

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
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*We usually start the newsletter with a message from JoAnn Ryan our President and CEO. This month we are doing something a little different. One of our chamber members Tim Pusch, who is the Chair of our Insurance Committee, Chamber Ambassador, Member of the Board, and 2020 Inductee into Chamber Hall of Fame became sick in April. His daughter Jillian and two sons, Zack and Dusty has set up a GoFundMe page to help cover his medical expenses. Jillian has written a very moving letter that I would like to share with all of you.*



“Hi everyone, My name is Jillian Pusch and I, along with my brothers, Zach and Dusty, are hoping to raise funds to cover our dad’s recent and extensive medical expenses.

Those of you that know our Dad, Tim Pusch, know exactly the type of caring and giving guy he is. Of course, he is and has always been a devoted and loving father, but his love has likewise extended to all of the communities he is a part of. You all know him as the devoted, passionate, and incredibly active community leader and volunteer for numerous causes, including Simsbury Little League, Simsbury Soccer Club, the Simsbury and Northwest Connecticut Chambers of Commerce, and most recently, the Simsbury Performing Arts Center. If someone or some cause needed his help, participation, or support, he was there.

But in late April, life threw him (and us) a steep curveball....

On April 28th, Dad/Tim called 911 because he was in severe pain and was having difficulty breathing. We all assumed it was COVID-19. I watched as the ambulance took him away, not knowing what would happen. He was admitted to St. Francis Hospital and within the next few days, he became critically ill. We found out quickly that it was not COVID - all of his tests to date have come back negative. We were left waiting and wondering what was wrong and why our Dad became so ill so quickly. Over the next few

*Continued on page 2*

days, he was transferred to the ICU. A large mass (called a Thymoma) was discovered in his chest, he was intubated, developed pneumonia, and then developed a series of infections. By week 4, he was (finally) diagnosed with a neuromuscular disorder called Myasthenia Gravis - and what he had experienced was what is called an 'MG Crisis.'



Thankfully, we FINALLY knew what was wrong and the doctors were able to start treatment! But right when we thought things were looking up, he experienced another setback: another infection, this time in his spinal column, had appeared, he lost function in his legs, and had to have 2 emergency surgeries to fix it. The surgeries went well, but only time (and a lot of aggressive physical therapy and recovery) will tell if and how well he will be able to walk again. For those of you who know our Dad, you know that he is up to the challenge.

Our Dad was at St. Francis Hospital for a total of 10 weeks, (7 of which he was not allowed any visitors, including his own kids). On June 30th, he was moved to Mt. Sinai Rehabilitation hospital to begin acute rehab, where he is now in his 4th week of intense Physical and Occupational Therapy. His nurses and therapists have come to see the positivity and determination we've seen all our lives, and rest assured, he is hell bent on walking again! He knows he has a long road ahead, and has come to the realization that he may never be able to walk again without assistance, but he is giving it 100%.

The decision to set up a GoFundMe page did not come lightly. At first he said no, and those of you that know him are probably chuckling. That's our Dad, always willing to help, but won't ask for help. He is humbled knowing that we are asking for help on his behalf, but he reluctantly

agreed to let us do it. We too are humbled by this. But we realize what he is up against and know he has a long road ahead. His out-of-pocket hospital/medical expenses are already over \$13,000, and while we don't know for how much longer he will need medical assistance, inpatient therapy, at-home assistance, or any other care in the future - he still faces a potential surgery and

treatment for his Myasthenia Gravis - we anticipate this will be at least be a 2-year road to recovery.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide to our Dad. All money raised will be put towards his medical expenses. If you are not in a position to help financially, we welcome good wishes and prayers for a full recovery!! He is so thankful for all the thoughts and prayers being sent his way.

I was with him when he called 911 and watched him walk out of our house to the ambulance on April 28th. Our prayer is to see him walk out of rehab and back into our new home.

Thank you for reading this and any willingness to help. Please share if you can!

Jillian, Zach and Dustin Pusch

To donate, click the following link:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/tim-pusch-medical-expenses?sharetype=teams&member=5088692&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_campaign=p\\_na+share-sheet&pc\\_code=em\\_db\\_co2876\\_v1&rcid=06f0003bb2594559bef6aac809bf6369](https://www.gofundme.com/f/tim-pusch-medical-expenses?sharetype=teams&member=5088692&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&pc_code=em_db_co2876_v1&rcid=06f0003bb2594559bef6aac809bf6369)



## CHIEF LENDING OFFICER, ROBERT TEITTINEN RETIRES FROM LITCHFIELD BANCORP

Litchfield – On March 31, 2020, Robert Teittinen was due to retire from Litchfield Bancorp. As the Litchfield Bancorp family geared up to wish Bob a happy farewell into this next chapter of his life, we learned that he planned to stay on board and work with the rest of the Commercial Team to help process the Payroll Protection Program loans during the last few months surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although we had some unexpected extra time with Bob, it is now time to say those farewells after an unforgettable 9 years with Litchfield Bancorp.

Bob joined Litchfield Bancorp in 2011 as Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer, with years of experience, being known locally for his expertise in helping mid-sized businesses with commercial lending. Bob has spent his years responsible for growing the bank's commercial loan portfolio, and overseeing the bank's commercial, residential and consumer loan portfolios, as well as bringing some contagious laughs throughout the office.

"This is bittersweet and celebratory at the same time, however after 9 years of sharing his wit and wisdom, Bob Teittinen is retiring from Litchfield Bancorp. Bob has been influential to our bank, the Holding Company and to me personally." Tom Villanova said, in regards to the retirement of Bob Teittinen. Tom continued to say, "With his retirement, I'm proud



to congratulate Christine in her promotion to Chief Lending Officer. In her short time with the bank, Christine has proven herself worthy of this promotion and I am personally thankful to have someone of this caliber to replace Bob."

When Bob initially announced his retirement that was planned for the early Spring of this year, it went hand in hand with the promotion of Christine Bascetta-Gath to Chief Lending Officer for the bank, as of January 31, 2020. During these last few months, both Bob and Christine have been able to work side-by-side making an incredible team together.

"A true gentleman and leader," is how Christine referred to Bob, continuing to say, "it is impossible to count the ways in which Bob has inspired me over the past 18 months. He has truly helped me prepare to take my career to the next level, embrace new challenges, and instilled confidence along the way. And that's what a true leader does; exhausting themselves of their wisdom and knowledge to shape you to be the best version of yourself you can be. To say he will be missed would be much more than an understatement."

We thank Bob for his time spent with Litchfield Bancorp and congratulate him on his retirement and the time he will be able to spend doing the things his loves with his wife, Joelene Teittinen and their family.

*Upcoming*

# CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

- August 4th – Small Business Council – 8am
- August 5th – Insurance Committee – 8am
- August 5th – WOW Advisory – 9am
- August 6th – Membership Committee – 8am
- August 12th – Leads II – noon
- August 12th – Webinar –Bob Dickson – Leadership Re-Open - 9am – 11am
- August 13th – Leads III – noon
- August 19th – Health Council – 8am

- August 24th – Leads I – 12 noon
- August 25th – Business with Breakfast – 8am
- August 26th – Leads II – 8am
- August 27th – Chamber Board of Directors – 8am
- August 27th – Leads III – 9am
- Virtual Annual Meeting – September 25th at 11:45am
- Virtual WOW Forum – October 2nd - TBD

## NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

### Chamber Hall of Fame Induction

Friday, September 25, 2020

11:45am – 1:00pm

**Keynote Speaker: Governor Ned Lamont**

### 2020 Chamber Hall of Fame Inductees

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Timothy E. Pusch<br/>Brooks, Todd &amp; McNeil Insurance<br/>John E. Seagrave, CRPC<br/>Barron Financial Group, LLP<br/>Election of Directors<br/>Evan Berns, Seitz LLC<br/>Gina Mariano Bunch, Daley Moving &amp; Storage, Inc.<br/>Patrick W. Finn, Esq., Secor, Cassidy&amp;McPartland, P.C.<br/>Joyce Germano, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital<br/>Mark Hirko, MD, FACS, Nuvance Health -Sharon Hospital<br/>Matt Koehler, BD<br/>Vanessa Meehan, Webster Bank</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Ida Mussen, O&amp;G Industries, Inc.<br/>Solidea Pitruzzello, Northwest Community Bank<br/>Recognition of Retiring Board Members<br/>Karen Kuhl, Geer Village Senior Community<br/>Brian Jones, Seitz LLC<br/>Timothy LeBouthillier, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital<br/>Paul Patch, Associate Member<br/>Maria Salomone, Webster Bank<br/>Stephen Silver, Eversource Energy<br/>Craig Snyder, Bantam Wesson<br/>Kevin Sullivan, Northwest Hills Dealerships</p> |
|---|---|

### Sponsors

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Torrington Savings Bank<br/>Bantam Wesson<br/>Litchfield Bancorp<br/>Northwest Community Bank<br/>Altek Electronics, Inc</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Chamber Insurance Trust<br/>Sullivan's Northwest Hills Dealerships<br/>Thomaston Savings Bank<br/>Torrington Municipal &amp; Teachers<br/>Federal Credit Union</p> |
|---|---|

**Brooker Pediatric Dental Center** in Torrington is seeking a Full-time certified dental assistant to join our team. Saturdays a must. Looking for the right candidate who is energetic, self-motivated, a team player and has at least 1-year dental assisting experience.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Greet and interact with patients in a friendly and empathetic manner
- Coordinate patient flow
- Assist the doctor during a variety of treatment procedures
- Set up and breakdown the operatory post treatment, sterilize instruments
- Take accurate digital dental X-rays including panoramic
- Provide patient education, pre- and post-operative instructions
- Provide the highest level of care to our patients

**Minimum Education and Skills:**

- Candidate must be DANB certified in radiation and infection control CPR Certified
- Detail oriented and possess excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills to effectively handle multiple tasks
- Self-motivated with the ability to exceed patient expectations
- Experience with Eaglesoft preferred.



**Brooker Memorial**  
Preparing Children for Life-long Success

157 Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790



# VIRTUALLY WOW! ACTUALLY INSPIRING!



**During this unique time in our lives,  
please consider these questions:**

Is your confidence shaky?

Are you able to change ideas and thoughts?

Are you eager to replenish your mind?

Do you enjoy laughter?

Would you like to transform some habits?

Have you adapted to this new way of work?

Are you familiar with networking opportunities virtually?

Can you learn by retraining your brain?

Have you considered expanding your business?

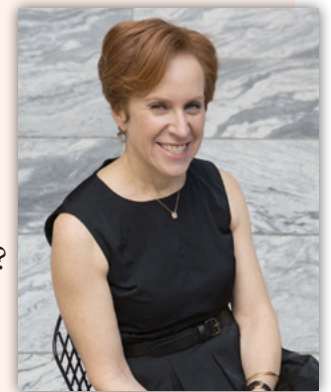
Are you good at bouncing back from crisis and adversity?

Is success right around the corner for you?

Do you like surprises, gifts, opportunities and a new scenery?

Would you be able to spend a few hours learning, listening, networking, growing,  
laughing, making new friends?

Will you accept an invitation to do something different?



**We cordially invite you to the  
16th Annual WOW! Forum Virtually.  
Please save the date of  
Friday, October 2nd!**

**You are in for an extraordinary treat...first in the region...*stay tuned!***



**CORPORATE PARTNERS**

July 6, 2020

**TORRINGTON SAVINGS BANK HIRES CHIEF LENDING OFFICER**

TORRINGTON, CT - Torrington Savings Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Larsen, Chief Lending Officer & Senior Vice President, to their executive team.

Mr. Larsen comes to Torrington Savings with over 30 years of banking experience in the middle marketing & commercial lending space. Prior to TSB, Paul was Managing Director and Head of various lending & business development initiatives, most recently at Bankwell as Head of C&I Commercial Lending, and at Santander, as Managing Director, Middle Market Lending, for the Bank's Southern New England region.

In his role at TSB, Mr. Larsen will be responsible for directing the Bank's lending programs with direct responsibility for overseeing Commercial, Residential, and Consumer Lending departments.

Mr. Larsen is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration & Management.

Lesa A. Vanotti, President of Torrington Savings Bank stated, "We are pleased to have Paul as part of our team. Paul's extensive lending and cash management experience will build on TSB's commitment to meeting the financial needs of consumers and businesses of all sizes in our community."

### **TORRINGTON SAVINGS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

The Torrington Savings Foundation awards \$100,000 in grants in a special cycle that opened in April to respond specifically to the immediate needs of those directly affected by the pandemic. The regular annual grant cycle for the Foundation will begin to accept applications starting August 3, 2020.

Awards of up to \$10,000 were granted to those organizations working on the frontlines of the pandemic. These critical funds will be used for basic needs such as rent, food, infant supplies (diapers and formula) utilities (heat, gas), counseling, medication, and childcare.

Covid-19 related grants by category made by the Foundation include:

#### **Frontline Worker Support & PPE**

FISH NWCT

Foothills Visiting Nurse & Home Care

Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center

The Arc of Litchfield County

McCall Foundation

#### **Basic Needs & Hardship Funding**

United Way of NW CT

Prime Time House

Salvation Army

New Opportunities, Inc.

NWCT YMCA

The Community Kitchen of Torrington

Friendly Hills Food Bank

Northwest Hills Community Church

Family Strides

Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center

Northwest Connecticut Arts Council



#### **Child Care**

YMCA Camp Mohawk

Kids of Summer Foundation

Foundation Co-President, John E. Janco stated, "The Torrington Savings Bank Board and Management Team made the decision to establish a Foundation in 2018. Our primary goal was to support our local communities. I cannot think of a better way to achieve that goal than to support these vital, front line organizations during this Pandemic crisis."

For more Foundation updates including application guidelines for non-profit applicants, please visit [www.torringtonsavings.bank/foundation/](http://www.torringtonsavings.bank/foundation/).

## Corporate PARTNERS

### NUVANCE HEALTH NAMES 2 NEW HOSPITAL PRESIDENTS

Poughkeepsie, NY, and Carmel, NY — July 29, 2020 — Veteran health

system leaders Peter Kelly and Dr. Mark Hirko have taken on new roles in Nuvance Health.



Kelly is the new president of Vassar Brothers Medical Center in the City of Poughkeepsie. Hirko will serve in an expanded leadership capacity as president of both Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Conn., and Putnam Hospital in Carmel, NY.

Kelly has served as president of Putnam Hospital since 2016 and Hirko has served as president of Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Conn., since December 2019.

Kelly replaces Joseph J. Mullany, who is no longer with Nuvance Health. The organization wishes him well in his next endeavor.

Kelly brings more than 45 years of healthcare experience to Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Prior to joining Putnam Hospital, he served as president of Christ Hospital, a member of the CarePoint Health System in New Jersey and later senior advisor to CarePoint. During his career, he has held numerous leadership roles, including managing director at the Huron Consulting Group; and president and CEO of Continuum Health Partners System, consisting of Beth Israel Center, St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals and the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York City. Prior to that, he was COO of Beth Israel Medical Center. Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Bonaventure University and a master's in healthcare administration from Long Island University. He also served as a field artillery officer in the United States Army.

Hirko has built strong working relationships in the Sharon Hospital community since he was appointed president there. He brings significant experience to this expanded role, having served in multiple senior positions with Health Quest Medical Practice (HQMP). Prior to joining HQMP, Hirko was chairman for the Department of Surgery and the General Surgery Residency Program director at Monmouth Medical Center-RWJ Barnabas Health in Long Branch, NJ. He also served as chief of vascular surgery at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass.

He completed his general surgery internship and residency at Akron City Hospital. He earned his medical degree at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Prior to medical school, Hirko earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from the University of Akron.

Visit [www.nuvancehealth.org](http://www.nuvancehealth.org) for more information.

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Union Savings Bank.



*Corporate***PARTNERS****HARTFORD HEALTHCARE REHABILITATION NETWORK'S TORRINGTON CLINIC OFFERS EXPANDED WEEKEND HOURS**

Torrington, Conn. Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network's outpatient clinic in Torrington, located in a brand new, state-of-the-art facility at 1000 East Main Street Sky Top Plaza, is now offering expanded hours, including on Saturdays from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The clinic offers a number of programs and services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, balance and neurological disorder treatments, lymphedema treatments, sports medicine and more.

The clinic also now offers virtual health through video visits for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language therapy allowing patients to work with their therapists from the convenience of their own homes.

"Hartford HealthCare is excited to offer expanded hours our rehab services in Torrington," said Chris Carlin, Vice President of Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network. "Our new facility offers state of the art technology to support our physical, occupational and speech therapy and wellness services. Being embedded in the same location as our system partners HHC Medical Group and GoHealth Urgent Care also allows for better care coordination for the community."

**The new expanded hours for the clinic are:**

Monday – Thursday 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Saturday 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

For more information about Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network, please visit [www.HHCRehabNetwork.org](http://www.HHCRehabNetwork.org)



SUMMER 2020

# Health & Community Matters

updates from your community hospital

**We are grateful and humbled...**

And through it all what has been particularly inspiring to us as caregivers is how the people of our region stepped up on so many levels and took care of us. Whether it's meals for our staff, messages of hope, handmade supplies, or so many other gifts from the heart, you have been there for us with incredible compassion, support and generosity.



A heartfelt  
thank you to our  
community

There are so many gifts, thoughts, and kind gestures it seems impossible to list them all...

- **Medical supplies and nourishment** - Over 2,000 hand sewn masks, 3,000 surgical masks, 11,000 pairs of gloves and hundreds of other personal protective equipment were gratefully received from 120 individuals and businesses in our community. Almost every day, and sometimes several times a day, snacks, pallets of water, breakfasts, lunches and dinners arrived at our front door from nearly 80 different donors to help sustain and support our amazing staff.
- **Expertise** – Area manufactures, entrepreneurs, sewers and hobbyists put their special talents to work creating innovative hand designed and manufactured PPE face masks, mask fasteners and face shields.

<http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CHH-Community-Matters-Summer-2020.pdf>

*Premier* **MEMBERS****EVERSOURCE ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO  
EVALUATE LOWEST-COST ENERGY SUPPLY OPTIONS**

BERLIN, Conn. (July 16, 2020) – As part of its efforts to support customers facing financial hardship and other challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, Eversource is encouraging customers to closely manage their energy supply options so that they do not overpay an alternative supplier. According to the Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel, in April 2020, residential Eversource customers who chose suppliers paid in aggregate approximately \$1.5 million more than the Standard Offer for their electric generation.

“We never want our customers to overpay an alternative supplier for their electricity, especially not now with many people continuing to face financial hardship due to the pandemic,” said Eversource Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. “Our Generation Service Charge (GSC) for residential customers in Connecticut decreased by nearly 22 percent beginning July 1 and we encourage all of our customers to evaluate their energy supply options to ensure that they’re paying the lowest possible cost.”

As a regulated delivery company, Eversource purchases electricity from wholesale suppliers on behalf of its customers who are signed up for the company’s standard service with no profit to the company. By state law, the Standard Service price changes twice a year, on January 1st and July 1st. As of July 1, 2020, the Standard Service Charge for residential customers decreased from 9.414 cents per kilowatt-hour to 7.375 cents per kilowatt-hour and will remain in effect until December 31, 2020.

Eversource customers, with the exception of residential hardship, have the option to buy their power from other retail suppliers or go with the company’s standard service rate. Alternative supplier prices in Connecticut have recently ranged from 6.61 to 12.79 cents per kilowatt hour. Customers can find out more information about alternate suppliers and rates at [www.energizect.com/compare-energy-suppliers](http://www.energizect.com/compare-energy-suppliers). Customers currently buying power from other retail suppliers can check the current rate and terms of their supply agreement on the front of their monthly bill.

As energy use can often increase during the hottest days of the year with people cooling homes and businesses with air conditioners, so Eversource also reminds its customers that energy efficiency remains the single most effective way to take control of their year-round energy costs.

“We’re committed to helping customers access energy efficiency solutions because the cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy that you don’t use. Even with the drop in the price of electricity, our customers can take advantage of deeper savings by making full use of the programs available to them,” added Conner.

One of the best ways to discover what efficiency measures are needed in any home is to sign up for the Home Energy Solutions home energy improvement service. Customers can also take advantage of generous energy efficiency rebates and incentives. Information on the many energy saving programs available can also be found at [www.energizect.com](http://www.energizect.com).

*Premier* **MEMBERS**

Brandywine Living at Litchfield  
Chatterley’s Banquet Facility  
Commercial Sewing, Inc.  
Eversource Energy  
Keystone Place at Newbury Brook  
Litchfield Woods Health Care Center  
Seitz LLC  
Systems Support Group, Inc.  
T&M Building Company, Inc.  
and Torrington Downtown Partners  
United Construction & Engineering, Inc.  
Valerie Manor  
Webster Bank

## Premier MEMBERS



### EVERSOURCE RESTARTS IN-PERSON ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES WITH ENHANCED SAFETY GUIDELINES

#### Special incentives to help customers save money and energy available through August

BERLIN, Conn. (July 8, 2020) – In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of customers and contractors while also providing money and energy-saving solutions, Eversource is implementing new health and safety guidelines for the restart of energy efficiency services in customer homes and businesses.

Eversource worked with Environmental Health & Engineering, a health and safety consulting firm, to develop guidelines specific to energy efficiency work. These guidelines include the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing and enhanced sanitizing requirements in line with the latest recommendations and industry best practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19.

“We’ve taken proactive steps since the pandemic began to safeguard health while providing safe, reliable service, including offering virtual energy efficiency services for our customers,” said Eversource Vice President of Energy Efficiency Tilak Subrahmanian. “With many contractors who depend on income from energy efficiency work and customers facing financial hardship, these new guidelines will help allow contractors to safely get back to work providing the deeper energy efficiency improvements that help customers save more on their energy costs.”

“Eversource’s implementation of virtual assessments was a lifesaver for my business as we were able to build a customer pipeline,” said Newell & Crathern Owner Bill Newell, an Eversource-approved contractor. “Now that we have clear guidelines and are able to conduct in-person energy audits, we’re back to operating at full capacity.”

In addition to implementing enhanced health and safety guidelines, Eversource is also increasing incentives for energy efficiency projects with a range of offerings for residential, small business, municipal and commercial & industrial customers. These incentives lower, and in many cases completely cover, the upfront costs of energy efficiency improvements that can help customers save now and in the future. Residential customers, for example, may qualify for incentives of up to 100% of the cost of insulation. These increased incentives are for a limited time, with many expiring at the end of August.

“We understand this is a challenging time for many customers, and we want to do what we can to make it easier for customers to invest in energy efficiency,” added Subrahmanian. “For customers who aren’t comfortable with a contractor visiting their home or business at this time, we continue to offer virtual assessment options. We will always put the safety of our customers and contractors first, and we’ll continue to use the best available science and data from the experts as we adapt our approach to best safeguard health while serving our customers.”

Customers interested in an energy assessment or other energy efficiency services and rebates should visit the Save Money & Energy section of [Eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com) for more information.



*Chamber Member*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**sportingAcause.com**

Have you seen this picture before?



In the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, during a women's 5000 meter heat, American runner Abbey D'Agostino fell in the path of New Zealander Nikki Hamblin causing her to also fall. D'Agostino, who suffered a nasty knee injury helped Hamblin up and then collapsed herself. They both finished the last painful mile with each other's support.

Their selfless act- abandoning their Olympic dreams to help another- became a major story of the Games.

This merging of sport and generosity is the essence of sportingAcause which promotes sports-related fundraisers for free, highlights the benefiting charities and shines light on the unheralded business sponsors.

Chamber member Lance Leifert's great staff at Conquest translated the essence of that picture into our logo (as well as creating the sportingAcause.com website). The figures under the red "A" of our sportingAcause logo, reflect the spirit of the events we feature- people helping people through sports.



**Find sports-related fundraising events in the TriState area**

It's been tough for everyone, this Covid thing, but especially tough for our local charities. They have been forced to cancel or postpone their important fundraisers because of the pandemic, losing important revenue to run their programs. I know, because I have chronicled the cancellations, at least the sports-related ones for weeks now.

SportingAcause's calendars hold over 500 sports-related fundraisers- walkathons, triathlons, polar plunges, golf tournaments, 5K races, water, dog and horse shows, bean bag tosses, turkey shoots, country fairs and much more throughout Litchfield County and parts of Berkshire, Dutchess and Columbia Counties.

You can find weekly blogs addressing non- profit topics, like organ donation, suicide, drug overdose, bicycle/car issues, and recently, event cancellations and postponements.

Since winning SCORE's New Business of the Year award three years ago, sportingAcause has become the go-to place to find out about events and causes that are important to you. Please use the site as a resource to find your favorite sports events and charities, and let us know what you think.

Willie Hallihan  
Publisher, sportingAcause.com

## Chamber MEMBERS

### NCCC OFFERS SAFE BOATING AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT COURSE

Winsted, CT – Northwestern Connecticut Community College is offering a course in Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft on August 10 and 11, 2020 from 5 to 9 p.m. through a Zoom online meeting format.

This Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) certificate course is taught by boating professionals sponsored by the Connecticut DEEP Boating Division.

Successful completion fulfills the requirements to obtain the Connecticut Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft Certificate, which enables individuals to operate jet skis and recreational vessels up to 65 feet in length. The course fee is \$25 and additional state fees are applicable.

For more information, or to register for this class, please contact Jane Williams, Program Coordinator, at (860) 738-6444 or at [jwilliams@nwcc.edu](mailto:jwilliams@nwcc.edu).



### SPECIAL EDITION: FALL REGISTRATION & RE-OPENING UPDATE The Next Phase...

Hello to our Community Partners and Supporters!

I'm happy to share good news with all of you regarding Northwestern's continuing efforts to ensure the residents of the northwest corner have access to a higher education option that builds toward a positive future for individuals and the communities they live in.

Our adjusted fall schedule has been published since mid-June, and takes into account all of the social distancing and PPE regulations from the Department of Public Health.

Thanks to the FREE Community College program known as PACT (Pledge to Advance CT), our enrollment numbers are up as we continue to register students. So many of our incoming students this fall were able to take advantage of the PACT free community college option and register early to qualify for priority funding. We have heard from many parents and students that traveling away from home and living on a university campus is not their preference during a pandemic - instead they prefer to stay local and take classes at Northwestern at a fraction of the cost, if not for free.

Social distancing requirements mean that like many colleges, the majority of our classes will be online in the fall, however, students are very eager to either start their college careers or get back to their classes and continue their education. Northwestern Connecticut Community College is the most affordable and convenient campus option available in the region and we look forward to continuing our mission of lifelong learning. I'm happy to share out latest campus updates and the progress we are making as we move toward the future.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Michael A. Rooke, Ph.D  
President





*Chamber* MEMBERS**EdAdvance**

Educate • Collaborate • Innovate



## Information Session about FREE Adult Education Classes in Your Community

- Do you want to improve your basic math and reading skills?
- Are you ready to get your high school diploma?
- Do you want to apply for U.S. Citizenship?
- Do you want to learn to speak English better?
- Do you know someone who can answer “yes” to any of these questions?

Foothills Adult Education, a program of EdAdvance, offers **free** classes for adults taught by **certified teachers**: Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship test preparation, and three pathways to a high school diploma (Adult High School Credit Diploma, National External Diploma Program, and GED® test preparation).

Join us for an **online** information session about these programs on

August 11, 2020

10:00 am or 6:30 pm

Register at

[www.edadvance.org/registration](http://www.edadvance.org/registration)

Adult Ed Information Session

Recording of this session will be posted at [www.edadvance.org/adulted](http://www.edadvance.org/adulted)

*Foothills*  
Adult &  
Continuing  
Education

View the full class schedule: <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Fall-2020-Online-classes.docx>

Fall 2020 Online Flyer: <http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Fall-2020-online-flyer.docx>



## Chamber MEMBERS



### FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN FROM EDADVANCE!

**Free meals for children continuing throughout the Summer.**

***Who?***

Any child 18 or under & 18–21 w/ Special Needs

***What?***

Grab & Go lunch & breakfast for the next morning

***When?***

Mon. – Fri. 11:30 am–1:00 pm thru August 21st

***Where?***

Vogel Wetmore School, Torrington, bus lane

***How?***

Drive thru & pick up meals, children need not be present

**Comida gratis para los niños continúa por el verano**

***¿Quién?***

Todo niño hasta 18 años o niños de 18–21 años con necesidades especiales.

***¿Qué?***

Recoger el almuerzo y el desayuno para el próximo día.

***¿Cuándo?***

Lunes – Viernes 11:30 am–1:00 pm hasta Agosto 21st.

***¿Dónde?***

Vogel Wetmore School, Torrington, línea de los autobuses.

***¿Cómo?***

Recoger la comida sin bajarte del carro; los niños no necesitan estar presente.

### GRANTS PROVIDE A WORK-BASED LEARNING SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CJR STUDENTS IN WATERBURY

Thanks to the support of the American Savings Foundation and the Frederick W. Marzahl Memorial Fund, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) is providing a six-week Work-Based Learning Summer Program for 40 at-risk and disadvantaged boys and girls from Waterbury. Generous grants of \$24,000 from the American Savings Foundation, \$10,000 from the Frederick W. Marzahl Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, and in-kind contributions from CJR, have funded this unique summer program, which includes vocational training in culinary arts, video and media production, horticulture and landscaping, and entrepreneurial skills development. Participating boys and girls have “worked” Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at CJR’s Waterbury Campus, located at 80 Prospect Street, since July 6, and the program will continue through August 7. A number of COVID-19 precautions have been incorporated into the program to ensure the safety of participating young people and staff members.



*Continued on page 16*

## Chamber MEMBERS

The students' educational experience began the week of June 8, with a standardized application and interview process for various positions. Boys and girls participated in resume development, as well as interviewing and employment-readiness training. Each of the four study areas associated with the "work" component of the program are using an entrepreneurship model to develop specific "products" associated with culinary arts, media production, and horticulture and landscaping. A fourth entrepreneurial skills development class is working with the other program components to market their products and develop promotional materials. All of the young people are participating in a weekly financial literacy course and collaborating on projects while developing specific skill sets relevant to the four job areas. All students are being paid stipends for their participation in the program.

Boys and girls in the culinary class are catering lunches for CJR programs and other non-profit organizations in the Waterbury area. This project component is specifically funded by the grant from the Frederick W. Marzahl Memorial Fund.

The horticulture and landscaping class is tending an herb and vegetable garden on the grounds of the Junior Republic's Waterbury Campus and students are also working on community beautification projects.

The video and media production is documenting the activities of the other classes through photography and video, as well as working on other projects.

"We have never been more pleased to be able to provide this work-based learning summer experience for at-risk adolescents who are associated with CJR's programs in Waterbury," stated CJR President & CEO Daniel Rezende. "Our staff has been extremely diligent and creative about adapting and implementing this educational program to ensure the safety of all involved," he noted. "With all the educational challenges associated with COVID-19, it has never been more important for at-risk young people to have a highly-structured, strength-based summer program that helps them add to their educational, work and social skills," he said. "This experience helps students develop practical skills while facilitating their growth as responsible and contributing participants in the classroom, in their homes, and eventually, in the workplace," he continued. "Everyone can remember the importance of that first summer job. It's a step toward adulthood and independence, and an opportunity to gain real-world work experience," said Maria Falvo, President & CEO of the American Savings Foundation. "We believe it is important to continue to invest in programs such as Summer Youth Employment at CJR, knowing that they are taking every precaution to ensure a fun, educational, and safe experience for youth this summer."

The American Savings Foundation is an independent charitable foundation dedicated to strengthening the community by supporting education, human services, and the arts, with special emphasis on the needs of children, youth and families, through grants to community organizations and college scholarships. Since its inception in 1995, the Foundation has contributed nearly \$61 million in total grants and scholarships.

The Frederick W. Marzahl Memorial Fund was established in 1974 to support and promote quality education, human services and health care programming for underserved populations in the Woodbury area.

*NOTE: This program provides many wonderful photo opportunities. To request a photograph or arrange a photo opportunity this week or next, please contact Hedy Barton ([hbarton@cjryouth.org](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org)); or by phone: (860) 567-9423.*

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides care, treatment, education and family support for vulnerable at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they may become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities. Today, the organization's combined programs serve approximately 1,500 boys and girls annually at 11 sites throughout Connecticut.

## Chamber MEMBERS

CJR conducts three residential programs for young men on its Litchfield campus, and provides longer term care for boys at its Group Home in Winchester and REGIONS Program in Waterbury. Education programs are provided for boys from communities throughout Connecticut at CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC), which is based on its Litchfield campus. Education services for girls are provided at CAVEC's Bristol campus.

A broad spectrum of prevention, early intervention, family support, substance abuse treatment, and intensive, home-based therapy and aftercare programs are provided for boys and girls through CJR's community locations in Danbury, East Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New London, Torrington and Waterbury. Behavioral and mental health services are provided in most of these locations, as well as on CJR's Litchfield Campus, and by special arrangement at The Gilbert School and Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted.

*A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD), the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), by Connecticut's public schools, and through other income earned for services provided.*

*For further information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 252; or by email: [hbarton@cjryouth.org](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org).*



### Geer Physical Therapy is thrilled to announce re-opening of in-person visits!

Effective immediately, Geer PT is able to provide in-person visits at our location. Physical Therapists will continue to offer virtual visits, as well.

We can provide evaluation and treatments for new and existing patients. Visits can be conducted either over the phone or using your computer to see and hear your therapist. All our systems are secure and HIPAA compliant.

Not sure what is right for you? Call to arrange for a free consultation: (860) 824-3820

### Your Donations at Work Using Telehealth ...

Your gifts have allowed Geer to purchase two 'Nurse Rosie' telehealth devices for the Nursing & Rehab Center. These devices are tablet based and allow staff to take vitals and connect directly into our electronic health records for quick, seamless recording. This provides real time data, eliminates errors and reduces delays in data entry which makes



information available quicker for nurses and doctors that need to make decisions about your loved one's healthcare.

We have received donated tablets, and also purchased tablets to help residents stay better connected with their loved ones. Other ways your donations have helped:

Various thank you gifts were provided to staff such as meals, cookies, pizza, snacks, and Easter candies!

Emergency financial assistance was provided to 10 staff and 5 program participants to help with unexpected expenses due to the Covid-19 crisis.

If you haven't made a contribution yet, there is always time. Please consider how you can help Geer to continue to meet this challenge and serve our residents and staff at the unprecedented time. *To donate, please click the following link:*

<https://geervillageseniorcommunity.salsalabs.org/covid-19donations/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c315119f-3953-4b8a-adbd-2355ee25a2be>



*Chamber* MEMBERS

**Connecticut State  
Colleges & Universities**

**2,200 STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR PACT AT PRIORITY DEADLINE;  
FUNDING REMAINS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**

(HARTFORD, CT) – Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) President Mark Ojakian today announced that interest in the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT), Connecticut's tuition and fee free community college program, has been strong, with more than 2,200 students receiving \$2.5 million in grant awards through the July 15 deadline for priority consideration. These qualified students will owe no out-of-pocket tuition or mandatory fees to attend one of Connecticut's 12 community colleges.

More than half – those whose tuition and fees are already covered by existing federal, state, and institutional funding – will receive the minimum grant of \$250 for educational expenses.

“While it might not sound like a lot, that \$250 grant will make a real difference to our poorer students, many of whom are students of color, who all too often face nearly insurmountable obstacles – from childcare, to food insecurity, to unreliable transportation – to obtaining a degree,” President Ojakian said.

As previously announced, the community colleges will continue to accept applications for PACT for the fall semester on a first come, first served basis. Students who enroll now will receive priority in the order in which they are received, within available funding. CSCU plans to award at least an additional \$1 million in PACT scholarships to eligible students.

“It is not too late for qualified students to attend college with no out-of-pocket expenses,” said Dr. David Levinson, interim president of Connecticut State Community College. “All potential college students should strongly consider a community college. With free community college and seamless transfer to our universities, students can even earn a four-year degree while saving tens of thousands of dollars. It's a win-win, but potential students should not wait. Enroll today at [ct.edu/pact](http://ct.edu/pact).”

In order to qualify for PACT, potential students must meet the following requirements:

Be a graduate of a public or private Connecticut high school (GED and homeschooled students qualify).

Be a first-time college student (those who participated in dual enrollment programs while in high school are not excluded).

Fill out FAFSA and accept all awards.

Attend community college full-time (12 or more credits per semester).

Enroll in classes today for first come, first served consideration.

Participate in a degree or credit-bearing certificate program.

Once enrolled, remain in good academic standing.

To apply for the program, eligible students must enroll in classes at any of Connecticut's 12 community colleges. PACT is a last-dollar scholarship, so once students enroll in classes and complete all necessary financial aid documentation, including the FAFSA, PACT funding will be applied to their account. To learn more or find a community college that suits your needs, visit [ct.edu/pact](http://ct.edu/pact).

*Chamber***MEMBERS****Learning Dynamics**  
Investing in People™


Today's Challenges Require  
Timely Solutions...  
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range of non-classroom learning  
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 [jdemaio@learningdynamics.com](mailto:jdemaio@learningdynamics.com)

*Tyler Green*  
FX STUDIO

**Whiting Mills and Tyler Green FX Studio**

This is a difficult time for artists, artisans, photographers and craft people. We have lost a few old friends from our Whiting Mills family, but we have also welcomed some new ones. We hope all will settle down soon and look cautiously at the possibility of our annual Holiday Open Studios event.

Whiting Mills is excited to share with everyone the Monster Kidz Box that Tyler Green, a member of the Whiting Mills family, created for kids to get their creative juices flowing while at home.

Recently I have launched a new children's DIY activity kit called Monster Kidz Box™ that includes everything you need to create your own one of a kind monster mask!

Monster Kidz Box is designed like a workshop, there are separate kits for children to create zombies, creepy dolls or ghouls. The kids will also have access to a video tutorial on how to customize the masks.

For more information please visit my website:  
[MonsterKidzBox.com](http://MonsterKidzBox.com)

Tyler Green, Tyler Green FX Studio

Chamber **MEMBERS**

# BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Join us in our mission to collect backpacks and school supplies for children to return to school this fall.

## DROP OFF LOCATIONS

- ServiceMaster Albino: 579 South Leonard St Waterbury 203-753-0666
- American Financial Solutions: 48 Meriden Rd Waterbury 203-706-4015
- Lakeview Apartments: 440 Meriden Rd Waterbury 203-574-0613
- McDougall Insurance: 100 Queen St Southington 860-426-2077
- Parkview Apartments: 270 Spring St Naugatuck 203-439-5031
- Colonair Insurance Agency: 27 Siemon Company Dr #308e, Watertown (860) 274-0900
- Toth Insurance Agency: 1151 E Main St Torrington (860) 496-7771
- Express Employment Professionals: 17 Main St Torrington (860) 482-5627

Please notify the drop off location you will be stopping by

## ONLINE DONATION OPTION

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/INFN88482DTR4?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/INFN88482DTR4?ref_=wl_share)

Items will be distributed to local children via the following organizations:  
 United Way of West Central CT, CT Partnership for Children, Friendly Hands Food Bank,

## ITEMS NEEDED

Backpacks, Pencils, Notebooks, Crayons, Erasers, Binders, Highlighters, Markers, Pens, Rulers

THANK YOU to all of our drop off locations:



## DEADLINE: August 7th 2020

Any questions please contact Amanda. Cell: 203-894-6482 [amanda@smalbino.com](mailto:amanda@smalbino.com)



ServiceMaster Albino  
 579 S Leonard St PO Box 751  
 Waterbury, CT 06720  
 203-753-0666



*News and* **NOTES****AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in New England**

**Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz,** and their team are excited to return to Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont! They plan to film episodes of the hit series **American Pickers** throughout the area in September.

We understand that with the proliferation of COVID-19, we are all facing very uncertain times. We at American Pickers are taking the pandemic very seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming as outlined by each state. While we plan to be in New England in September, we will continue to re-schedule if conditions change for the worse. Regardless, we are excited to continue to reach the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking!

**AMERICAN PICKERS** is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique “picking” on History. The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques. **They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.**

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America’s past along the way.

**Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they’ve never seen before.** They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them. **AMERICAN PICKERS** is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If **you** or **someone you know** has a **large, private collection or accumulation of antiques** that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send us **your name, phone number, location and description of the collection** with **photos** to:

[americanpickers@cineflix.com](mailto:americanpickers@cineflix.com) or call **855-OLD-RUST.**

facebook: **@GotAPick**



AMERICAN PICKERS is produced by Cineflix Productions for History. New episodes air Mondays at 9pm EST on History.

## News and NOTES

To donate ask your server to **DONATE A MEAL** and we will add \$10 to your check tonight OR visit [saltwater-grille.com](http://saltwater-grille.com) and click the **GO FUND THEM** link

Hi friends,

In these challenging times a comforting hot meal can brighten the day of a family in need. In the past two months we have donated 550 meals with your help.

These meals support our veterans and many families where a family member has a life-threatening condition that prohibits them from leaving the home during these times.

Every Thursday we prepare and deliver quality meals. We can do one high-quality meal for each \$10 donation. We post weekly updates on our Go Fund Them page and social media of how many people we help!

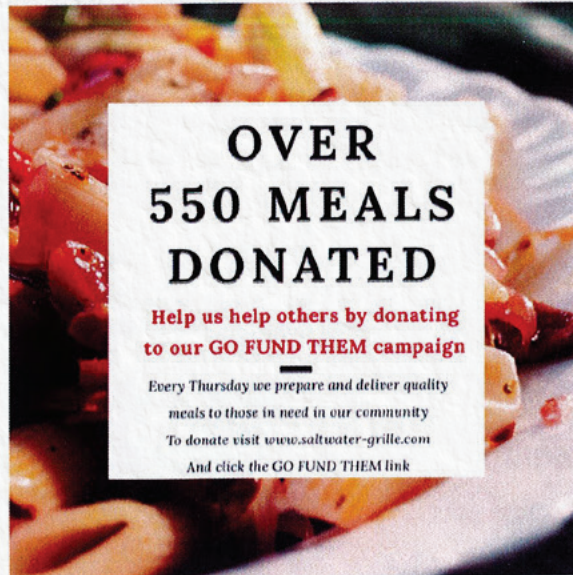
In addition to helping others, it also helps reemploy someone to coordinate the program and prepare the meals.

**Know a family or group in need? Let us know!** As a close-knit community, one thing we can be certain of in uncertain times, is that we have the power to band together and help one another. Questions? Email [SaltwaterRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:SaltwaterRSVP@gmail.com)

*Thanks for helping us help others!  
Brook & Andy*



[www.litchfieldsaltwatergrille.org](http://www.litchfieldsaltwatergrille.org)





# JCPenney

**This location only is  
CLOSING**

**Torrington Commons  
251 High ST Torrington CT 06790**

**Retail Fixtures,  
Furniture &  
Equipment for Sale**

Clothing Racks, Mannequins, Jewelry Displays,  
Christmas Décor, File Cabinets, Office Furniture,  
Pallet Racking, Shelving, Select Shopping Carts,  
Salon Equipment & more!\*

\*Selection may vary by location

For more information please contact:

Dan Hathaway

[dhathaway@consultantfortiger.com](mailto:dhathaway@consultantfortiger.com)

801-668-1874



*News and* **NOTES****NW REGIONAL WORKFORCE CONNECTION BOARD (NRWIB)**

**NORTHWEST REGIONAL  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

FIRST JOB | NEXT JOB | BEST JOB

As the Director of One-Stop Workforce operations in the NW region, I work closely with the NW Regional Workforce Connection Board (NRWIB). It is the charge of NRWIB to develop and sustain an effective labor market system that facilitates economic development and business growth in the NW region. I recently facilitated several meetings, the purpose of which was to gather information from industry sectors that will help drive NRWIB's strategic plan for workforce needs in the future, addressing COVID-19 and beyond. Updates to this strategic plan will be guided by information shared concerning skills needs, workforce trends and challenges, and how businesses are currently engaged with NRWIB and the AJC's. The following local businesses and training took part in these meetings: Seitz, Dymax, O & G, Systems Support Group, Whiteflower Farm, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, United Way, NCCC and EdAdvance.

*Information shared by Pam LaRosa*



**Connecticut State  
Colleges & Universities**

Dear CSCU Community:

On July 17, with Congressman John Lewis passing away, our nation lost its moral compass. From standing side by side with Dr. King, to surviving brutal beatings at the hands of segregationists, to his decades as the conscience of the Congress, John Lewis never stopped fighting for a better, more equitable country.

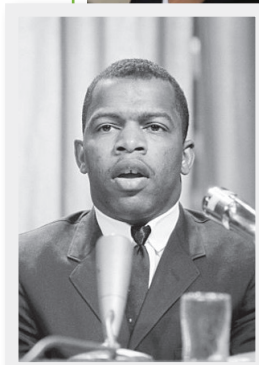
I can't help but feel that, as we grapple with our history of racism and segregation, we need John Lewis's voice now more than ever, and in the coming months and years, we will miss his guidance and perspective greatly. But we should find comfort and inspiration in his legacy of service and sacrifice. We should use his example to do everything in our collective power to make this world a more equitable place.

John Lewis was a personal hero of mine, as he was to so many. And while his death feels far too soon, I am in awe of the tremendous life he lived.

There will never be another John Lewis.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Ojakian  
President of the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities



# News and NOTES

## Round of Applause to...

Congratulation to **Dymax Corporation** on their 40th Anniversary



Thank you to **Meg Capen**, Certified Music Therapist and **Jacque Williams**, Chamber Board Member and Owner of Jacque Williams Entertainment for volunteering.



Congratulations to **Five Points Center** for the Visual Arts and the **City of Torrington** on their opening of the new campus at the former UCONN property on University Drive.



Thank you to **Saltwater Grille** for donating over 550 meals to those in need throughout the community.



[www.litchfieldsaltwatergrille.org](http://www.litchfieldsaltwatergrille.org)

Congratulations to **Attorney Audrey Blondin** who is the recipient of the Connecticut Bar Association's Citizen of the Law Award.



Find the latest employer guidance, resources, and information on the coronavirus pandemic >>

**Have COVID-19 questions?** Ask us here.

### Latest News

[Governor Expands Workers' Compensation System](#)

Adds rebuttable presumption that employees with COVID-19 caught it at work

[Pfizer Vaccine on Track to Beat COVID-19](#)

Positive clinical trial results could lead to FDA approval this fall

[State Revises COVID-19 Operating Guidelines](#)

Changes cover several sectors, including offices, retail, restaurants, hair salons

[Manufacturing Executive Will Lead State's New Workforce Office](#)

"I am looking forward to creating a world class workforce"

[CDC Updates COVID-19 Return to Work Guidelines](#)

Now allows for shorter isolation period

[Tri-State Self-Quarantine Travel List Now Covers 31 States](#)

Travelers arriving in Connecticut, N.Y., N.J., must isolate or face fines

[COVID-19 Forces Widespread Small Business Closures](#)

Businesses owned by minorities, women are hit hard

[Costly Financial Reporting Measure Targets Small Businesses](#)

U.S. Senate amendment could impact five million small businesses

## News and NOTES



While we have paused on the Phase 3 reopening of the state to protect the health of all of our residents, we have made some updates to our [industry-specific rules](#) after consulting with industry leaders and public health officials.

These updates provide more specific guidance, as well as new recommendations for a broad range of sectors. Highlights include:

- **New rules for [Indoor Recreation](#) and expanded guidance for [Outdoor Events](#).**
- **Changes impacting [Offices](#), [Personal Services](#), [Hair Salons & Barbershops](#), [Retail](#), [Libraries](#), etc.:**
  - Non-essential businesses have the right to refuse service to anyone not wearing a mask.
  - In the event an employee tests positive for COVID-19, it is recommended the business implement a 24-hour passive decontamination and follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting.
  - For bathrooms, the posting of signage encouraging reduced capacity and reminding individuals to wash their hands and wear masks is suggested.
- **Changes impacting [Restaurants](#):**
  - Servers are no longer required to wear gloves.
  - Indoor performances are now allowed (with the exception of musical vocalists).
- **[Hotels](#) are now permitted to provide non-essential services and amenities (e.g., valets, ice machines).**

These and other sector-specific updates go into effect immediately. Businesses and non-profits that have already completed the [self-certification](#) process as part of Phases 1 or 2 do not need to re-register, but must comply with any new rules for their sector.

Thank you for continuing to comply with these enhance protocols as we find new and better ways to get back to work safely.

Sincerely,

David Lehman, Commissioner

[david.lehman@ct.gov](mailto:david.lehman@ct.gov), (860) 500-2310





*Upcoming*

## CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

August 4th – Small Business Council – 8am  
August 5th – Insurance Committee – 8am  
August 5th – WOW Advisory – 9am  
August 6th – Membership Committee – 8am  
August 12th – Leads II – noon  
August 12th – Webinar – Bob Dickson – Leadership  
Re-Open - 9am – 11am  
August 13th – Leads III – noon  
August 19th – Health Council – 8am

August 24th – Leads I – 12 noon  
August 25th – Business with Breakfast – 8am  
August 26th – Leads II – 8am  
August 27th – Chamber Board of Directors – 8am  
August 27th – Leads III – 9am

Virtual Annual Meeting – September 25th at 11:45am  
Virtual WOW Forum – October 2nd - TBD