

## Who is Sailing the Ship? Budget Process Breaks Down

By Marshall Collins, International Government Strategies  
Chamber Lobbyist

The failure of the Legislature's *Appropriations Committee* to report a proposed spending package for a 2018-2019 budget is unprecedented and discouraging at best. Normally, the Appropriations Committee approves and sends a spending bill to the House and Senate. Then the Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee does the same for a revenue bill. But not this year.

Facing a deadline of April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Appropriations Committee (26 Democrats and 25 Republicans) on April 25<sup>th</sup> could not agree on a Democrat spending proposal. After caucusing for hours, the Committee adjourned without open debate or a vote on the Democrat proposal.

Despite a projected two-year budget deficit of approximately \$3.6 billion, the reported proposal would have increased spending over the next two fiscal years by 5.2% and 1.8%. Republicans refused to vote for the increased spending and reportedly there was disagreement over pieces of the package within the slim Democrat majority. Consequently, the Appropriations Committee adjourned without acting on any spending proposal.

What will the *Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee* do now? Without an amount of approved spending, how much revenue does the Finance Committee need to raise? The Finance Committee deadline was April 28<sup>th</sup>, but at press time, it is uncertain whether they will be able to meet and approve anything.

For their part, the *Republicans* have stated that they will release their proposed no tax increase budget soon. And inasmuch as the Governor has announced he will not seek a third term, it remains to be seen what role he will be able to play in resolving the crisis.

At present, Governor Malloy's budget proposal remains the only budget proposal on the table. However, income tax receipts are nearly \$300 million below his projections; his

proposed \$300 million in tax increases has yet to be approved by the Finance Committee; his proposal to shift \$407 million in teachers' pension payments from the state to the towns has virtually no support; and he has yet to achieve any of the \$700 million in labor concessions for the next fiscal year. Therefore his budget is out of balance as well.

The political situation in both the House and Senate is equally challenging. The 79-72 Democrat majority in the House is far from unified on how to craft a budget. A defection of only 4 members to a Republican proposal would swing the vote to the Republicans. In the Senate the 18-18 parity could result in tie votes that would have to be broken by Lt. Governor Wyman.

The Republicans in both chambers say that they are unified in opposition to spending increases and higher taxes; but it remains to be seen how they can form a balanced budget without some revenue increases and without the massive spending cuts that will enable them to attract enough Democrat defections for passage.

What is next is anyone's guess. The Regular Legislative Session must adjourn on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Unless the unreleased Republican budget can garner enough votes for passage and withstand a potential veto, the Legislature will have to reconvene in Special Session.

The next key deadline will be June 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of the fiscal year. If no budget is passed by then, state government will have to continue under Special Resolutions until a budget is passed. Special Resolutions will likely result in the unpaid furloughs of thousands of state workers, dramatic cuts in state services, unpaid state grants, reductions in municipal aid, and more.

The breakdown of the budget process on April 25<sup>th</sup> only underscores the need for a bipartisan solution to Connecticut's fiscal crisis. Where the leadership can come from to find middle ground is to be determined.

## Chamber Membership...What's In It For You?

- Take advantage of programs and resources to help your business grow
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- Make connections, know who's who, what they do in over 20 area towns.
- Meet local, state and federal leaders
- Support education & community life

FROM CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

## JoAnn Ryan



The Chamber's Annual Meeting was held on April 20th. While we were delighted to honor our Hall of Fame Inductees, Alan Colavecchio and Lance Leifert, and hear from Joe Brennan of CBIA, important business was conducted as well.

Brian Jones of Seitz LLC, and chair of the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors, presented the committee's report to the membership. Elected to serve three-year terms as directors were: Lydia Babbitt of O&G Industries, Inc., 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, Stephen Silver of Eversource Energy, Craig Snyder of Valley Energy Co., Lisa Soliani of Hatfield & Co. Jewelers, and, Kevin Sullivan of Northwest Hills Dealerships. Thanks to each of these individuals for their willingness to serve our organization. We look forward to working together with you.

On a personal level as well as on behalf of the entire membership, I extend my most sincere thanks to the retiring members of the board of directors. Shawn Brennan of BD will be relocating back to the South with his wife. Shawn has been a great friend to the Chamber in his time at BD supporting many programs and initiatives including the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. Susan Burton steps down after more than a decade of service on the Chamber board. In addition to serving as a director, Susan was chair of the Membership Services Committee and the Community Representatives group of the Membership Committee. Kathy Martin leaves us after serving six years representing Union Savings Bank. Kathy was always one of the first to volunteer for events and sub committees. Bob Switzgale of Ski Sundown also served for six years representing the town of New Hartford and the small business community. Finally, Tom Villanova of Litchfield Bancorp, has been a member of the board since 2006 serving as director, Treasurer, Vice-Chair, Chairman and Immediate Past Chair. His years of dedication and support of our organization are appreciated more than I can say.

Your Chamber is only as successful as those who dedicate their time and energy to it. Clearly, if you look at the list of those named above, we are sure to be the *most successful* Chamber in the State of Connecticut.

P.S. "What's in a name? Everything that is important, special and meaningful." Thank you, Alec Johnson.

## Welcome NEW MEMBERS

### AGING WELL NWCT

*Eldercare Consultation & Management, Health Care*  
Lisa Cheney  
7 Knoll Drive • Harwinton  
860-812-4321 • agingwellnwct.com

### CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD ST. FRANCIS & ST. PETER CEMETERY

*Non-Profit Organization, Catholic Cemeteries*  
Lisa A. Richards  
863 South Main Street • Torrington  
860-482-4670 • ccacem.org

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71 Spencer Street • Winsted  
860-738-9070 • explorationsct.com

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### JoAnn Ryan

President & CEO

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### Anita Rosa

V.P. Finance & Operations

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### Lauren Zordan

V.P. Programs & Events

lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

## Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame Luncheon

The Chamber's Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame Luncheon was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Chatterley's Banquet Facility. The crowd of over 200 was welcomed by Chamber President & CEO, JoAnn Ryan and Chairman of the Board, Paul Patch.



Brian Jones, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the election of directors and recognized the retiring board members. Retiring from the board this year are Shawn Brennan, BD; Susan Burton, Connect-Ability; Kathy Martin, Union Savings Bank; Robert Switzgable, Ski Sundown; and, Tom Villanova, Litchfield Bancorp. We would like to thank them for their many years of service to our Chamber.

Inducted into the Chamber Hall of Fame this year were Lance Leifert, Conquest and Alan Colavecchio, Colavecchio Design. Lance and Alan co-chaired the Re-branding Committee of the Chamber and worked tirelessly on the initiative and continue to guide the Chamber in its efforts to ultimately create a direction for the future. Both men have been Chamber members for many years and have given so much of their time and talent to the organization.



Joe Brennan, President and CEO of Connecticut Business & Industry Association was the keynote speaker for the luncheon and provided an overview of the business forecast for the state.

This year's Annual Meeting sponsors were Comcast Spotlight, Aflac, BD, Northwest Community Bank, O&G Industries, Inc., Sharon Hospital, Sullivan Automotive, Thomaston Savings Bank and Raynard & Peirce Real Estate Co. Wendy Eichman, Broker Associate.

## Over The Edge

A Kick-Off breakfast for Over the Edge Northwest CT was held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Prime Time House. This new and exciting initiative is the first of its kind in Northwest Connecticut and will benefit three local organizations. The Chamber's Education Foundation, the Northwest CT Arts Council and Prime Time House have teamed up to send people over the edge of the Torrington Towers on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Opportunities for sponsorship and to register to rappel or form a team were discussed at the kick-off meeting. The partners are also hosting information sessions for the September event throughout the region during the next few months. Please join us on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> for a kick-off event at Energy Fitness, 1000 East Main Street, Torrington from 5-7 p.m.

For more information, or to sign up to rappel, visit <https://otecwe.com/nwconnecticut/>.

## Junior Leadership Northwest

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Junior Leadership Northwest class met with Deirdre DiCara, Executive Director, and the staff at FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwest CT for their social service session. Deirdre gave the students a wonderful tour of the facility and an overview of all of the amazing work they do with the Litchfield County community. The students split up into two groups- one group sorted food in the food pantry by type and expiration date, while the other group did



yard work to get the playground safe for the children living there. The students had a great time giving back! The Junior Leadership Northwest Graduation will take place on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM at Marino's

Restaurant in Torrington. The Keynote Speaker will be Maria Coutant Skinner, Executive Director, McCall Center for Behavioral Health.

## Ronald S. Rosenstein Assumes Board Leadership at Northwest Community Bank and Connecticut Mutual Holding Company



The Board of Directors of Northwest Community Bank recently elected Ronald S. Rosenstein Chairman of the Board.

Ron had previously served as Vice Chairman. Subsequently, he also was elected Chairman of the Board of Connecticut Mutual Holding Company, of which Northwest Community Bank is a member.

Ron became a director of Northwest Bank for Savings in 1988 and was involved in its evolution to Northwest Community Bank. Through the years, he has served in many committee capacities at the bank.

Ron was a private attorney in Winsted and has been active in the Winsted community and the region nearly forty years. He is currently a board member of Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

He is a co-founder and past president of the Winsted Area Child Care Center and a past president of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut. Ron served as chairman of the Winchester Ethics Commission and was a member of Greenwoods Scholarship Foundation. He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Winsted and a recipient of the Paul Harris Award.

Ron and his wife, Ruth (Rudy), reside in New Hartford.

Northwest Community Bank is a mutually owned state-chartered bank, headquartered in Winsted, Connecticut since 1860. In addition to Winsted's Main Office, the bank has branches in Avon, Granby, New Hartford, and Torrington; and an academic branch at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted.

Congratulations, Ron, from all of us at Northwest Community Bank!



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Avon 860-677-2809 | Granby 860-653-7228 | Northwestern Regional High School Academic Branch

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## NEW & COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER

### Great Giveaway Business Showcase

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. We invite every Chamber member to attend, bring a guest and enjoy the special features including meeting Jonathan the Husky UConn mascot, and entering to win the giveaways and spectacular door prizes!

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@nwtchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:lauren@nwtchamberofcommerce.org) or call 860-482-6586.

### Young Professionals Organization Gathering

The Young Professionals Organization will host a joint event with the Avon Chamber's Young Professionals on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at Parrott Delaney Tavern in New Hartford. The event will be a trivia night featuring hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and prizes for the winning teams. To sign up to attend, please contact Lauren Zordan via email at [lauren@nwtchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:lauren@nwtchamberofcommerce.org). We consider a "Young Professional" a person 21-39 years old who lives or works in the Northwest Corner of CT.





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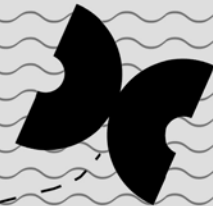
**Thursday, May 18th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

RSVP online at <http://nwtchamberofcommerce.org/events/business-after-hours-at-brookdale-litchfield-hills/> 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, May 17th and June 21st at 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ Manufacturers' Coalition will meet on Friday, May 5th and June 2nd at 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ Health Council will meet on Tuesday, May 16th and June 20th at 8:00 a.m.



6/29

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7/27

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8/24

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Being a member of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce comes with many benefits, this is one of them. Take advantage of these cost savings and register for the classes today!

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NON-CHAMBER MEMBERS  
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All 3 for \$549

Contact the Chamber for registration: 860-482-6586  
[info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

# COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER Continued from Page 5




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.

**Tuesday, May 30th at 8:00 a.m.**

Hosted by  
**Geer Village Senior Community**  
 99 South Canaan Road, Canaan



**GEER VILLAGE**  
Senior Community

RSVP online at <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events/business-with-breakfast-at-geer-village/>  
or call 860-482-6586.

## Celebration of Success

Save the date of June 29th on your calendars to join the Chamber for our Annual Celebration of Success. Each year, the Chamber recognizes outstanding business and community leaders. We continue to honor those who have demonstrated exceptional and unselfish service to our Northwest Corner with the Business Leader Award, the Community Leader Award and the Quality of Life Award. The honorees will be announced in the June issue of the Chamber newsletter.

## Torrington House Tour

For the third year, Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation and the Torrington Historical Society are partnering to present the Torrington House Tour on September 23rd. Six beautiful homes will be featured on this tour. Advertising opportunities are available. It is the perfect event for members in the home improvement and contracting fields to get their name out there. For information, please call JoAnn Ryan at 860-482-6586.

## Chamber Travel Program

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! Visit the Chamber website at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://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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Tickets/Sponsorships can be Purchased at  
[www.BurlingtonCTChamber.org/AnnualDinner](http://www.BurlingtonCTChamber.org/AnnualDinner)



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

Continued from Page 3

## Manufacturers' Coalition

The Chamber's Manufacturers' Coalition held their April meeting at Seitz LLC in Torrington. Lance Boynton, Chair of the Manufacturers' Coalition, welcomed the group and introduced the new President & CEO of Seitz, Evan Berns. Evan gave the group some background on Seitz and more information on what they manufacture. The Deputy Commissioner of Labor, Kurt Westby spoke to the group about the Manufacturing Innovation Fund Apprenticeship Program which provides financial assistance to Connecticut manufacturers that have a Registered Apprentice Program as well as approved Apprentice Related Instruction Training Providers.

The program is administered by the Connecticut Department of Labor and funded through the Department of Economic and Community Development's Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund. The meeting ended with a tour of Seitz.



## Leadership Northwest

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Leadership Northwest class had a session on Arts, Culture & Education. The group spent the morning at Oliver Wolcott Technical School visiting the graphics and auto body shops where they did hands-on projects with the students. Lunch was held in the school's restaurant, Oliver's, and prepared by the culinary arts students.

The class traveled to Norfolk for the afternoon session at Infinity Hall. Along with a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility, they learned more about the business of entertainment and how they attract the musical acts and guests to Norfolk.

Each year, the Leadership class is broken up into teams to complete a Leadership project. This year, the 3 teams all have very different projects that they've been working on tirelessly. Team 1 is working on Pals for PALS, a good deeds project with Torrington PAL. Students in PAL's after school program will be keeping a journal of their good deeds for one month and at the end of the month they will be invited to a party to celebrate their good deeds and will be rewarded with cards featuring free items from local businesses. Team 1 members are Carolyn Conboy, Litchfield Bancorp; Kevin Kijanka,

Arconic; Michele Alicky, Pelletier Mechanical Services; and Regina Melaragno, Torrington Savings Bank.

Team 2 held their project, a Volunteer Placement Fair, on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Torrington High School. Twenty non-profits exhibited and 200 high school students attended from the region. The students were able to learn more about the non-profits in the area and sign up right on the spot to volunteer with the organizations of their choice. Team 2 members are Michael Sweeney, Torrington Savings Bank; Sawyer Thornton, Sharon Health Care Center; Shalyn Sheldon, McCall Center for Behavioral Health; Stacey Tibbals, Northwest Community Bank; and Lauren Brignolo, Collinsville Savings Society.

Team 3 is organizing the Mad River Market Membership Drive and Information Session. With the announcement of the potential sale of the IGA in Winsted, the need for a grocery store in Winsted is urgent. A group has been formed call the Mad River Market, whose intent is to create a food co-op, a unique type of grocery store business model with all "members" being "owners". In order to establish a food co-op, a membership drive is needed to gain initial members for startup capital and to show interest. The Leadership team is creating marketing materials and will run a membership drive and information sessions in the area. Team 3 members are Jane Williams, Northwestern CT Community College; Alicia DeLibro Landy, Arconic; Nadia Karouta, CT Mutual Holding Company; and Chirag Burman, BD.

## Financial Reality Fair

The 8th Annual Northwest CT Financial Reality Fair took place at Torrington High School on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Chamber partnered with the

CT Credit Union League to provide a hands-on budgeting experience to high school students. Almost 900 students attended our fair this year, making it the largest Reality Fair in the state. Each year at the Fair, 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 would like to thank the over 120 volunteers who made this year's fair such a huge success! It wouldn't be possible without you!



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# Corporate Partner SHOUT OUTS

## Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) recently received a \$6,000 donation from Torrington Big Y to benefit the Hospital's Pink Rose Breast Cancer Fund.



The donation is a portion of Big Y's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Partners of Hope Campaign which raised \$230,000 in 2016 at its stores throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts to distribute to individual communities and charities in the communities they serve for breast cancer related screenings, education and treatment.

CHH Breast Health Nurse Navigator Tammy Rouleau, R.N., CHH Early Detection Program Outreach Coordinators Damaris Sierra and Rosa Hilario recently received a \$6,000 check from Big Y Torrington Store Director Tracy Lambertson and Candace Tarentello to be used in their efforts to assist local women diagnosed with breast cancer.



For the sixth year in a row, staff members at CHH's Center for Youth & Families highlighted autism awareness during the month of April to help raise awareness and to spread the word about their "Connections Program" for children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The program serves children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders in our community through its current outpatient program which includes diagnostic assessment, treatment, and advocacy services. They provide individual, group and family therapy. The program features specialized social skills groups and behavioral therapy with the child and caregivers.

Contact the Center for more information on the "Connection" program at 860-489-3391. Visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) for more information about autism.

## Northwest Community Bank

The Board of Directors of Northwest Community Bank recently elected Ronald S. Rosenstein Chairman of the Board. Ron had previously served as Vice Chairman. Subsequently, he also was elected Chairman of the Board of the Connecticut Mutual Holding Company, of which Northwest Community Bank is a member.



Ron became of director of Northwest Bank for Savings in 1988 and was involved in its evolution to Northwest Community Bank. Through the years, he has served in many committee capacities at the bank. He was a private attorney in Winsted and has been active in the Winsted community and the region for nearly 40 years. Ron and his wife, Ruth (Rudy) reside in New Hartford.



## O&G Industries, Inc.

The joint venture team of O&G Industries/Tutor Perini Corporation has received a 2016 Connecticut Asphalt & Aggregate Producers Association (CAAPA) Award in the Limited Access Roadway category. CAAPA awards are presented annually to projects that exemplify excellence in pavement placed on Connecticut roadways. Winners are selected by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

The joint venture team was recognized for its work on I-95 and I-91 north and south bound in New Haven. The pavement installation was part of Contract E, a complex, five-and-a-half year, \$360M project that will conclude this spring.

The award was presented at CAAPA's 59th annual conference in North Haven on April 7 in North Haven, Connecticut. The project's asphalt supplier, milling contractor and quality inspector were also recognized for their contributions.





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 Festival Director at  
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 or [vparsloe@gmail.com](mailto:vparsloe@gmail.com)  
 for more information on  
 sponsoring or volunteering.

# Member News

## Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford

The Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, St. Francis and St. Peter Cemetery have several upcoming events that are open to members of the Chamber.

An Educational Event - Managing Your End of Life Decisions will be held at Geer Village, 77 South Canaan Road in Canaan on May 17th at 2 and 7 p.m. The program will feature four professionals from the cemeteries, funeral, long term care and legal communities and is intended to help explain the value of pre-planning. Please RSVP to 860-482-4670.

St. Peter Cemetery, 236 East Pearl Road, Torrington will hold an Open House on May 20th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Refreshments and a special promotion will be available.

A Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated for all of the faithful departed at 12 Noon on May 29th at St. Francis Cemetery, 863 South Main Street, Torrington by Rev. Robert F. Tucker. All are invited. Please bring a lawn chair.

## Survive the Drive

Survive the Drive will hold *Behind the Wheel/ Defensive Driver Training Clinic* on June 28th at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT. All drivers are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of this possibly life-saving program. It is a great way to practice new life-saving skills that may come up in daily driving. You can never have enough training to keep sharp and ready for unexpected situations. Professional driving coaches will guide participants through crash avoidance maneuvers, skid capability & recovery, emergency braking & lane changes, vehicle control and distraction awareness. Seats are limited; valid driver's license or learner's permit are required. The fee is \$299. For more information, contact Lori at 860-806-3042 or email [loriz@survivedrive.org](mailto:loriz@survivedrive.org).

## Northwestern CT Community College

The Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest CT and the Warner Theatre have partnered to offer *Getting Paid to Talk; Making Money with Your Voice*, an introductory class to be held on May 17th from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Warner Theatre. The cost is \$35. Tickets are available online at [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org). This is an opportunity to learn how ordinary people with good communication skills are finding tremendous success and enjoyment in this dramatically growing field. Each attendee will have the opportunity to record a real script under the direction of a producer in the classroom.

## EdAdvance

EdAdvance's school age programs are now open for registration. BASES (Before and After School Enrichment Services) provides safe, healthy, and enriching before and after school programs for elementary and middle school students. The programs are available in Barkhamsted, Brookfield, Region 10/Harwinton, Litchfield, New Hartford, Newtown, Torrington and Region 14/Woodbury.

A Summer Adventure Program for children ages 5-12, currently attending Kindergarten to grade 6 will be provided Monday-Friday, 7 AM to 6 PM during the summer months. Each week is devoted to a different theme that will peak children's curiosity and creativity through hands on, engaging enrichment activities. There is also an exciting field trip each week as well as swimming twice per week. The programs are located in Torrington and Newtown. Visit [www.edadvance.org](http://www.edadvance.org), call 860-567-0863 ext. 167 or email [schoolage@edadvance.org](mailto:schoolage@edadvance.org) to register.

A Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training certification program will be offered on May 9 & 11 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at EdAdvance. There is no charge for the program and the public is invited. Participants must attend all eight hours of training to receive certification. Space is limited; registration is required. Contact Amanda DelVicario at 860-567-0863 or email [YMHFA@edadvance.org](mailto:YMHFA@edadvance.org) for information.

## Brooker Memorial

The Center for Children's Therapy (CCT), located at Brooker Memorial in Torrington, provides individualized therapy services tailored to each child's specific needs across all stages of development. Available therapy services include occupational, physical, speech-language, and most recently, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. The Center welcomes children ages birth to 21 who are in need of therapeutic services and accepts most forms of insurance. For more information, call Brenda Johnson at 860-294-7473 or visit [www.edadvance.org](http://www.edadvance.org).

## Elevator Service Company

Growth is the theme this year for Elevator Service Company, Inc. [ESCO]. Operating like a well-oiled machine, the company has brought in another associate, totaling three new employees for the current fiscal year.

Katie Richard, the newest addition to the administrative staff, will be providing customer support, maintenance and repair scheduling. Katie has a strong background in administrative support. Early last month, ESCO added two more mechanics to the mix. ESCO is currently licensed in CT, RI, MA, and NY and is continuously releasing new products. Watch for details and a new venture to be announced soon.

# Chamber Member in the Spotlight

## *Cardinal Engineering Establishes New Roots in Litchfield County*

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 55<sup>th</sup> year in business.

### **A new location.**

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Cardinal will **open its first satellite office in Litchfield** 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.

"With our growing list of projects in Litchfield, as well as in the surrounding Towns, it made a lot of sense for us to set up a local office – the timing was perfect. As a resident of Litchfield, it also positions me better to serve existing and prospective municipal clients throughout the county," describes Director of Business Development Timothy M. Cermola.

### **All in the family.**

Shortly after its inception in 1962, the founding partners of Cardinal, joined by a bare-bones support staff, relocated the start-up operation from Waterbury to Colony Street in downtown Meriden. Founding partner and President Joseph A. Cermola, Jr. has thoughtfully grown his civil engineering firm into today's 25-person operation, including three generations of the Cermola family.

Cermola has served in many significant capacities throughout the course of his career, to include being a member of the State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors for nearly 20 years. He is the present Vice Chair of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority Board, and remains active in the National Society of Professional Engineers, Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, and the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials.

All the indicators of a successful family business are in place at Cardinal. With a steadfast focus on developing long term relationships by exceeding client expectations, the business is thriving decades since its inception. They are notably defying the odds, as statistics demonstrate 70% of family-owned businesses fail or sell before the next generation takes control. Only a fraction of the surviving 30% are successfully run by the third generation.

The backbone of Cardinal is its second generation. This team includes Vice President Joseph Cermola, III; Director of Survey Services Bernard J. Cermola; and Director of Business

Development Timothy M. Cermola. The third generation hoping to carry on the family business is comprised of Survey Party Chief and CAD Designer Matthew Cermola (Joseph's son) and Michael Cermola (Bernard's son). Michael is currently studying Civil Engineering at Central Connecticut State University and supporting the survey team during college breaks.

### **Past, present and future.**

Cardinal has an extensive portfolio of infrastructure design and construction inspection work throughout the State of Connecticut.

The need to comply with the Clean Water Act of the 1970s had Cardinal on the front lines in New Haven and Middletown, designing the separation of antiquated combined sewer systems in both cities to eliminate sewer overflows and to reduce pollution of the Connecticut River and the Long Island Sound. This work has been on-going for over 30 years.

In the past decade, Cardinal has been responsible for over 40 miles of roadway reconstruction throughout Connecticut. In 2016, the firm expanded its Meriden headquarters to accommodate its growing Bridge Department which has been tasked with the design of over 20 municipal bridges in the past few years alone. In addition to three bridges in Litchfield, other rehabilitation and replacement projects are underway in Orange, Suffield, Rocky Hill, Berlin, Shelton and Cromwell.

In addition to a long list of municipal clients, Cardinal serves the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The firm recently completed the design of the \$25 million rehabilitation of Connecticut's longest bridge – the Gold Star Memorial Bridge (I-95 Southbound) in Groton/New London – which spans over 6,000'. Construction is scheduled to commence this spring.

Cardinal continues to branch out in the northwest region of the state, with recent assignments including the Flats Rocks Road Bridge in Cornwall, the West Road Bridge in Winchester, and the Spring Hill Road Bridge in Washington. Most recently, Cardinal became a prequalified on-call engineer for member municipalities of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

### **About Cardinal Engineering Associates**

Cardinal Engineering Associates is a family-owned and operated multi-disciplined consulting civil engineering firm, specializing in providing surveying, design and construction engineering services to municipalities and State agencies for a wide variety of public infrastructure projects including transportation, water resources, water and wastewater, and site development projects. On the web: [www.cardinal-engineering.com](http://www.cardinal-engineering.com).

## Insurance Committee Update

By Timothy Pusch, Committee Chairman

As anyone who follows the news on health care in this country knows, the Trump administration has already taken a shot at revamping the Affordable Care Act. While it did not succeed, expectations are that Congress will continue to seek the right mix of reforms that will fix the problems that have surfaced with “Obamacare”. If nothing comes out of Congress before midyear, we may see some drastic action(s) taken by the two remaining individual policy medical plan carriers in Connecticut (Anthem and ConnectiCare). Such actions could include the termination of plan offerings on the public exchange (AHCT) and potentially in the off-exchange market as well.

In the small employer group market (under 50 employees), the most significant development has been the emergence of multiple companies operating in CT that are competing for the attention of small group employers interested in self-funded programs. One such option is available through the Chamber Insurance Trust (CIT). Self-funded programs are now available to employers with as few as ten covered employees.

## Chamber Membership Committee

By Frank R. Buonocore, Jr., Committee Chairman

The Chamber Membership Committee is always looking for ways to help you improve your business.

The Chamber has peer groups such as the Manufacturers’ Coalition and Health Council to focus on important business segments. We are now considering another peer group to address technology and communication; critically important and never more frustrating. The idea is to develop forums to assist businesses of all types and sizes evaluate, implement and monitor effective methods of communication. Work has begun.

The Membership Committee is in need of volunteers for its hospitality, community representatives, ambassadors and marketing & communication segments. We encourage you to put your valuable talents to good and appreciated use. If you are interested, please call the Chamber office today at 860-482-6586 or join us at our meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 8 a.m.

## Government Relations Committee

By Timothy Waldron, Committee Chairman

The Government Relations Committee continues to keep abreast of proposed legislation currently under consideration at the capitol.

Our April meeting included many of our state representatives and senators. Their presence at our meetings allows Chamber members to interface directly with the policy makers whose decisions affect the many businesses and organizations who are a part of the Northwest Chamber.

I invite you to attend our next meeting, scheduled for May 11th at 8 a.m. at the Chamber, and to visit the bill tracker site which has been set up to allow for the review and tracking of pieces of legislation which could have an impact on your business. The bill tracker can be found on the Government Relations page of the Chamber website.



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# Community Representatives Report

## Burlington - Janet Schwartz

- ♦ A Taco Dinner will be held May 5th at the Congregational Church from 5-7 PM. Join the Church Youth Group for a dinner starring hard tacos, talking tacos, rice & beverages. Adults \$10, under 12 \$5. Call 860-729-4023 for information.
- ♦ 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](mailto:burlingtoncch@snet.net).
- ♦ The Burlington Garden Club welcomes Karla Daley on May 11th at the Elton Tavern, 782 George Washington Turnpike, to discuss "Creative Container Design". The program begins at 7 PM (following a 6:30 PM business meeting). Guests and new members are welcome.
- ♦ A Garden Club Plant Sale will take place on May 13th at the Town Hall parking lot from 9 AM to noon. They will feature perennials and shrubs dug from members' gardens, some vegetable plants, decorated and undecorated grapevine wreaths, terrariums, gently used garden tools & décor and free garden seeds.
- ♦ The Burlington Library Annual Meeting will be held May 19th at 7:30 PM at the Elton Tavern. The brief meeting will be followed by a social get-together with other members of the community. The event is open to all.
- ♦ The Burlington Lions Club will host their annual carnival at Route 4/Library Lane May 25th-27th. The carnival is open Thursday evening through Saturday.

## Canaan/N. Canaan - Karen Kuhl & Wendy Eichman

- ♦ Geer Village events: A performance by the Salisbury Hand Bell Choir will take place on May 10th at 7 PM. No RSVP is required. A Professional Panel discussion on "Maintaining Dignity with End of Life Decisions" will be held May 17th at 2 & 7 PM. RSVP to Lisa by the 15th at 860-482-4670. Dr. Mike Mangini will present a lecture on managing lower back pain on May 24th at 4 PM. RSVP to 860-824-3820 by the 22nd.
- ♦ The Douglas Library plant sale will take place May 20th.
- ♦ Yoga at the Colonial Theater takes place on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM and Fridays at 9 AM.
- ♦ A Community Tag Sale will take place on May 13th from 9 AM to 3 PM at Stadium System to benefit Troup 22 Boy Scouts. Vendor spots are available for \$20 each and limited tables for rent for \$5 each.
- ♦ May 20th will be the Grand Opening of Camp Brook Disc Golf Course, located between Caddie Shack and Stateline Pizza on Route 7. Free multipurpose disc to all who attend (while supplies last) and demonstrations; 10 AM to 4 PM.
- ♦ Northwest CT Rod & Gun Club Junior Fishing Derby will be on May 21st for children 16 & under. Registration 10 AM. Prizes to participants. Register [northwestctrodandgun.org](http://northwestctrodandgun.org).

*Continued next page.*

# Community Representatives Report

- ◆ Sunset Music Series begins June 15th at the Canaan VFW. Every Thursday from 7-9 PM through August 31st.
- ◆ Canaan Farmers' Market begins June 7th at Stadium System and will be held every Wednesday from 4-6:30 PM through September 20th.
- ◆ Canaan Railroad Days will take place July 5-17th. Sponsorships are available. For information, visit [www.canaanrailroaddays.com](http://www.canaanrailroaddays.com).

## Cornwall - Dianne Heiny

- ◆ Region 1 Elementary School Art Exhibit opening reception will be at the Souterrain Gallery on May 24th from 5:30-7:30 PM. The exhibit will run through Memorial Day weekend.
- ◆ The UCC Parish House on Bolton Hill will exhibit the artwork of the young people of the church school entitled "A Show of Peace" running from May 21st to June 11th. Opening reception on May 21st at 11:30 AM; all are welcome.
- ◆ The Cornwall Library continues to exhibit Frank Bramble's "In Fading Light: Landscape in the Land of the Housatonic" through May 21st.
- ◆ Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall showcases 128 newly added works by Lennart Swede Ahrstom in addition to Donald Brecken.
- ◆ A Community Contra Dance will take place on May 6th at Town Hall.
- ◆ West Cornwall Farmers' Market opens on May 13th on Route 128. Hours are 9 AM to 1 PM.
- ◆ "Make a Zine Workshop" at Cornwall Library on May 13th from 2-5 PM.
- ◆ Village Farm Co-Op Opening Day will be May 20th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM.
- ◆ The Cornwall Bridge Spring Stroll will take place May 20th from 11 AM to 3 PM. Food, wine, recreation & services information, fly fishing demos, music & more provided by various Cornwall Bridge businesses. A family friendly & fun way to get to know the people & products along Route 7.
- ◆ 2016 Flat Rocks Fire Discussion at Town Hall on May 20th at 1 PM
- ◆ A Mystery Dinner Theater to benefit the Cornwall Child Center will take place May 20th at 5:30 PM.
- ◆ Memorial Day Weekend Book Sale at the Library on May 27th from 9 AM to 2 PM and 29th From 10 AM to 2 PM.
- ◆ The Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony and the Memorial Day Carnival at UCC will take place on May 29th.
- ◆ Visit [cornwallct.org](http://cornwallct.org) for additional activities.

## Falls Village - Wendy Eichman

- ◆ David M. Hunt Library will host the exhibit "*New Beginnings*" a group show by Canaan Art League May 12th to June 10th. A reception will be held May 12th from 5-7 PM. Call 860-824-7424 for details.

## Goshen - Charlene Dutka

- ◆ Local wineries are offering Mother's Day (May 14th) specials. Check out the websites for Miranda Vineyard ([www.mirandavineyard.com](http://www.mirandavineyard.com)) and Sunset Meadow Vineyard ([www.sunsetmeadowvineyards.com](http://www.sunsetmeadowvineyards.com)). Stop by Milk House Chocolates and surprise mom with chocolate ([www.milkhousechocolates.net](http://www.milkhousechocolates.net)).
- ◆ The Memorial Day Parade will be held May 28th from 2-3 PM.

## Harwinton - Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh

- ◆ The following program will be held at the Harwinton Public Library: Plant, Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 20th from 9:30 AM to 2 PM.
- ◆ Harwinton Westside Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Road Beef Dinner will be held on May 20th at the Harwinton Consolidated School.

## Litchfield - Edgar Auchincloss

- ◆ Spring is in the air! Local realtors report favorable early season sales at all levels within the market. The new Stop & Shop is well along and is expected to be ready for shoppers by July. Mr. Barton's jail remake continues and reportedly has attracted a number of new tenants, welcome additions to our business community. The Litchfield Hills Rowing Club reports a busy spring season underway with space available in the Junior and Master's programs. We note the fine people at Goff's Equipment have taken an exceptional consignment of a "Like New" John Deere 850 compact tractor.

## Winsted/Winchester - Fran Delaney

- ◆ The Farmers' Market will be back at East End Park on May 27th from 10 AM to 1 PM.
- ◆ Visit [www.foms.org](http://www.foms.org) for updates and watch for the Friends of Main Street weekly newsletter for continuing spring and early summer schedule.
- ◆ Whiting Mills continues its 3rd Sunday craft and artisan event at 100 Whiting Street. Visit their website for special events [www.whitingmills.com](http://www.whitingmills.com).
- ◆ The 81st Rotary Pet Parade will be held on May 20th at 2 PM. This is the nation's oldest and longest running parade of this type.
- ◆ The annual Laurel Festival will be held the weekend of June 7th. The Laurel Ball will be June 7th at Crystal Peak. The parade will be held on June 9th. Visit the Laurel Festival page on Facebook for updates and information.
- ◆ Friends of Main Street summer concerts will be commencing with the first concert at Soldier's Monument. Visit [www.foms.org](http://www.foms.org) for time and date and the entire summer concert schedule.
- ◆ Noujaim's Bistro was recently featured on CT Perspectives, FOX 61, great presentation and wonderful review of George's repertoire and contributions to the community.

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# Renewing Members

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of March 28 and April 25. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold indicate a Corporate Partner.

- ♦ Academy of Medical Training, LLC
- ♦ **Arconic Power & Propulsion**
- ♦ Authentic Life, LLC
- ♦ Biznuzz IT Services
- ♦ **Brandywine Senior Living at Litchfield**
- ♦ Canaan Fire Company, Inc.
- ♦ Celtic Consulting, LLC
- ♦ Connecticut Community Foundation
- ♦ Dolinsky Associates
- ♦ E.J. Murphy Realty
- ♦ East Coast Assistance Dogs, Inc.
- ♦ East Coast Lightning Equipment, Inc.
- ♦ **Eversource Energy**
- ♦ Greenwood Trails
- ♦ Hilljack Sugar Shack LLC
- ♦ Housatonic Railroad Co., Inc.
- ♦ Joyful Noise, Inc.
- ♦ Junior Achievement of Southwest New England
- ♦ Kiwanis Club of Sheffield, Inc.
- ♦ Land of Nod, LLC
- ♦ Laurelbrook Natural Resources, Inc.
- ♦ Lean Six Sigma Consulting, LLC
- ♦ Litchfield Hills Orthopedic Associates
- ♦ Maletta Pfeiffer & Associates, LLC
- ♦ Marino's Restaurant
- ♦ Music Mountain
- ♦ Oliver Wolcott Technical School
- ♦ Perry Technology
- ♦ Raynard & Peirce Real Estate Co.
- ♦ Resource Development Associates, LLC
- ♦ Riverton Self Storage
- ♦ Root, Borajkiewicz, Lucarelli Wealth Advisors
- ♦ Rose Haven Ltd.
- ♦ Stor-It-All, Inc.
- ♦ Survive the Drive
- ♦ Tech Air of Canaan, LLC
- ♦ Technical Industries, Inc.
- ♦ This-n-That From Habitat
- ♦ Toll Gate Animal Clinic
- ♦ Torrington Beauty Academy
- ♦ Torrington Energy
- ♦ Torrington Toastmasters
- ♦ **Toth Insurance Agency, LLC**
- ♦ U.S.A. Hauling & Recycling, Inc.
- ♦ Winsted Health Center Foundation, Inc.
- ♦ Your Personal Benefits Advisor, Steve Ardussi



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