationwide for community service excellence. In 2002, Franklin Memorial Hospital received the American Hospital Association's distinguished Living Vision Award. This year, the network once again was selected out of 5,800 hospitals in America as a National Foster McGaw Award Finalist.

No other Maine hospital has ever garnered this collection of citations. FCHN Vice President Leah Binder says the honors reflect not only the health network's community-centered vision, but also something about the greater Franklin community itself.

"This is an exceptional community, where people really believe in collaborating and working together," Binder explains. "What's come from that is a health system that truly has a mission to improve the health of everyone in our region. That's why we have the Ben Franklin Center, the Healthy Community Coalition, and the Mobile Health Unit. They're part of our strong commitment to engaging the community in everything we do."