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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST COUNTY BANK CHEF'S CHALLENGE
-- *Cooking Contest Judged by the Public* --

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 15, 2010 — Holding tight to old New England traditions and in conjunction with sponsoring Maple Sugar Sunday , [First County Bank](#) will host its first Chef's Challenge demonstrating the prep work for creating a treat made with maple syrup at its 1042 High Ridge Road branch here on Feb. 20. Three chefs will compete to create the best tasting recipe, as judged by the public, using maple syrup as an ingredient. The final cook-off will take place Sunday, March 7, at the [First County Bank Maple Sugar Sunday](#) event held at the [Stamford Museum & Nature Center](#).

"This is our 10th year sponsoring the museum's Maple Sugar Sunday and we decided to introduce a cooking contest using maple syrup, three local chefs and the public as judges," said Karen Kelly, first vice president and director of marketing at First County Bank. "We thought this would be a great way to bring the family together at our branch for some home cooking fun and entertainment."

Frank Daniele of Frank & Julio Complete Event Planning in Stamford, Marcia Selden of Marcia Selden Catering and Event Planning in Stamford, and Nick Bilello chef and owner of Burger Bar & Bistro in Norwalk will compete on Saturday, Feb. 20.

The chefs must incorporate maple syrup in their creations. From 10 to 11 a.m. the public will have the opportunity to watch as each chef demonstrates how to prepare their dish. From 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. the public will then indulge on the samples provided by each chef followed by a vote to determine which chef will be eliminated. The two remaining chefs will compete on March 7 at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

Aside from the free entertainment and food, children will be given cooking aprons that they can decorate. In addition, First County Bank will give away \$10 savings coupons for opening a minor's savings account. Other offers include an extra 0.50 percent APY bonus on any CD that is 12-months or longer. And for those who open a new checking account with direct deposit, they will receive 2,500 Bonus Dream Points. These offers are only available at the 1042 High Ridge Rd. branch in Stamford.

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-- About First County Bank Maple Sugar Sunday --

First County Bank Maple Sugar Sunday takes place March 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The maple sugar season peaks on March 7 as the museum celebrates the 10th Annual Maple Sugar Sunday sponsored by First County Bank. At this signature family festival, visitors can learn how Native Americans created sugar from sap using the hot rock method; see how colonialists used large iron cauldrons to boil the sap over an open fire, and then stop by the maple sugar house to see modern evaporation technique in action.

Of course, there will be lots of sweet treats and the ever-popular pancake breakfast. Other activities include maple-themed crafts, games, storytelling, music and much more.

First County Bank, headquartered in Stamford, Conn., is an independent mutual community bank with 15 branches in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk and Westport offering deposit products, mortgages, trust and investment services, business banking services and online banking. First County Bank has assets in excess of \$1.2 billion. For additional information, please visit www.firstcountybank.com.

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