

Frank & Julio, Marcia Selden win first round of First County Bank Chef's Challenge

More than 300 people showed up at First County Bank's 1042 High Ridge Road branch last Saturday to vote on and taste treats from three chefs competing to win the bank's Chef's Challenge event.

Frank Daniele of Frank & Julio Complete Event Planning in Stamford, and Marcia Selden of Marcia Selden Catering and Event Planning in Stamford were selected as the two finalists who will compete against each other in the final cook-off taking place Sunday, March 7, at the First County Bank Maple Sugar Sunday event held at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.



Chef Robin Selden of Marcia Selden Catering and Event Planning, right, describes the food she's serving to customers at the First County Bank Chef's Challenge on Feb. 20, 2010.

"The event was a blast. And we were very proud to be a part of it," said Daniele from Frank & Julio. "We had perfect weather, lots of people eating our food and children decorating aprons. In fact, we served more than 250 maple barbecued pulled pork sliders with maple coleslaw.

"First County was great. The branch people were really friendly and great to work with," added Daniele.

"It was a party. Lots of fun and we were really proud of our table," said Robin Selden, Marcia's daughter and co-owner of Marcia Selden Catering and Event Planning. "Everything that we served was made with maple syrup. We were really proud to be a part of it." Robin Selden served maple goat cheesecake lollipops,

mini maple cupcakes with maple butter cream, and maple candied pecans and maple cheddar bites.

"Everybody had a fabulous time," said Karen Kelly, first vice president and director of marketing at First County Bank. "The turnout was much larger than anticipated and yet we still had enough food for everybody to judge."

The First County Bank Chef's Challenge asked chefs to incorporate maple syrup in their recipes. And the public was asked to judge the creations during a tasting held at the bank branch.

Aside from free entertainment and food, children were given cooking aprons that they decorated and took home as souvenirs. In addition, First County Bank gave away \$10 savings coupons for opening a minor's savings account. Other offers included an extra 0.50 percent APY bonus on any CD that is 12-months or longer. And for those who opened a new checking account with direct deposit, they received 2,500 Bonus Dream Points. These offers were only available at the 1042 High Ridge Rd. branch in Stamford.

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, visit www.firstcountybank.com.