

Annual Meeting & Chamber Hall of Fame

The 116th Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut, Inc. will take place on April 20th at a luncheon at Chatterley's Banquet Facility beginning at 11:30 a.m.

This year's meeting welcomes Joe Brennan, President & CEO of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA) as the keynote speaker. CBIA is the leading voice for business in the state, representing thousands of member companies, small and large, across a diverse range of industries. The association works to promote a healthy business climate, supporting economic growth and job creation in Connecticut. Mr. Brennan is also the president of CBIA's Education & Workforce Partnership, which supports STEM education in public schools and training programs that enhance the skill set of employees at member companies.



Annual Meeting keynote speaker Joe Brennan, President & CEO of CBIA.

Joining the Chamber Hall of Fame in 2017 are two dedicated, hard-working Chamber volunteers: Alan Colavecchio of Colavecchio Design Inc. and Lance Leifert of Conquest.

Alan, a Chamber member since 1983, has been involved in many ways over the past 30 years, as President & owner of Colavecchio Design Inc. He has shared his marketing expertise by leading workshops, participating on panels and facilitating focus groups. Alan has worked on developing surveys, print communications, logos and marketing materials. He has volunteered for many years as a member of the Board of Directors, Membership Committee, in membership drives, as a speaker in the Young



2017 Chamber Hall of Fame Inductee Alan Colavecchio.

Entrepreneurs Academy, as a reader in the annual Read Aloud program, and at many events including Business After Hours and the Business Expo. Most recently, Alan served as co-chair of the Chamber's Rebranding Committee.

Lance Leifert, CEO of Conquest, has been a member of the Chamber since 2004. His involvement in the Chamber began when his company developed a new website for the organization. Since that time, his contributions have continued to multiply. He has volunteered as a member of the Membership Committee, an instructor for numerous workshops and SCORE programs, as a Young Entrepreneurs Academy speaker, in the Read Aloud program and Junior Achievement. He and his company have participated in the Chamber's Business Expo, as a sponsor and volunteer for the Financial Reality Fair, as a sponsor of the WOW! Forum and the Young Professionals Organization. Lance is a graduate of the Chamber's Leadership Northwest Class of 2006 and is currently a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors and the co-chair of the Rebranding Committee.



2017 Chamber Hall of Fame Inductee Lance Leifert.

Continued on page 15.

Chamber Travels in 2017

The Chamber is sponsoring two trips later in 2017 in partnership with Central Holidays West. "The Irish Spirit" will depart October 7th & return on the 15th and "Explore Cuba by Cruise Ship" departs November 9th & returns on the 17th. The early-bird specials featuring discounts of \$100 off each trip will expire on April 29th.

An information session on the Cuba cruise will be held on Monday, April 10th at 5:30 at the Chamber office. More details are available online at www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/chamber-travel-program/.

Business Showcase Planned for June 1st

Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce has announced *The Great Giveaway Business Showcase* will take place on Thursday, June 1st at Chatterley's Banquet Facility in Torrington.

This one-night event, scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m., will be heavily promoted in all media providing vendors the opportunity to be seen by hundreds of potential customers. *The Great Giveaway Business Showcase* will feature multiple vendor giveaways that will create excitement and draw traffic to the event and to vendors' booths. The Chamber will provide free admission, free parking and free food with a cash bar.

Exhibit space, including an 8' skirted table, 2 chairs and a company sign, is available for \$200 for Chamber members. Non members are invited to participate for \$300. Sponsorships offering additional publicity and promotional opportunities are also available starting at \$500. For more information, or to reserve an exhibit space, please contact Lauren Zordan at the Chamber via email lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org or call 860-482-6586.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

Chamber Exchange

In March, we launched the Chamber Exchange, an email that is distributed by the Chamber to our contact list of over 1,200 individuals. Members are able to advertise their business or special event by utilizing the Chamber Exchange.

It's affordable, only \$50 per month/email, and available to members only. Ads are limited to one per member, per month, and are placed on a first-come-first-serve basis. Ads should be submitted in jpg or png format. The size is 7" wide by 3" to 5" high. We can link the ad to your website, Facebook page or an email address.

For more information or to schedule your ad, contact Anita Rosa at the Chamber at 860-482-6586 or email your ad directly to her at anita@nwtchamberofcommerce.org.



Business with Breakfast

We've held two Business with Breakfast (BB) gatherings and the feedback has been tremendous. It is all about building your network and interacting with your fellow business professionals. We are aware of three individuals who made connections at the meeting held at the Chamber office on February 28th that have resulted in new business and collaborations.



KidsPlay Children's Museum hosted the March 21st BB at their beautiful location on Main Street in Torrington. Thanks to Eileen Marriott and her crew for making us all feel like kids again!



Top left photo: Mark Seymour from Lowe's Home Improvement talks with Maurice Oyanadel of Metal Working Technologies at the February BB. Bottom right photo: Frank Buonocore, Jr. of Founders Insurance Agency, Joyce Muse of Photo Arts Printing Company and Karen Kuhl of Geer Senior Living Community enjoy KidsPlay's new expansion.

Restaurant in the Spotlight

Burlington Chamber member KC Dubliner was the host of the Chamber's Restaurant in the Spotlight (RS) in March. Held the week before St. Patrick's Day, the attendees didn't mind celebrating a bit early. The Chamber's affiliation with the Burlington Chamber offers excellent opportunities for business owners in our service area to meet the key business leaders in our neighboring town. Burlington will be the site for the June RS as well...keep a look out for details.

Special thanks to Cheryl & Chris Marino at Marino's Restaurant on Pinewoods Road in Torrington. They are hosts of the April 3rd RS. Their delicious fare is sure to please every palate.

Working Cities Challenge

The Chamber is thrilled to announce the City of Torrington has been awarded a \$15,000 design grant through the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Working Cities Challenge (WCC), an economic development effort that builds cross-sector collaboration and leadership to solve challenges affecting urban communities. The Chamber, along with the City of Torrington, are co-leads on this initiative.

A group of individuals have been working together since the fall to determine a 10-year vision which has been identified as: "Torrington's goal is to retain and attract a younger workforce and make Torrington more affordable by improving our economic security and quality of life by reversing the downward trend ratio of millennials to seniors. In 2010, the ratio was 1.2 and in 2025, the ratio is projected to drop to .66." The economic growth challenge identified as the challenge to be addressed through the WCC is: "As the largest 'micropolitan' center in Connecticut and a distressed municipality, Torrington is burdened with supporting the entire region. Combined with an aging population, declining student enrollment and loss of millennials, these demographic challenges strain our tax base, our ability to provide services and increases the cost of living."

The team will now work together to develop an implementation grant application, which if awarded, would be \$300,000-\$500,000. The group will attend four full-day sessions to learn more about the core elements of WCC: collaborative leadership, community engagement, systems change, and measuring progress.

Watch for updates on the WCC in upcoming newsletters.

See more of What's Been Happening on page 9



Spring Semi-Annual OPEN STUDIOS

April 29-30, 11:00 am.-5:00 pm.



Artists • Basket Weaver • Candle Maker • Craftspeople • Encaustic Painting
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Portrait Artist • Upholstery & Window Treatments • Woodworkers • Yoga Studio
Guest Artists • Food Vender

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NEW & COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER

Chamber Lobbyist Provides Bill Tracker

The Chamber's lobbyist, International Governmental Strategies, LLC, has provided us with a new bill tracker for the CT General Assembly. The site includes the bill's title, a brief description, any updates including public hearing dates and votes. Most useful is a link that will allow you to email legislators your support, opposition or concern. The list contains a number of bills that our lobbyist is tracking for the Chamber. As the committee process begins to weed out bills that will most likely die, they will begin to segregate those bills to the bottom of the list. This does not necessarily mean the bill's concept or intentions are dead as they can always be included in language later on.

Visit the bill tracker site at: <http://206.162.241.82/Northwest%20ChamberReport.html>. Please consider participating in the Chamber's monthly Government Relations Committee meeting. It is held on the second Thursday at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber office.

Financial Reality Fair

April 26th is the 8th Annual Northwest CT Financial Reality Fair. The Chamber is once again partnering with the Connecticut Credit Union League to provide a hands-on budgeting experience to high school students. With over 800 students attending our fair this year, we are the largest Reality Fair in the state. Participating students gain practical knowledge about personal financial management in a one day "real world" environment. The fair is designed to teach students the value of using money responsibly. This exercise requires each student to choose a career and salary and then budget their money wisely to make ends meet. Chamber members volunteer to make this event possible and we are still in need of more volunteers for this year. If you'd like to be involved, please call Lauren Zordan at 860-482-6586.

Chamber Travel Program

HURRY! The early bird price for our upcoming trips expires April 29th! If you have ever dreamed of visiting the Emerald Isle or experience enchanting Cuba, the Chamber and Central Holidays West have trips scheduled for you! The Irish Spirit, a nine day, seven night journey will take place October 7-15. Here awaits a land of legends and mystical folklore, lush green landscapes and spectacular cliff-side views, stone-clad castles and historic mills, cultural treasures and medieval masterpieces, plus so much more. Explore Cuba by Cruise Ship on board the MS Crystal November 9-17. On this amazing cruise and land program, you will have the outstanding opportunity to delve into the history, culture and rhythmic pulse of Havana, including an overnight stay to enjoy the nightlife too. Discover the magic and mystique of this island nation as you visit lesser known ports of Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos, and exotic Punta Frances. Your cruise to Cuba includes visits to UNESCO world heritage sites, world-famous beaches, colonial towns, historic attractions and much more! Join us on April 10th at 5:30 PM at the Chamber Office for an informational session about the cruise to Cuba and an update on The Irish Spirit trip.



Visit the Chamber website at nwctchamberofcommerce.org and click on the Events and Programs tab to reach the Chamber Travel Program page where you can download complete details on both of these once in a lifetime trips.

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COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER Continued from Page 5




**RESTAURANT
in the
SPOTLIGHT**

Build your network base and enjoy delicious complimentary hors d'oeuvres at

Restaurant in the Spotlight

Sponsored by



12 Pinewoods Road, Torrington

Monday, April 3rd, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Cash bar.

RSVP online at <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events/restaurant-in-the-spotlight-at-marinos-restaurant/> or call 860-482-6586.

Peer Groups

The Chamber will host the following peer group meetings and welcomes any member involved in the specific industry to attend. These meetings will be held at the Chamber, 333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington.

- ◆ Insurance Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 19th and May 17th at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber.
- ◆ Manufacturers' Coalition will meet on Friday, April 7th at 8:00 a.m. at Seitz LLC and on May 5th at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber.
- ◆ Health Council will meet on Tuesday, April 18th and May 16th at 8:00 a.m.




**BUSINESS
with
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Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

Business with Breakfast

Chamber members, bring your brochures and business cards along with any leads you would like to share.

Friday, April 28th at 8:00 a.m.

Hosted by

Oliver Wolcott Technical School
75 Oliver Street, Torrington



RSVP online at nwctchamberofcommerce.org or call 860-482-6586.

Business After Hours

Our next Business After Hours will take place on May 18th at Brookdale Senior Living, 376 Goshen Road, Torrington from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Save the date in your calendars!



BURLINGTON
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SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES



2017 COMMUNITY AWARDS DINNER

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Reception & Cocktails begins at 5:30 pm

Awards Presentation at 6:30 pm

Dinner served at 7:15 pm



*Burlington Commons, Route 4
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\$45.00 per person

Open Beer/Wine Bar & Appetizers until 6:30 pm

Buffet dinner served at 7:15 pm

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Reception & Cocktails – \$100 (up to 10 Available)

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Seating is limited to 80 people, so **RSVP by April 28, 2017**

Call Burlington Chamber of Commerce at **(860) 506-7789**

Tickets/Sponsorships can be Purchased at
www.BurlingtonCTChamber.org/AnnualDinner



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

Continued from Page 3

Young Professionals Organization

The Young Professionals Organization held an event at Pursue the Clues on March 29th. Pursue the Clues is a new Torrington business and new Chamber member that offers a 60-minute interactive game for participants. Often referred to as a puzzle room, escape room, adventure room, challenge room, or room escape game, they focus on engaging stories and challenges, and less with the concept of escaping. The team uses a combination of critical thinking, deductive reasoning, and teamwork to accomplish a common goal within a 60-minute time limit. Essentially, teams play a game for an hour in which they have to think like Sherlock Holmes to win. It's extremely challenging and indescribably fun.

Leadership Northwest

On March 8th, the Leadership Northwest class attended



Connecticut Business Day at the Capitol in Hartford. The group met privately with our local delegation where they heard about important bills affecting business, as well as the current budget situation, and then were able to ask questions of our local State Representatives Jay Case and Brian Ohler and our Chamber's Lobbyist, Marshall Collins. The class joined the rest of the attendees from all over Connecticut where JoAnn Ryan welcomed everyone and Governor Dannel Malloy and CBIA President & CEO, Joe Brennan spoke. After lunch, the class had a tour of the Capitol building and spent some time sitting in on the legislative session. In April, the class will visit Oliver Wolcott Technical School and Infinity Hall for their session on Arts, Culture & Education.

Manufacturers' Coalition

The Chamber's Manufacturers' Coalition held their March meeting at Northwestern CT Community College in conjunction with the college's Legislative Reception. The meeting was very well attended by educators, manufacturers and legislators from the region. Some of the topics discussed focused on the importance of the community college on the region and how the college impacts businesses. The Chamber's Manufacturers' Coalition is a great example of how the collaboration between the college and the business community can bring success to both entities. The Coalition helped the college develop curriculum to start their associate degree program in manufacturing based on the needs within their companies and the manufacturers are hiring the graduates from the program. It's a win-win!



Job Fair

The Chamber held its 13th Annual Job Fair on March 30th at Torrington's City Hall Auditorium. Participating employers were provided with an area to display information about their companies or organizations. Over 30 employers from industries including: manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, communications, finance, education, insurance, energy, retail and more, participated in the fair, which was very well attended by job seekers in the region. Hundreds of active job seekers received a flyer from the Chamber with helpful hints, as well as contact information for participating employers.

The Job Fair was sponsored by the City of Torrington, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, FM 97.3 WZBG, Connecticut Department of Labor, The Register Citizen and Republican-American, in partnership with ctjobs.com.

Junior Leadership

In March, the Junior Leadership Northwest class met with Lesley Budny and the staff at The Warner Theatre for their session on arts, culture and education. The students were given a tour of the magnificent theater and costume shop and had a chance to sit in on some of the educational classes that take place at the Carole & Ray Neag Performing Arts Center. The class saw firsthand how important the Warner, and the arts in general, are to the community and the prosperity of downtown Torrington. Next month's social service session will take place at FISH.



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Corporate Partner SHOUT OUTS

Litchfield Bancorp

Paul McLaughlin, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Litchfield Bancorp, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the McCall Center for Behavioral Health.



Mr. McLaughlin began his banking career 25 years ago with Litchfield Bancorp and is an avid member of the community in Northwest Connecticut, serving on various committees and boards.

Litchfield Bancorp will be hosting a residential electronics recycling and document shredding event on Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at their main office located at 297 West Street in Litchfield.



Shredding is limited to two boxes per person, for residential households only; no businesses.

Documentation will be shredded on site with a mobile shredding truck provided by Infoshred, LLC.

Take 2 Inc. will be on site to unload vehicles and safely package and transport all electronics to their Waterbury facility to be responsibly and securely recycled. Take 2 is approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as a Covered Electronics Recycler in conjunction with Connecticut's Electronics Recycling Law, RCSA 22a-638-1.

Acceptable devices include: computers, laptops, printers, fax machines, monitors, televisions, cell phones, tables, video games, VCR/DVD machines, stereos, remotes, keyboards, small appliances, light bulbs & batteries.

Unacceptable materials include: smoke detectors, propane tanks, ballasts, car batteries, paint, household hazardous waste and appliances containing Freon, i.e., air conditioners, refrigerators, dehumidifiers.

Litchfield Bancorp is a mutual savings bank with assets of \$240 million offering full service offices in Litchfield, Torrington, Watertown, Washington and Lakeville. To find out why Every Customer Counts, go to LitchfieldBancorp.com or call 860-567-9401.

O&G Industries, Inc.

O&G Industries Vice-President Kara Oneglia has been named as the inaugural *Best Supporting Woman in the Role of Business* by the Northwest Connecticut United Way's Women's Leadership Initiative Committee.



Kara is a fourth generation member of O&G's leadership team and manages all aspects of the company's Masonry division including its Beacon Falls Fabrication Center and seven Connecticut-based retail locations. Since Kara took over leadership of the division in 2012, O&G has grown to become one of the largest suppliers of masonry products and services in New England.

The announcement was made March 20th at a press conference at Torrington City Hall. A formal presentation of the award will be made at the Northwest Connecticut United Way's May 12th Woman of the Year Gala at Torrington Country Club.



O&G Vice-President Kara Oneglia (left) is pictured with Northwest Connecticut United Way Women's Leadership Initiative Committee Co-Chairs Kara Paganini-Muth and Cailin Cerruto.

O&G Industries, Inc. is Connecticut's largest privately-held construction company, one of the country's Top 400 Contractors and a Top 100 Green Building Contractor. Founded in 1923, they are a fourth-generation family-owned company that provides construction services and products to clients throughout Connecticut and beyond.

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Above: The Junior Leadership Northwest class during their criminal justice session at Torrington Police Department. Below: Nannette Bergin of Brandywine (left) speaks with Amber Wilder of Elevator Service Co. at the March 23rd Business After Hours hosted by Brandywine.



Member News

Les Beaux Vous

Les Beaux Vous Salon & Day Spa in Torrington is looking to expand their family. LBV is looking for someone to rent a chair, and add to their beautiful second floor Salon & Day Spa. LBV has been around for a long time and would love to add a fresh new face to the family. Send them an email at jaclynlbv@icloud.com or call Jaclyn at 860-489-1748 for more information.

Cardinal Engineering Associates

Cardinal Engineering Associates has announced plans for its continued expansion to include a new office location on Bantam Road in Litchfield. This announcement coincides with the celebration of the firm's 55th year in business.

Cardinal opened its first satellite office in Litchfield on April 1st to accommodate an increased local workload and to better serve clients in the northwest corner of the state. On-going work in the Town of Litchfield includes the White Woods Road Bridge replacement project (scheduled for construction in June), the rehabilitation of the North Shore Road Bridge and the replacement of the Milton Road Bridge.

Watch for Cardinal Engineering Associates' "Member in the Spotlight" to appear in the May edition of the Chamber newsletter.

Northwestern CT Community College

Two students at Northwestern Connecticut Community College recently received special recognition for their achievements. Jessica Tessman has been named a 2017 New Century Scholar by achieving the state's highest score in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. Jessica is currently majoring in Human Services and is from Winsted. She will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and will be recognized at the Phi Theta Kappa's President's Breakfast in New Orleans on April 24th.

Jeremy Marchand has been named a 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and special medallion.

The Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest Connecticut and the Warner Theatre are co-sponsoring *Boots to Business Reboot*. This two-step training program provides participants an overview of business ownership as a career vocation, an outline and knowledge on the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognitions and an introduction to available public and private sector resources.

Step one is the *Introduction to Entrepreneurship* course open to veterans of all eras, service members and their spouses. This course is instructed by the Small Business

Administration (SBA) and its partners who are skilled business advisors.

Step two is an eight-week online Foundations of Entrepreneurship course instructed by a consortium of professors and practitioners led by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University.

For more information, please contact Lynn Gelormino via email at lgelormino@warnerscience.org or by phone at 860-489-7180 ext. 157.

Salisbury Bank

Salisbury Bank gives out awards to four deserving employees for the year 2016.

The "Employee of the Year" award recognizes one outstanding employee annually to celebrate their customer service, leadership, professionalism, enthusiasm, knowledge and strong work ethic. The recipient must live the bank's vision and core values. This year's recipient is Maria Marrero, Loan Administrator & Analyst.

The "Rookie of the Year" award recognizes an employee who has really stepped up during their first year working at the Bank. The recipient, James Kelly, has a strong work ethic and good attention to detail and he is well respected by customer and peers.

The "Volunteer of the Year" award recognizes an employee who consistently volunteers for the Bank throughout the year. This year's recipient is Michele LaPlante who volunteered for 10 bank-sponsored events in 2016. This is her second consecutive year winning the award.

The 2016 President's Award was presented to Todd Clinton. Todd has been a loyal member of the Salisbury Bank team for more than 30 years. He has overseen most of the critical operational areas within the bank. During 2016, Todd strategically led the Bank's major system enhancement project and persevered through many obstacles and challenges, and did so with a sense of humor.



New members Terri & Jeff LaCasse of On Fire Digital Marketing chat with Dick Ransom of Perry Technology at the Brandywine Business After Hours on March 23rd.

Chamber Member in the Spotlight

Torrington Ford Lincoln Has a New York State of Mind

It's not often a car dealership gets such attention on the newswire when discussing something other than the vehicles they sell or the services they provide. In most cases, these stories tend to be ones concerning a dissatisfied customer, or the recall of a particular vehicle model. Otherwise, car dealerships are primarily seen toward the back of a newspaper in the automotive sale section. This is not the case when it comes to the new paradigm shift at Torrington Ford Lincoln, in no other than Torrington, Connecticut.

What has been known as Auto Row of the west corner of Connecticut for decades, Torrington Ford Lincoln on East Main Street has been one of the many choices for consumers when purchasing or servicing their vehicles. Like all the dealerships on East Main, Torrington Ford Lincoln has seen their share of good times and, unfortunately, bad times, too, during poor economies. As a former industrial town, Torrington tends to be underestimated as a prosperous location for aspiring businesses. A young man by the name of Anthony Vultaggio Jr., however, is determined to change this antiquated mindset, once and for all.

When speaking to local residents and store owners, the name Anthony Vultaggio Jr. may not be overly familiar, but as the new owner of Torrington Ford Lincoln, this will soon change. Why, you ask? Because Anthony Vultaggio Jr. not only plans to sell America's favorite brand of vehicles in Torrington but change the way people see car-buying and city of Torrington forever.

Anthony Vultaggio Jr.'s family has a history of doing things the right way, which many would consider the hard way. In this day and age, this type of business style is commonly perceived as a lost art. Father, Anthony Vultaggio, Sr. started in the car business in the New York area some 30 years ago. With a passion for the business, Anthony Sr. worked his way through management and eventually purchased his own dealership in Queens, New York. Instilling hard-working family values into his son, Anthony Jr. mirrored his father's work ethic.

When speaking with Anthony Vultaggio Jr., he said, "Growing up, my father told me, don't lie, don't cheat, don't steal, and always respect people." Anthony went on to say further, "As a kid, I just thought he was talking about our family. Little did I know, he was teaching me everything I would need to know in business."

With some good old-fashioned family values in his back pocket, Anthony Jr. has decided to bring his show on the road to Torrington Ford Lincoln. "I believe that we can offer more than just great prices. Everyone expects that, but if we bring a level of true family-owned-and-operated values to the dealership, coupled with a red-carpet

treatment for all customers, we will be the most successful Ford dealership in the state, simply by doing the right thing."

Hard work is something from which Anthony Jr. is careful to never shy away. In an industry that sees many second-generation auto dealer owners recapping the benefits of their family's labor, Anthony Vultaggio Jr. looks to make his own mark right here in Torrington.

"It would be easy for me to stay in New York and work for my father," Anthony Jr. stated, "but I want to take our family's secret for success to places where people can know that hard work and good business is not a thing of the past."

At any time of day or night, you can see Anthony doing everything from moving cars in the lot to helping a customer personally with their car-buying needs.

Lou Battisoni, a long-time fixture at Torrington Ford Lincoln, told us this: "I knew the moment I met this young man that there was something special about him. It's not about the money with Anthony. He genuinely wants to take care of people."

Lou went on to say that the thing he loves the most about Anthony is his desire to add jobs to the community. Being a long-time resident of the area, as well as a business owner, one of the most important things to Battisoni is that the dealership was not overtaken by some automotive conglomerate.

When asked, Anthony Jr. said, "These people who have been a staple in the community forever, have families. They depend on their jobs to feed those families. I would be foolish to take anyone that wants to work and replace them simply because I bought the store. As long as they understand that the customer is the most important commodity to our business, those employees will have a long and happy career."

Referring to the multi-million dollar renovation to the old dealership, which will soon be a state-of-the-art facility, one long-time employee said, "You know this man is serious about what he says, just based on what he is doing with the building."

Outside of the dealership, Anthony is the proud father of two children, Anthony, 5 and Ava, 3. He and his wife are ready for the next chapter in their lives, Torrington Ford Lincoln.

It is worth noting that, in closing our interview, we asked "Anthony Vultaggio Jr. if he had to sum up his number one goal for Torrington Ford Lincoln, what would it be. His answer: "Satisfy every customer every minute of every day of every month of every year, now and forever."

Re-printed with the permission of Anthony Vultaggio Jr.

Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame

Continued from Page 1

Colavecchio & Leifert will join the Chamber Hall of Fame Alumni: Ann Bowen, Fred and Josephine Bruni, Frank R. Buonocore, Jr., Susan Burton, Barbara Douglass, Ph.D., Jim Garfield, Michael McGuffie, Joyce Muse, Douglas K. O'Connell, Esq., William O. Riiska, Esq., Doreen A. Roy, Laurie Roy, Robert Teittinen, and Thomas Villanova.

During the Business Meeting portion of the Annual Meeting, the Chamber membership will recognize retiring members of the Board of Directors as well as elect the directors who have been nominated to serve a three-year term. The retiring members of the Board of Directors are: Shawn Brennan of BD; Susan Burton of Connect-Ability; Kathy Martin of Union Savings Bank; and, Robert Switzgale of Ski Sundown. The individuals to be elected to the Board of Directors are: John Beir of Union Savings Bank; John Burdick of the Town of New Hartford Economic Development Commission; Larry Cassella of LARC; Patrick Finn of Secor, Cassidy & McPartland; Matthew Koehler of BD; Timothy LeBouthillier of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital; Lance Leifert of Conquest; Maria Salomone of Webster Bank; Steven Silver of Eversource Energy; Craig Snyder of Valley Energy Co., Inc.; Lisa Soliani of Hatfield & Co. Jewelers; Kevin Sullivan of Northwest Hills Dealerships; and, a representative from O&G Industries, Inc.

Reservations are required for the luncheon. The cost is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members. To make a reservation, please contact the Chamber office at 860-482-6586 by April 12th.

Chamber Membership Committee

By Frank R. Buonocore, Jr., Committee Chairman

The Membership Committee is pleased to be part of the Chamber Branding initiative. Chamber activities benefit member businesses residing in our 21 towns in many ways. There will be 4 concentration areas.

First, Hospitality. We are known for well attended, productive networking events including Business after Hours, Business with Breakfast and Restaurant in the Spotlight. These events need to be entertaining and meaningful.

Second, Ambassadors. This group will explain the variety of Chamber activities to new members, meet them at events, and make frequent personal contact. New and existing members' decision to become part of a business focused organization needs to be reinforced.

Third, Community Representatives. This group will give monthly reports about happenings in our 21 towns for publication in the print and electronic newsletter. NW CT may appear to be a more sedate part of the state, but there is plenty of activity for many interests.

Fourth, Marketing and Communication Advisors. This is a small group of very talented marketing professionals who make sure the value of membership message gets delivered as effectively as possible.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Membership Committee, please call the Chamber office at 860-482-6586.

Corporate Partner

SHOUT OUTS

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Charlotte Hungerford Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital has received the Robert A. Warriner III Center of Excellence award given to Wound Care Centers in the Healogics network that have met the highest level of quality standards for a minimum of two consecutive years.

Charlotte Hungerford Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine has achieved patient satisfaction rates higher than 92 percent, a healing rate of at least 91 percent in less than 31 median days along with several other quality standards for two years in a row. The Center was awarded this prestigious honor by Healogics, the nation's leading and largest wound care management company. The award is named for Dr. Warriner, a pioneer in wound care and the former Chief Medical Officer for Healogics. Across the country, 334 Centers were eligible and 169 Centers were honored with the award in 2017.



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Hungerford
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780 Litchfield Street, Torrington (860) 496-9512
 115 Spencer Street, Winsted (860) 738-6660

CHH CENTER FOR CANCER CARE

200 Kennedy Drive, Torrington (860) 489-6718

CHH DIABETES CENTER

780 Litchfield Street, Torrington (860) 489-0661

CHH EMERGENCY SERVICES

540 Litchfield Street, Torrington (860) 496-6650
 115 Spencer Street, Winsted (860) 738-6650

CHH LIONS LOW VISION CENTER

1151 East Main Street, Torrington (860) 496-0046

CHH MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICES

220 Kennedy Drive, Torrington (860) 496-0826
 115 Spencer Street, Winsted (860) 738-6665

CHH MEDICAL WALK-IN

1598 East Main Street, Torrington (860) 489-8444

CHH PRIMARY CARE

780 Litchfield Street, Torrington (860) 496-6884
 131 Main Street, #101A, Thomaston (860) 880-8091

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CHH WOUND CARE & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

7 Felicity Lane, Torrington (860) 489-0418

MRI/ADVANCED MEDICAL IMAGING

540 Litchfield Street, Torrington (860) 489-7314



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Community Representatives Report

Burlington - Janet Schwartz

- ♦ The Burlington Garden Club is holding "Making Terrariums and/or Planters for Sale or Enjoyment" on April 13th at 6:30 PM at Elton Tavern, 782 George Washington Turnpike.
- ♦ The Community Fund Spring Fling Fundraiser will take place April 22nd, 1:30 pm at K.C. Dubliner Pub and Family Restaurant. Music by Steve Dunn Band. No cover charge. A percentage of all food profits go to the Burlington Community Fund.
- ♦ "Talons! A Bird of Prey Experience" will be held on April 30th at 12:30 PM at Sessions Woods as part of their Annual Meeting which features the infamous Dessert Extravaganza Potluck. Master Falconer Lorrie Schumacher will provide an up-close opportunity for the audience and enlighten attendees about the conservation of these beautiful birds. Please pre-register by calling 860-424-3011 or email laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No pets allowed.
- ♦ The Music Series at Congregational Church of Burlington welcomes Alta featuring Peter Braunfeld, Daniel Green and Gwendolyn Winkel on May 7th at 3 PM. RSVPs are requested, please call 860-673-4618 or email burlingtoncch@snet.net.

Canaan/N. Canaan - Karen Kuhl & Wendy Eichman

- ♦ Geer Village events: Author Peter Vermilyea on April 4th at 3 PM in the chapel at Geer Village to present a lecture on his book "Wicked Litchfield County". Dr. Mike Mangini will present a lecture on neck pain on April 27th at 4 PM.
- ♦ North Canaan Elementary School PTO Bingo Night will be held on April 22nd from 6-10 PM.
- ♦ Battle of the Bands at Housatonic Valley Regional High School will be held April 29th. One member of the band must be in grades 9-12. Visit hysb.org for more info.
- ♦ Chicken & Rib Barbecue Dinner to honor Landowners at the Northwest CT Rod & Gun Club from 12-3 PM. \$15 adults, \$7 children. Take out available.
- ♦ Yoga at the Ballroom at the Colonial Theatre on Railroad Street. Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 PM, Fridays 9-10 AM. Call 413-429-5650.
- ♦ 6th Annual Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 8th from 8:30-10:30 AM at the Canaan Fire Company Auxiliary. \$7 adults/\$4 children ages 3-10. Children under 2 free.
- ♦ 12th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Sam Eddy Field on April 8th at 10:45 AM. Sponsored by the North Canaan Recreation Commission.

Cornwall - Dianne Heiny

- ♦ Artist reception at the Souterrain Gallery April 15th 3-6 PM. Debby Jones, "A Retrospective, Paintings, Weavings & Tumbleweeds" exhibit runs through May 21st.

Continued next page.

Community Representatives Report

- ◆ Cornwall Library hosts an artist reception of Frank Ramble's "*In Fading Light: Landscape in the land of the Housatonic*" oil painting exhibit on April 15th. Exhibit will be on display April 6th-May 21st.
- ◆ *Art at the Dump* will be held April 22nd from 10 AM to 4 PM. Come see what truly talented (or not) people can create out of "trash".
- ◆ Visit cornwallct.org for additional activities.

Falls Village - Wendy Eichman

- ◆ David M. Hunt Library will host the exhibit "*Ken Musselman: Mingled Musings*" April 7th to May 6th. A reception will be held April 7th from 5-7 PM. Call 860-824-7424 for details.

Goshen - Charlene Dutka

- ◆ The Goshen Players are presenting "First Date" through April 9th. Visit goshenplayers.org for tickets.
- ◆ Miranda Vineyard offers live music on Sundays. Visit mirandavineyard.com for more information.
- ◆ Sunset Meadows has a chocolate and wine pairing you will love. Visit sunsetmeadowvineyards.com for details.

Harwinton - Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh

- ◆ The following program will be held at the Harwinton Public Library: "Manga Cartooning Program" on April 19th at 7 PM. Debi Hamuka-Falkenham is back with something new...Manga! Manga loosely refers to a style of cartoons originating in Japan. For ages 12 & up. Call 860-485-9113 to register.
- ◆ The Harwinton Historical Society will present "Hidden History of Litchfield County" on April 2nd from 2-4 PM at the Harwinton Public Library. Peter C. Vermilyea explores tales from the history of Litchfield County. Program is free and open to the public.
- ◆ Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th from 10-11:30 AM at the Harwinton Town Hall and Sports Complex, 100 Bentley Drive. For children in Pre-K through 4th Grade. Free & no registration required.
- ◆ 25th Annual Kids' Fishing Derby April 29th from 7:30-8:45 AM at the Conservation/Recreation Area Pond, 95 Litchfield Road, Harwinton. Open to boys and girls 15 years and under. Call 860-485-0626 or email recreation@harwinton.us for updated information.
- ◆ Annual Tag Sale & Bottle Drive to benefit Lewis S. Mills High School Project Graduation on April 29th from 8:30 AM to 2 PM at the Harwinton Fairgrounds, 150 Locust Road, Harwinton. Call 860-307-0358 for more info.
- ◆ Harwinton Ambulance Association & Harwinton Recreation are sponsoring the American Red Cross Babysitter Training Course on April 23rd from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Harwinton Ambulance Association Facility, 158 Burlington Road, Harwinton. Fee \$65 for Harwinton residents & Region #10 students, \$75 for non-residents. Register on-line at harwintonems.org.

Torrington - Lynn Gelormino

- ◆ 7th Annual Veneta Bunco for Scholarships will be held April 7th from 5:30-10 PM at the Veneta Society, 108 Central Avenue. This fun dice-rolling game is a fund-raising event to provide scholarships to local high school seniors at Torrington High, OWTS & Wamogo. Call 860-294-1423 for more information.
- ◆ Torrington Park & Recreation Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 8th at 11 AM at the Oak Avenue Sports Complex. Bring your own baskets and join in the search. Open to children Pre-school to grade 3. Call 860-489-2274 for information.
- ◆ Sullivan Senior Center hosts an Antique's Appraisal & Tag Sale on April 29th from 8 AM to 2 PM. Tag sale opens at 8 AM, appraisals begin at 10 AM. The center is looking for people to hold their own tag sale at their fundraising event. Rent a table and sell your treasures. Event is held indoors. Call 860-489-2211 for details.
- ◆ Walk MS: Torrington 2017 will be held April 30th at the Torrington Middle School. Registration at 9 AM, walk begins at 10 AM. Walk MS helps team up friends, loved ones and co-workers to change the world for everyone affected by MS. Call 860-913-2550 for more information.
- ◆ Torrington Spring Craft & Gift Fair at the Torrington Armory on April 30th from 10 AM to 3 PM featuring 65 amazing vendors of gift and craft items. Craft making demonstrations, face painting, dress-up photo booth, makeovers, children's activities, picnic style cuisine, huge craft & gift raffle. Free admission & free parking. Email info@torringtonspringfair.com for information.

Winsted/Winchester - Fran Delaney

- ◆ Friends of Main Street Earth Day Clean Up along the Mad River and downtown on April 22nd. Clear brush, trees and trash along the Mad River, pickup trash along Main Street and help spread mulch & plantings. See foms.org for more information.
- ◆ The Farmers' Market will continue through the winter months and into spring. Located at the Gaylord Tiffany building on Rowley Street on the third Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM.
- ◆ Whiting Mills continues its 3rd Sunday craft and artisan event at 100 Whiting Street. Spring Open Studios will be held April 29th-30th from 11AM to 5 PM.
- ◆ Whiting Mills hosts the Gilbert School's 2nd annual Wine and Beer Tasting on April 8th from 6-9 PM.

If your community isn't listed and you would be interested in becoming involved, please call the Chamber at 860-482-6586 to find out more about our Community Representatives.

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Thanks to Our

Renewing Members

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of February 25 and March 27. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold indicate a Corporate Partner.

- ◆ 30 Peck Road, LLC
- ◆ All About You Collaborative Health Care Services, LLC
- ◆ Alzheimer's Association
- ◆ Autotote Enterprises / Torrington Race View Center
- ◆ Bozzuto Associates
- ◆ Camp Jewell YMCA
- ◆ The Cancer Care Fund of the Litchfield Hills, Inc.
- ◆ Carmody & Torrance, LLP
- ◆ City of Torrington
- ◆ Commercial Real Estate Group
- ◆ Community Council of Northwest Connecticut
- ◆ Connecticut Junior Republic
- ◆ Crabby Al's Seafood Restaurant & Bar
- ◆ Crystal Rock
- ◆ Dale Carnegie Training
- ◆ Data Pay
- ◆ DRT Power Systems, LLC - BNB
- ◆ Ebersol, McCormick, Reis & Steck, LLC
- ◆ The Forman School
- ◆ Garnet Consulting Service, Inc.
- ◆ Global Resources, Inc.
- ◆ H&R Block-Thomaston, Matthew Grabel
- ◆ Hunter Real Estate, LLC
- ◆ Insurance Center of Torrington, Inc.
- ◆ The Interlaken Inn
- ◆ Ledgebrook Spirit Shop
- ◆ The Lions Club of Harwinton
- ◆ Litchfield Area Business Association
- ◆ Litchfield Distillery
- ◆ Matson Financial Advisors, Inc.
- ◆ Mongeau Productions, Inc.
- ◆ Morsel Munk, LLC
- ◆ Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut Transit District
- ◆ Northwestern Connecticut YMCA
- ◆ Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra
- ◆ Primerica Financial Services, Carol U. Crain
- ◆ Pro-Film
- ◆ Red Thread
- ◆ SHW Casting Technologies, Inc.
- ◆ Stateline Wine & Spirit
- ◆ Sullivan Insurance, LLC
- ◆ T&M Building Company, Inc.
- ◆ Tavern Off the Green & Crystal Peak
- ◆ **Thomaston Savings Bank**
- ◆ Torrington Municipal & Teachers Federal Credit Union
- ◆ Town of Barkhamsted
- ◆ Town of Colebrook
- ◆ Town of Warren
- ◆ Traver IDC
- ◆ **Valerie Manor**
- ◆ W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation
- ◆ Warner Theatre
- ◆ Washington Supply Company
- ◆ West State Mechanical, Inc.
- ◆ Whiting Mills, LLC



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Our premier network building event featuring opportunities to gain new contacts and build your lead base while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and a tour of our host's facility.

Business After Hours



376 Goshen Road, Torrington

Thursday, May 18th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

RSVP online at <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events/business-after-hours-at-brookdale-litchfield-hills/> or call 860-482-6586.



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- Brandywine Living of Litchfield
- Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance
- Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
- Chatterley's Banquet Facility & Restaurant
- Conquest
- Cook Funeral Home
- Dymax Corporation
- Eversource Energy
- Founders Insurance Agency
- Fuel Cell Energy
- Geer Village Senior Community
- Litchfield Bancorp
- Litchfield Woods Health Care Center
- Northwest Community Bank
- O&G Industries, Inc.
- People's United Bank
- Photo Arts Printing Company
- The Register Citizen
- Republican-American
- Sharon Hospital
- Sterling Engineering Corporation
- TD Bank
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Torrington Savings Bank
- Toth Insurance Agency
- Turri-Masterson, Inc.
- Union Savings Bank
- Valerie Manor
- Valley Energy Co., Inc.
- Webster Bank

Chamber Calendar of Events

All events listed below will be held at the Chamber offices at 333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington unless otherwise noted.

April 2017

- 7th - **Manufacturers' Coalition** Meeting at Seitz LLC, 212 Industrial Lane, Torrington, 8 AM
- 10th - **Explore Cuba by Cruise & The Irish Spirit** Information Session, 5:30 PM
- 13th - **Government Relations Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 14th - **Chamber Offices Closed** in observance of Good Friday
- 18th - **Health Council** Meeting, 8 AM
- 19th - **Insurance Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
Leadership Northwest sponsored by Red Barn Consulting & NWIOB
- 20th - **Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame Luncheon** at Chatterley's Banquet Facility, 371 Pinewoods Road, Torrington, 11:30 AM. Reservations required.
- 24th - **Junior Leadership Northwest** sponsored by Torrington Savings Bank
- 26th - **Financial Reality Fair** at Torrington High School
- 27th - **Board of Directors** Meeting, 8 AM
- 28th - **Business With Breakfast** at Oliver Wolcott Technical School, 75 Oliver Street, Torrington, 8 AM

May 2017

- 2nd - **Restaurant in the Spotlight** at The Falls Village Inn, 33 Railroad Street, Falls Village, 5:30-6:30 PM
- 4th - **Membership Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 5th - **Manufacturers' Coalition** Meeting, 8 AM
- 9th - **Burlington Chamber of Commerce Community Awards** Dinner at KC Dubliner, 292 Spielman Highway, Burlington, 5:30 PM
- 11th - **Government Relations Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
- 16th - **Health Council** Meeting, 8 AM
- 17th - **Insurance Committee** Meeting, 8 AM
Leadership Northwest Trip to West Point
- 18th - **Business After Hours** at Brookdale Litchfield Hills, 376 Goshen Road, Torrington, 5-7 PM
- 22nd - **Junior Leadership Northwest** sponsored by Torrington Savings Bank
- 25th - **Board of Directors** Meeting, 8 AM
- 30th - **Business With Breakfast** at Geer Village Senior Community, 99 South Canaan Road, Canaan, 8 AM

Save The Date

- June 1st - **Great Giveaway Business Showcase**
- 29th - **Celebration of Success**
- September 16th - **Over The Edge**
- 23rd - **Torrington House Tour**
- October 6th - **WOW! Forum**

RSVP to the Chamber on-line at nwctchamberofcommerce.org or call 860-482-6586.