

# FMH to become medical student teaching site

FARMINGTON — Franklin Community Health Network has announced that Franklin Memorial Hospital is one of three rural hospitals in Maine to partner with the prestigious Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and Maine Medical Center in Portland to become a teaching site for medical students.

The new medical school partnership is aimed at addressing the severe shortage of physicians in Maine, a shortage heightened in rural areas. As an indication of how severe the physician shortage is here, the Maine Recruitment Center at the Maine Hospital Association is currently trying to fill more than 250 vacant physician positions.

“The medical school relationship will be very helpful in recruiting new doctors to our hospital,” said Rebecca Ryder, FCHN president/chief executive officer. “This experience will teach and show the students what it is like to practice and live in a beautiful, friendly, and caring environment that our hospital and communities are known for.”

The students will spend their first two years at Tufts with rotations in Maine, then transition to Maine Medical Center for their third year of medical school.

During this third year, students training at Franklin Memorial Hospital will live and learn in Franklin County, with the hospital providing housing. The curriculum will focus on rural and small-town practice.

Dr. David Dixon, FCHN vice president for medical affairs and education said, “Franklin Memorial Hospital has a long history of participation in medical students’ education. The association with the new medical school is particularly exciting because of their commitment to Maine students, coupled with a multidisciplinary, long-term (up to nine months) clinical rotation at Franklin Memorial. This curriculum takes full advantage of our unique breadth of clinical expertise in a rural environment.”

Maine students will receive preference for 20 of the 36 seats, and it is anticipated that students will receive a 50 percent reduction in tuition.

The program will start during the summer of 2011, with preceptor sessions in August and in spring 2010 at Franklin Memorial Hospital. Graduating physicians will receive a combined diploma from Maine Medical Center and Tufts.

# Strong Water District Consumer Confidence Report released

STRONG — The Strong Water District recently announced that it has released its 10th annual Consumer Confidence Report as required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996. The report details water quality, the source of the water and the results of testing done the previous year.

Residents with questions about the quality of the water should call the Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Customers who have not received a copy of the report or who want extra copies should call Annette Stanley at the Strong Water District office at 684-3714.

The report is also posted on the Maine Rural Water Association Web site: [www.mainerwa.org](http://www.mainerwa.org).

# Troop greeter film garners national recognition

AUGUSTA — “The Way We Get By” is being screened in the Washington, DC area, and DC residents with ties to Maine are proudly encouraging others to see the moving film ... it’s no wonder, it has been garnering award after award.

The Way We Get By, which will be released in theaters this summer, is a story of three elderly Mainers whose lives have been transformed by the community they have created greeting troops at the Bangor International Airport.

“The Way We Get By is a moving and important film that encourages us to reflect upon the common bonds of mission and service that span generations,” stated William S. Cohen, former Secretary of Defense and native Mainer. “It is a reminder that as our young men and women fight two wars overseas far from friends and family, there are many at home doing their part to keep our communities connected to those who serve in uniform.”

Cohen, whose hometown is Bangor, said that during

his years in public service in Maine, he met many people like Bill, Jerry, and Joan; quiet, unassuming patriots who serve without any thought of recognition —just like those in uniform who are honored in the film.

Following the lives of three senior citizens in Bangor; the film takes the viewer on an intimate journey through Bill, Joan, and Jerry’s battles with mounting debt, failing health, the loss of loved ones, and their own impending mortality. Through it all, these three unsung heroes find the strength to continue by dedicating their lives to greeting nearly one million American soldiers at the Bangor International Airport. The story of these exemplary Mainers has been praised by the National Council on Aging as a film that “shows how passion, a mission, and a sense of purpose can transform the life of an older person,” and proof that volunteerism can significantly impact an entire community.

To view the trailer and to obtain more information, visit [www.thewaywegetbymovie.com](http://www.thewaywegetbymovie.com).

# Light out in Madrid

By Ann Bryant  
Special to the Irregular

FARMINGTON — The one remaining streetlight in Madrid Township doesn’t give much light, so county commissioners agreed Tuesday, June 16, with residents: It’s time for it to go.

The light hasn’t worked for at least six or seven years, as far as residents can remember. However, it costs Madrid, with a population of 172, about \$130 a year, David Robie told the commission on behalf of the residents.

Located near the Madrid Historical Society building at the town’s concrete bridge, the light was one of three in the area. Two have already been removed. Residents want this last one removed, too.

Since the light doesn’t work, and there doesn’t seem to be a lot of crime, people are ready to continue seeing the stars through the darkness and save the annual fee, Robie said. Besides, the Historical Society has a porch light, he said.

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