

## Entrepreneurship and freedom go hand in hand

As America's 233rd birthday draws near, I cannot help but think of how lucky I am to live in this great land of the free. And as an advocate for Rainsville-area businesses—many of which are owned and operated by entrepreneurs—I cannot help but think of how entrepreneurship is synonymous with freedom, particularly economic freedom. Entrepreneurs have much in common with America's founding fathers. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and the rest were ambitious individuals seeking a better life for their families while willingly assuming tremendous risks. The same can be said for just about every entrepreneur that has ever started a business. American-style economic freedom has always fueled the entrepreneurial spirit that leads to innovation, prosperity and job creation.

The Rainsville Chamber of Commerce's roster of members includes around 100 businesses that are owned and operated by local entrepreneurs. When you and I do business with them we help unleash their wealth-creating capacity, and in the process, help create and sustain jobs.

Speaking of entrepreneurs, I would like to welcome the first business to become a member of the Chamber during our Summer membership drive: Coffee Express. The Rainsville-based company provides various business-to-business coffee, tea and cappuccino services and supplies for offices, restaurants and convenience stores. They have served an area covering several counties for the last 13 years. You may reach them at 638-8282.

This week I would also like to encourage local citizens to shop at Rainsville's unique gift shops. To & From located at 2203 Main Street East specializes in gifts and gift baskets, custom stationary and invitations, and gourmet sweet treats. Another shop, Deb's Gifts & More located at 488 Main Street East, has lots of unique gifts for every gift-giving occasion.

Besides being your first choice for flower arrangements, Vicki's Flowers & Gifts located at 475 McCurdy Avenue North, offers a big selection of unique gift items, too. Of course, there are many other stores with gifts, but I'll have to wait and spotlight different merchant categories in future articles.

If you need assistance finding unique gifts in Rainsville, please contact me at 638-7800, or visit our online business guide at [www.rainsville.info](http://www.rainsville.info).