

Corporation's Executive Director Alison Hagerstrom was especially helpful. She organized meetings with representatives from the university, hospital and business community, including MBNA managers that gave us a very accurate picture about operating a business here," McDevitt said.

NotifyMD provides several types of calling and messaging services for doctors, including after-hours messaging, call management during office hours, automated calls to remind patients of appointments, and a service that enables clinical workers to get messages on their personal computers and wireless devices via secure web connections. The company serves physicians in 47 states, handling more than 75,000 patient calls and messages per day. It operates five other care centers in Florida, New Jersey, New York, Missouri, and Pennsylvania.

MARCH 2006 - MBNA closes its call center at a loss of more than 90 jobs.

SPRING 2006 - The Greater Franklin Development Corporation purchases the 10,000 square foot MBNA site, renames it the Abbott Hill Business Center and searches for a new occupant.

DECEMBER 2006 - NotifyMD selects the Abbott Hill facility for the expansion of its nation-wide physicians' message service.

MARCH 2007 - NotifyMD opens with its first 20 employees and plans to hire 100 more within two years.

SPREADING THE GREEN

Ongoing Construction of the \$27 Million, LEED-Certified Poland Spring Plant In Kingfield Benefits The Economy and Environment.

KINGFIELD - Even though the 200,000 square foot Poland Spring bottling plant only exists on paper, the local economy is already reaping rewards. "It's a \$27 million construction project. We have about 25 people currently working at the site and at the peak of construction this summer, we could have as many as 250 people working," Andy Bishop, Project Manager said.



Workers broke ground in December 2006 and have now cleared the 26-acre site where the manufacturing facility will be built this summer. Inside work will be completed in the fall and machinery and equipment will be installed toward the end of the year. The Kingfield plant will create 60-70 jobs and will roll out its first bottles of water in the first quarter of 2008, Bishop said.

"I've seen the good a Poland Spring plant can bring to a small community that has lost jobs. In addition to an abundance of spring water, there are a lot of skilled workers in Franklin County," Bishop said. "Those factors, the support of the community and the work of the Greater Franklin Development Corporation together convinced Poland Spring executives to expand operations into Franklin County," he added.

The Poland Spring operation will be environmentally-friendly and maintain the area's natural beauty. The Kingfield facility will be the first LEED-certified manufacturing plant designed and built LEED-certified in the state of Maine, according to Alex McIntosh, Community Relations Manager for Nestlé Waters, Poland Spring's parent company. "LEED certification means the plant will be built using the best environmental and energy-efficient practices. Both the building and the processes inside are designed with these practices in mind," Bishop explained.

Greater Franklin Business Profile: F-O-R-T-U-N-E Personnel Consultants

LOCAL EXECUTIVE RECRUITING FIRM DOUBLES IN TWO YEARS



FARMINGTON -F-O-R-T-U-N-E Personnel Consultants has nearly doubled its workforce in less than two years after relocating to Franklin County, announced owner Gilly Hitchcock. The executive recruitment firm moved from Skowhegan to Farmington with three employees and has now increased its workforce to five members.

"We moved because we saw that the Farmington area would be a real attraction to help us bring qualified employees to our firm. The people who work here are all Maine natives that feel Farmington has the right combination of natural beauty and a supportive business community along with the advantages of a nearby hospital and university," Hitchcock explained.

Located in the Church Street Commons building, the executive recruiting firm matches corporate clients with job seeking executives in sales and marketing, human resources, engineering, quality control, finance, and manufacturing operations.

"We moved because we saw that the Farmington area would be a real attraction to help us bring qualified employees to our firm."

"It is very satisfying when we are able to bring back young people to Maine and place them in solid professional careers," said Hitchcock. Her firm has placed over 150 executives nationally and over 90% of her placements remain employed with the original clients.

Those figures are the result of the FPC staff's commitment to develop lasting relationships with clients and their ability to complete successful searches. The five member team has over 70 years of combined experience in the pulp, paper and allied suppliers, food and beverage, construction, and power industries. FPC continues active participation in professional organizations such as PIMA/TAPPI, Pulp & Paper Foundation, SHRM, ISA and IEEE as well as serving on local boards and committees in Franklin County, Hitchcock said.

Some of the members of the firm have had articles published in professional journals and are often asked to speak at colleges and trade association meetings.



PICNIC WITH THE POPS Great Music, Great Scenery, a Great Escape

KINGFIELD - Enjoy the fifth annual Kingfield POPS concert while savoring the breathtaking beauty of the Western Mountains on Saturday, June 30, 2007 at the Kennedy Farm on Route 142.

Pack up the entire family and begin the day by exploring the Kingfield Festival of the Arts from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the town center. Taste great food while the kids try special activities such as an instrument petting zoo. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Farm where you can spread out your blanket and watch the stars come out as the Bangor Symphony Orchestra plays a selection of classical, popular, and patriotic music followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate. Admission is free for children under age 17 when accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased at Camden National Bank branches, Grand Central Station and Tranten's store in Kingfield, and Mickey's Hallmark and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in Farmington.



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Spring 2007

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Spring Discoveries

Spring is the time for new starts, for planting seeds and watching plans grow. Read how volunteers in two communities, Strong and Livermore Falls,



are shouldering the hard work of breaking new ground in two unique community development programs to provide their towns with fruitful futures. Discover how a patch of Kingfield ground is being transformed into a state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly spring water bottling plant. Follow the progress of a Farmington business center. Meet an executive whose firm has nearly doubled since relocating to Franklin County. And take time to make and grow your own plans.

Don't forget to visit us at:
www.GreaterFranklin.com

Alison

Alison Hagerstrom
Executive Director
Greater Franklin Development
Corporation



NOTIFYMD Up And Running The national physician message service opens operations in the former MBNA call center.

What a Difference a Year Makes

FARMINGTON - With plans of a flag-raising ceremony on the way, NotifyMD opened its newest operation center in Farmington. The Tennessee-based company, that offers messaging services to medical providers, plans to continue to add staff over the next two years at the Abbott Hill Business Center.



Photo by Jeff Pouland, Waterville Morning Sentinel

"We opened with 20 employees in March. We're in great shape and right on schedule with our first phase. We expect to reach a total of 120 employees over the next 18 to 24 months," said Jonathan McDevitt, NotifyMD's Chief Technology Officer. "Without advertising, we received over 300 resumes for the Farmington location. Those people shouldn't be disappointed--we will continue hiring. We plan on hiring locally; we're not bringing anyone in from away."

In December, during a meeting with Governor John E. Baldacci and other state officials, NotifyMD officers announced they had selected Farmington as the site of their latest operation center after a statewide search that examined 15 different possible locations.

"Farmington was the hands-down winner in our search. We found that the community came together to welcome us. The Greater Franklin Development

Small Towns Big Plans

The towns of Strong and Livermore Falls are both participating in pilot community development programs.



Strong residents seek to build a more prosperous town by sharing knowledge and skills.

STRONG - Members of the Strong Advancement Committee are reaching out to their fellow townspeople for help. The committee needs information and volunteers to ensure a successful collaboration with Maine Rural Partners, a rural development nonprofit based in Orono.

"Please join us in taking advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have experts from throughout the state work for us on goals and objectives we determine," committee members asked in an online plea. "This is a chance to build a stronger foundation for the town of Strong, one which will help our community to thrive and prosper no matter what the future brings."

Last summer, Strong was one of just two areas selected for *Harness the Wealth!*, a pilot program in community building offered by the Maine Rural Partners. The program provides technical assistance to participating communities over a two-year period. For the town of Strong that means access to professional support staff, grant

STRONG FAST FACTS

Incorporated in 1801, the town of Strong is located on the Sandy River approximately 11 miles north of Farmington in Franklin County. Strong is the birthplace of the Maine Republican party.

Size	29.8 square miles
Population	1,259
Average Household Size	2.49
Median Household Income	\$30,568
Median Home Price	\$64,900

The town is home to 22 businesses that employ a total of 335 people. (2000 US Census Bureau data)

writing expertise, and donated consulting services from a network of Maine's most experienced educators, economic and business development experts, community development professionals, and staff of federal and state agencies, according to the Maine Rural Partners website. The program also funds a full-time community position to staff the project.

In October, the Board of Selectmen appointed the 15-member Strong Advancement Committee to manage the project. Now, committee members hope Strong citizens will support the partnership by taking these steps. Residents can respond to an online community questionnaire at: www.mainerural.org/innovation/exchange/strong.php and sign up to receive email updates. Townspeople can also attend the regular



committee meetings held the first Wednesday of every month at the Town Office where they can volunteer to serve on upcoming project subcommittees.

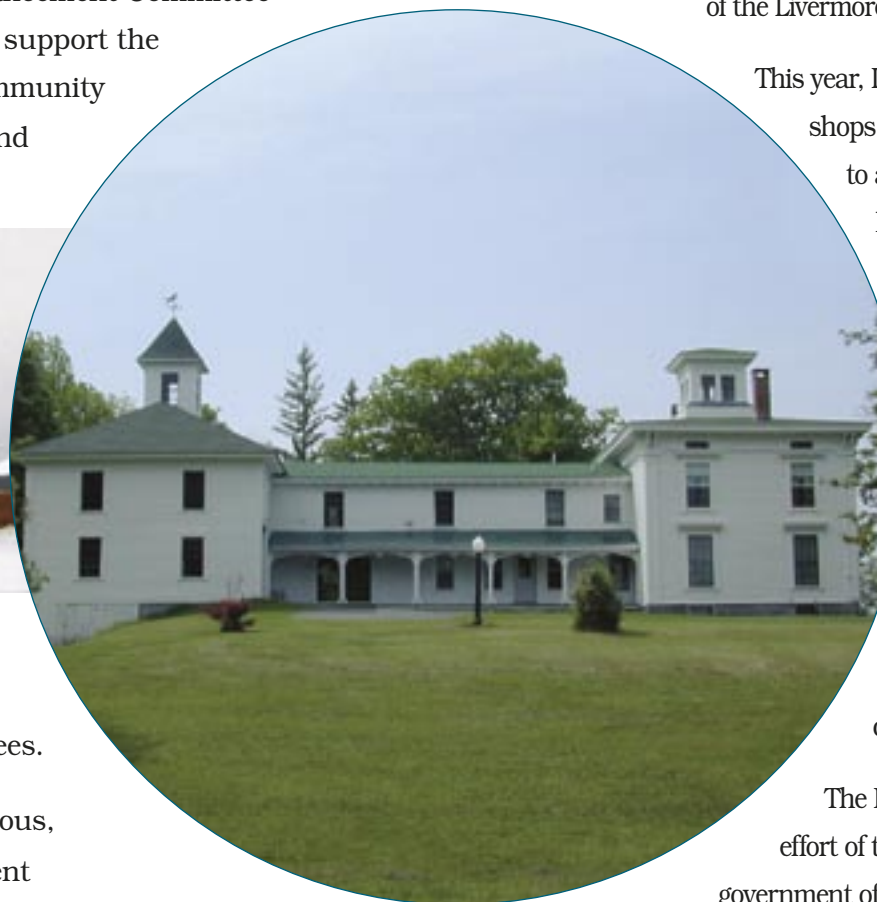
"We will act as an advocate and resource to promote and sustain a prosperous, growing community of Strong," said the members of the Strong Advancement Committee in their purpose statement.

Livermore Falls residents seek to revitalize a once-vibrant downtown area.

LIVERMORE FALLS - The town of Livermore Falls has been singled out for the *Square One* program, administered by the Maine Downtown Center. *Square One* is a pilot initiative, and could be a preliminary step towards Livermore Falls joining The Main Street Approach, a national community development program used in over 1,700 towns and cities in more than 40 states.

"The Maine Downtown Center is very pleased to be working with the Livermore Falls community to help them create a strong revitalization program," said Program Director Lori Allen. "Livermore Falls has a good mix of community partners involved in the betterment group. We believe they have the resources to be successful."

Members of the Livermore Falls Downtown Betterment Group have already been working to revitalize their distinctive downtown. The



group created the Gazebo Market, a weekly farmer's market and craft fair designed to draw vendors and customers downtown. The group hopes to build on this achievement with the *Square One* program.

"The growth of the Lewiston-Auburn and Augusta areas makes the development of the Livermore Falls downtown important to the entire region," Allen added.

This year, Livermore Falls volunteers have been attending training workshops and conferences. They have been learning to create promotions to attract both visitors and businesses downtown and learning how to organize their efforts to attract other community development opportunities.

Completing the *Square One* program may make Livermore Falls more competitive for selection in The Main Street Approach program which provides three years of technical assistance and consulting. The program is designed to meet the dual roles of preserving a historic downtown and attracting economic reinvestment, provided the participating community hires a downtown manager. This preservation-based approach has realized \$17 billion in reinvestment for downtown commercial districts nationwide, according to its website.

The Main Street Approach to downtown revitalization requires the effort of the entire community. The merchants, property owners, local government officials, and civic leaders must agree to support common goals for revitalization and join together in a partnership. The Main Street approach to downtown revitalization requires the effort of the entire community. The merchants, property owners, local government officials, and civic leaders must agree to support common goals for revitalization and join together in a partnership.

LIVERMORE FALLS FAST FACTS

Incorporated in 1795, the town of Livermore Falls is located on the Androscoggin River, approximately 12 miles south of Farmington at the northern end of Androscoggin County. The town is the birthplace of poet and critic Louise Bogan (1897-1970).

Size	19.7 square miles
Population	3,227
Average Household Size	2.39
Median Household Income	\$30,102
Median Home Price	\$69,600

The town is home to 70 businesses that employ a total of 528 people. (2000 US Census Bureau data)

