

**THANK YOU TO OUR
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PARTNERS**

Altek Electronics, Inc.

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Northwest Community
Bank

Nuvance Health
Sharon Hospital

O&G Industries, Inc.

The Register Citizen

Republican-American

Resource Development
Associates

TD Bank

Thomaston Savings
Bank

Torrington Savings
Bank

Union Savings Bank

Dear Friend,

Emily Dickinson has written this heartfelt verse:

*“Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the word
And never stops, at all.”*

It is with hope, determination and concern that we reach out to you in this time of turmoil. Thank you to all who have stepped up to the plate by sharing knowledge, resources and aid to those on the front line.

While we have closed the office temporarily, we continue to work remotely to make you aware of the resources available to businesses both small and large. Visit our website and refer to the Business Resources section for details and follow us on Facebook for updates.

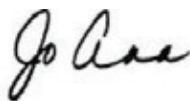
We want to continue our personal communications with you. Working with partners, we are establishing beneficial webinars, virtual network building opportunities, virtual committee and peer group meetings and more! Small business assistance through SCORE, the Workforce Investment Board, Small Business Administration, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Labor are only a phone call away and we are happy to facilitate your connection with them.

Your investment in the Chamber and the business community is exceptional and motivates us to enhance our initiatives especially during this unprecedented COVID-19. If you are able to continue your financial commitment at this time, we appreciate your commitment to do so.

If you are immediately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and are unable to remit your payment at this time, we understand. We will work with you until you are able to do so. Please reach out to me so we may plan.

Be assured that our efforts on your behalf will continue, perhaps in a new and different way and never cease. Our hope is that you, your colleagues, families and friends remain healthy and safe. Together we will surmount the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Ryan
President & CEO

JoAnn Ryan is President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached by email: joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org or phone: 860-482-6586

Upcoming

CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

May 5th – Small Business Council –
8 AM *HR Questions answered by HR Director*
May 7th – Membership Committee – 8AM
May 11th – Leads I – 12 Noon
May 13th – Leads II – 8AM
May 14th – Government Relations – 8AM
May 14th – Leads III – 12 Noon
May 25th – Leads I – 12 Noon
May 26th – Business With Breakfast – 8AM
May 27th – Leads II – 8am
May 28th – Leads III – 12 Noon

October 2nd – WOW! Forum –
Carole & Ray Neag Performing Center, The Warner Theatre

October 22nd – Annual Job Fair –
Torrington City Hall – 10AM to 3PM

**November 17th – Great Giveaway
Business Showcase –**
Torrington Middle School

**Annual Meeting and
Chamber Hall of Fame –**
Dates to be determine

Please register for all events – call in will be available to committee members. We encourage you to become involved. Call: 860-482-6586 or email: joann@nwtchamberofcommerce.org for more information.



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From the desk of JoAnn Ryan

Give A Little Love – Ziggy Marley



All aspects of our lives professionally and personally have abruptly changed due to COVID-19. It is gratifying to witness the adjustments everyone has made to continue business and life in general.

The Leads groups are one of our most popular initiatives thanks to the leaders and the participation of the members all meeting through ZOOM. It is worth the hour listening to a presentation by a selected member and participating in the roundtable discussion. This week Leads Group III met and began with a pleasant surprise from Meg Capen, a Board Certified Music Therapist. She sang Give A Little Love by Ziggy Marley beautifully while playing background music on her guitar. The lyrics below are inspiring.

“We got to give a little love, have a little hope, make this world a little better
Livin’ in this crazy world
So caught up in the confusion
Nothin’ is makin’ sense
For me and you
Maybe we can find a way
There’s got to be a solution
How to make a brighter day
Try a little more, harder than before
Let’s do what we can do together
We can really make it better, yeah
Got the worries on our minds
Got the troubles on our shoulders
Sometimes it just seems so much
What we go through
Maybe if we take the time
Time to understand each other
We can learn to make it right
What do we do
If everybody took somebody by the hand
Then maybe everyone could learn to love and understand
We got to give a little love, have a little hope
Make this world a little better
Try a little more, harder than before
Let’s do what we can together”

Please stay healthy, safe and strong.

Chamber Member

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Chamber member, Kris Roberts, managing partner at The Roberts Tax Group recently earned her doctoral degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix. Dr. Roberts’ research focused on tax compliance of small businesses. We decided to ask Kris why she chose to continue her education, what obstacles she overcame, and why she feels her research is important.

Your degree is a DBA. What is that and how is it different than a PhD? Good question! Both are considered terminal degrees. They are both research-based degrees, where the student must perform original research in a specific area and present it to a committee of experts and defend the research and its finding. The difference is that a DBA focuses on contribution to business theory and further development of professional practice.

How long did it take you to complete the program? It must have been difficult as a working adult? It took me about 6 years to complete. It is a 62-credit program which included not only classes like risk management, advanced leadership topics, and entrepreneurial financing, but it also includes courses on research methodologies and designs. I was also required to attend four in-person residencies in Phoenix. It was quite involved. You need to be self-motivating and focused. It is easy to put it to the side because you have work, family or community commitments, but you must continue to remember why you started on this path to begin with.

What was the focus of your research? Folks who know me know that I am a tax geek. I love all things related to federal taxation. Trying to figure it out. Trying to use tax law to help individuals and small business save money, stay out of trouble. Since my concentration was on entrepreneurial studies, I chose to research what factors influence the confidence of small business owners that their businesses are, in fact, federally tax compliant. Over the 20 plus years I have been in this field, I have seen business owners come in and be so sure they are completely compliant, but upon further look, I am surprised they are not in jail yet. Then I have other business owners who come in and are terrified the IRS is going to be hauling them off any day, but they are 100% compliant. So why is that? So many small businesses fail due to tax compliance issues and I wanted to understand why.

Coming Up At

NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER WOW FORUM



Molly Kellogg is the Chairman, CEO and President of Hubbard-Hall Inc., a provider of chemicals and formulated surface finishing specialties for industrial manufacturing. Hubbard-Hall was founded in 1869 as Apothecaries Hall and has been led by 6 generations of the Kellogg family. Molly joined the company after receiving her MBA from INSEAD (Fontainebleau, France) in 1993. She spent 20 years running the company's Wilmington, MA division including the 8 years as Executive VP with responsibility for corporate strategy before becoming President & CEO in 2014 and Chairman in 2019.

Molly grew up in Watertown, CT and was a day student at Taft School. After graduating from Princeton University (Princeton, NJ) in 1987 with a degree in Comparative Literature, Molly worked on the 1988 presidential campaign of Mike Dukakis in San Francisco. She continued doing advance work for local politicians, international leaders such as Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson Mandela and ultimately worked for Bill Clinton on his first presidential campaign in 1992.

In addition to serving as a Director of her family company, Molly currently sits on a regional Board of the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) and serves as a Trustee for Denny Land and Cattle. While raising her 4 children in Newton, MA, she volunteered for many years as a youth soccer coach and helped restart and coach the girls ice hockey program in that town. Molly continues to play ice hockey regularly and lives in MA with her husband John Frantzis.

Lesia A. Vanotti is the President & Chief Operating Officer of Torrington Savings Bank. In November of 2019 she was appointed as the Bank's future President & CEO effective October 1, 2020.

Vanotti, prior to November 2019, held the role of Senior Vice President, Treasurer & CFO. She joined Torrington Savings Bank as an Accounting Assistant in 1996. During her tenure she's held titles of Accounting Officer, Assistant Treasurer, and Vice President & Controller. She is a graduate of Torrington High School and Post College and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.

Vanotti is a Torrington native who is active in the community. She currently serves as a Trustee of the Torrington Library and Chair of the board of directors at Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington. She has served as a member of the St. Peter's School Board & Finance Committee, Asst. Treasurer of the United Way Board of Directors and, Secretary & Treasurer of the Women & Girls Fund of Northwest Community Foundation. Lesia is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and the Financial Manager's Society and is actively involved in the Connecticut Bankers Association School of Finance & Management.



She currently resides in Torrington with her husband, Tom. They have two grown children, Justin and Morgan.

Corporate Partners SHOUT OUTS

TORRINGTON SAVINGS BANK NAMES TWO NEW CORPORATORS

TORRINGTON, CT - Torrington Savings Bank is pleased to announce the addition of two new corporators elected at their annual meeting in February.

Lesa A. Vanotti: TSB's President & Chief Operating Officer

Lesa is a Torrington native and has held various positions with TSB since joining the Bank in 1996 with her most recent role held as the SVP, Treasurer & CFO.



Maria Gonzalez: New Opportunities, Inc., Director of Community Service

Maria is native of the Dominican Republic and a champion for Latino community striving to provide access to essential services, education, training & job placement.

The Corporators represent the founding members of Torrington Savings Bank when it was incorporated in 1868. New Corporators are nominated by the Bank's Board of Trustees at the semi-annual meetings.

Edwin G. Booth, Jr., Chairman of the Board stated: *"Lesa and Maria add a wealth of experience and local presence to our Board of Corporators. I look forward to their contributions to the Bank's success".*

NUVANCE HEALTH OPENS COVID-19 PLASMA DONATION CENTERS AT 3 HOSPITALS

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY, DANBURY & NORWALK, Conn. — April 23, 2020
Nuvance Health will launch three Convalescent Plasma Donation Centers, giving people who have recovered from COVID-19 an opportunity to donate potentially life-saving plasma to critically ill patients fighting the virus.



The Plasma Donation Centers are located at three Nuvance Health hospitals: Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY, and Danbury and Norwalk hospitals in Connecticut. Vassar Brothers Medical Center will open on Monday, April 27, followed by Norwalk Hospital on Wednesday, April 29, and Danbury Hospital on Friday, May 1.

"Plasma contains antibodies that can fight infection," said Dr. James Nitzkorski, a surgical oncologist at Nuvance Health. "When someone recovers from a COVID-19 infection, they do so, in part, because the antibodies can neutralize the virus and make someone better. That plasma is then taken from a donor, prepared and then given to a critically-ill, COVID-19 patient."

Nuvance Health has been using plasma for COVID-19 patients, working with the New York Blood Center and the American Red Cross to procure donations. Because the need is great, Nuvance Health has opened its own donor centers to meet the demands and to rapidly increase available plasma, Nitzkorski said.

To qualify, donors must meet the following criteria as set forth by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- COVID-19 confirmation with either positive swab or antibody test (antibody tests are expected but not currently available in our centers).
- 14-day, symptom-free interval with a repeat negative swab.

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- 28-day, symptom-free interval with NO need for a repeat swab.

To donate, interested individuals must first register at www.nuvancehealth.org/plasmadonorregistration. A staff member will contact the prospective candidates for further instruction. Priority is now being given to donors getting closer to the 28-day, symptom-free interval.

Once selected, participants will donate their blood plasma at one of the three Nuvance locations. The process is very similar to a blood transfusion.

The plasma will then be used for cases at all Nuvance Health hospitals, as well as stored for future use. For more information, visit Nuvance Health at www.nuvancehealth.org/plasmadonorcenters.

RICHARD DUPONT OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES

Rich has been active in the Greater CT business community for over 30 years as a business owner, manufacturer, an advocate for manufacturing, and as a champion for training, education and collaborative efforts that support community and economic development.



He has served the community as a volunteer and as a consultant to private and public sector organizations including nonprofits. He earned a degree in Industrial Management and with a focus on Environmental Control Technology and is well known for building strategic partnerships around his strengths in Workforce Development, Energy Management and Continuous Improvement. Some of his accomplishments include Co-Hosting Manufacturing Matters Radio, receiving the Webster Smith award for Manufacturing, CONNSTEP's award for Exceptional Manufacturing Achievements, the Greater Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce award for Leadership in the Community, Wellmore Behavior Health for Children & Families award for Volunteerism, the Watertown, Oakville Chamber of Commerce's Community Leader of the Year Award and most recently as a candidate for US Congress (DuPont for Congress) in Connecticut's St District 2018. The following represent some of the efforts Rich has been and continues to be a part of:

- President - Resource Development Associates (2004 - Present)
- Director of Community and Campus Relations - AMTC @HCC (Present)
- Program Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center @ Housatonic CC
- Executive Director of Institutional Advancement/ Director HCC Foundation
- Past President/ Current Member - Smaller Manufacturers Association of CT
- Member/ Co Chair, Education & Training Committee New Haven Manufacturers Association
- Member - New England Spring Manufacturers Committee
- Business Development Consultant - NW Regional Workforce Investment Board
- Business Collaborative Member - CT Department of Labor and CTDECD, P2E, The Workplace
- Co-Chair, Legislative Committee - CT Education Council for Manufacturing - Outreach
- Senate Appointee - Environmental Permitting Task Force
- Legislative Appointee - CTDMV - Foreign Document Review Work Group
- Chair - Greater Waterbury Regional Chamber's Manufactures Council
- Past Chair - Watertown-Oakville Chamber of Commerce
- Director/ Exec Committee/ Treasurer - Greater Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Member - Connecticut's Northwest Chamber of Commerce
- Committee Member - Statewide Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee
- Committee Member - CT Economic Resource Center - Mfg Work Group
- Member - Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council
- Director - Waterbury Development Corporation.
- Mentor - SMART Program (Skills for Manufacturing and Related Technologies) ACC, NVCC +
- Board of Directors - Career Resources, Bridgeport
- Advisory Committee Member - Waterbury Career Academy
- Board Member - Manufacturing Alliance Service Corporation - MASC
- Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative at Gateway Community College with Workforce Alliance

Corporate Partners SHOUT OUTS

STEPPING UP PRODUCTION: PUSHED HARD BY PANDEMIC, DYMAX DELIVERS

BY STEVE BARLOW REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

TORRINGTON — A local manufacturer of adhesives, coatings and equipment used in medical devices has ramped up its production to help meet the increased demand created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dymax Corp., headquartered on Industrial Lane, has boosted its workforce and expanded from two to three shifts since mid-March, when the cases of coronavirus in the U.S. started to mushroom.

Dymax produces adhesives and coatings that bond metals, glass and plastics in devices such as syringes, ventilators, respiratory support masks and breathing tubes, among others.

The company works with customers in the aerospace, automotive, defense and consumer electronics industries, but orders to its medical division have grown rapidly over the past month. In response, Dymax has hired 14 new employees, both temporary and permanent, since mid-March and has another two dozen positions it wants to fill, ranging from production operators to research and development technicians to product managers.

Previously running two shifts on a five-day work week, the company has increased to three shifts on a six-day week, according to Taylor Pepin, human resources administrator.

Founded in 1980 by Andrew Bachmann, Dymax is privately owned and operated by his son, Greg, the firm's president. It has approximately 250 employees in Torrington and also has facilities in Germany, Singapore, China and South Korea. "Dymax has been working with medical device manufacturers for 40 years to develop formulations that overcome next-generation challenges such as plastics that have become increasingly difficult to bond to and miniaturization of parts," said Michelle Evanoski, group product manager for Dymax.

In Torrington, Dymax has a research and development division that works on new formulas for its products and a manufacturing plant.



Its adhesives rapidly cure using ultraviolet or LED light. They are solvent-free and cure in seconds, which increases customers' output and moves products to market faster, Evanoski noted.

Dymax is not as large as some of its competitors, but that affords it the ability to respond quickly to customers' needs, according to Beth Schivley, global director of marketing and communications. "Our team of application engineers not only recommends solutions, but works with customers through material selection and manufacturing," Schivley said.

Dymax works with a wide range of customers around the globe from large manufacturers to small startups, but the names of those companies are a highly guarded secret that many employees don't even know, she added.



Premium MEMBERS

BRANDYWINE LIVING AT LITCHFIELD GETTING CREATIVE WHILE KEEPING RESIDENTS SAFE & CONNECTED



Similar to our local and national partners in the senior living and healthcare industries, Brandywine Living at Litchfield has been taking steps to keep our residents happy and healthy during the coronavirus pandemic. We stand in solidarity with all of the brave front-line workers who are going above and beyond during these uncertain times.

Our *Escapades...for Life!* team has been extremely focused on keeping our residents engaged, connected and positive in many new ways as social distancing one of the best tools we have to keep everyone healthy. From room-to-room gardening and flower arranging, happy-hour to go, special projects, creating care packages for our community and hospital workers, virtual field trips, video chats and window visits with family, to a fun hallway ice-cream truck, a little bit of cheer goes a long way!



For those families who are looking into Assisted Living or Memory Care

as a future option, our Community Relations team is offering real-time virtual tours, online information and individualized family consultations. Care packages with supplies and activities are available for seniors in the community who would like to have a little something to brighten their day! For more information, contact Amber Chapman at 860-567-9500 or achapman@brandycare.com

The Brandywine Living family would like to thank all of the people who have reached out to us to keep our residents and staff in good spirits. We are so pleased to be a part of such a wonderful community!



A MESSAGE FROM EVERSOURCE

While we work together to persevere through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, at Eversource we're focused every day on supporting our customers and providing safe, reliable service.

As part of our efforts to support small business customers, we're helping to connect them with available financial resources and increasing awareness about the provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act. And with our customers spending more time at home now than ever before, we continue to provide updated energy-saving tips to help them reduce their energy use and save money.

Last week also marked the annual celebrations of Earth Day and Arbor Day. In recognition of our year-round commitment to sustainability, we're offering ways our customers can take action to promote environmental stewardship while maintaining social distancing, including tips for safely planting trees.

At the same time, we remain focused on performing the essential work necessary to ensure reliability while continuing to take all necessary precautions under our pandemic plan to safeguard the health of our employees and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Thank you as always for your partnership as we work to safely and reliably deliver the essential energy services that our customers and communities are relying on in these unprecedented times. Please reach out to me at any time with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stephen Silver | Specialist

Community Relations & Economic Development | Eversource Energy

174 Franklin Street Torrington, CT 06790 | 860-496-5223 (office) | 203-446-7423 (cell)

stephen.silver@eversource.com

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Chamber Member **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

So, what did you find out? This is the cool part! I interviewed 20 small business owners from the northwest corner of the state. These were businesses in a variety of industries such as food service, professional services, real estate, and farming. The only thing they had in common was the requirement of having annual revenues of \$1M or less. What my research found was three main themes impacting confidence. The first was the reliance on an outside tax professional. Every participant used a tax professional. Sometimes the professional was deeply involved in daily accounting functions and sometimes, not so much. But the reliance on a tax pro increased confidence. The second theme was the complexity of the tax law. All participants felt the frequency of federal tax law changes, the complexity of the forms and instructions, all decreased their confidence in their compliance. A few participants even questioned whether the tax professionals they used were capable of keeping up with all the changes! The third finding, which also decreased confidence, was what I referred to as systemic issues with the IRS. What that means is all the little things no one likes about dealing with the IRS. Not being able to get someone on the phone, not being able to get useful guidance from the IRS, getting more than one answer to the same question, or just an overall perception that federal tax law as it relates to small businesses is unfair.

That is pretty interesting! Now what are going to do with this information? Well, no one reads dissertations. They are boring because they are written using very “academic” language. The trick is how to get the information out to people who can benefit. That would be business owners, the tax professional community, and various tax agencies. My first opportunity to disseminate the findings is by having my dissertation published in ProQuest. ProQuest is a database where most research is kept. It allows other researchers and students to gain access to my work, as well as all the other articles that they keep in the data base. My second opportunity will happen this August. I will be presenting my research at the Academy of Business Research conference. The ABR is an international society of both scholars and practitioners, and the goal is to exchange ideas and findings. My third opportunity will not come to fruition until this time next year. I am working with my committee chairperson (aka my academic mentor) to turn my dissertation into a manuscript for publication in an academic journal such as The Journal of Accountancy or something similar. I would also like to get my study in the hands of the IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. I was able to meet Chuck last year at a NATP conference, he was our keynote speaker and I am on the board of directors. It would be totally cool to be able to say that the Commissioner read my study. But closer to home, I am looking forward to presenting these findings to the small businesses in our community. I prepare and present a lot of seminars, workshops and lectures through many different civic and community organizations, so I will be looking forward to including the research in with those presentations.

Now what are you going to do? Ha-ha, maybe take a little break. Focus on my family, my beautiful granddaughters, take a few more cruises...and keep helping my clients navigate the craziness of taxation and how it impacts their lives and their businesses. It's what I do.

Chamber Member **NEWS**

NOW CHECKING IN AND CHECKING ON

Thank you to Kathy McAfee, America's Marketing Motivator, for including me on one of her Webinars devoted to Essential Communication in Turbulent Times. You may know Kathy who was the Master of Ceremonies at the 2017 WOW! Forum and speaker in 2015 and 2016. She is a burst of energy in good times and bad and full of outstanding ideas.

We are going forward with an idea she shared. It's entitled Checking In and Checking On. I loved it immediately and thought you would be very interested in hearing what Pam and I are doing.

First of all, we will be Checking In with "YOU":

Are you and your family healthy and safe?

How is your home office?

How are you doing with this new style of work remotely for many?

Do you need some encouragement and maybe laughter?

What support do you need?

Want to do a conference call with Chamber friends?

What can we do to help "YOU?"

Secondly, we will be Checking On "YOU and YOUR BUSINESS":

If you are on site, how did you prepare for a safe work environment?

What are your projects?

How are they going?

What is the focus of your work now?

What deadlines are you facing?

Do you have job openings?

Have you looked at our Business Resource page on the Chamber's Website?

Do you need help reaching out to the key players?

Would you like to participate in any conference calls with experts outlining the details on business resources?

What can we do to help "YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS?"

Please let me know if you would like a call immediately. Office: 860-482-6586 or Cell: 860-309-3318.

Looking forward to Checking In and Checking on!

MORE MEMBER NEWS

You do know that April Showers bring May flowers. When I see snowflakes, I wonder. However, this year a more appropriate phrase goes something like April Solitude brings May Gratitude brings June Fortitude.

All aspects of our lives professionally and personally have abruptly changed. We feel the impact that has touched many lives tragically and closed many of our businesses. Yet in solitude some of you have put yourselves in jeopardy by lovingly doing your job and in some cases risking your life. We are forever grateful to you. As we move forward through these stages, it is apparent that the strength and courage of our colleagues, families, friends and neighbors is what will help us to overcome this challenge and turmoil.

I do not have all the stories of the wonderful things that are happening out of love, kindness and generosity. If you know of any please let me know so that we can share the good news. Here are some of them from among the Chamber membership in no particular order or preference.

Evan Berns – Seitz LLC is keeping everyone updated on the locations for purchasing face masks.

NCCC – Students are applying their technical skills and knowledge to make face shields for health care workers.

Continued on Page 11

Rich Dupont – Resource Development Associates is on our Chamber website's Business Resource page with information on ordering safety equipment.

Eileen Marriott – KidsPlay has graciously offered to help businesses with the applications for PPP.

Ed Davis – Systems Support is getting us up to date technologically – particularly me at my home office.

Lance Leifert – Conquest Solutions has become the Master of Zoom Meetings for our Leads Groups, Small Business Advisory and Government Relations.

Dr. Kris Roberts – Congratulations on earning a PhD. Please see specifics in this newsletter under “Member in the Spotlight”.

City of Torrington – Thank you to Mayor Carbone and Rista Malanca, Economic Development Director for their collaboration with the Chamber in reaching out to many small businesses.

Dimitri Karouta – Rowley Grill & Tap and Ollie's are providing delicious meals to our neighbors in need through deliveries and pick-up.

Charlotte Hospital and Sharon Hospital – Sending us important updates pertaining to health issues available on the Chamber website Business Resource page.

Brook Noel and Andy Stowers at Litchfield Saltwater Grille – Offering “Go Fund Them” to feed In-Need Families and volunteer first Responders to 5 households per week. 40 meals this week.

Chamber **RESOURCES**

Dear Municipal EMDs and CEOs:

The State of Connecticut has partnered with CBIA-CONNSTEP to assist in the distribution of donated surgical masks to eligible, essential small businesses with 50 employees or less. This email is to inform you that a distribution of surgical masks to eligible, essential small businesses will occur within DEMHS Region 5 on Thursday, April 30, 2020 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. These eligible, essential small businesses and their employees located within your municipalities are the backbone of our economies and these masks will help to ensure their continuity.

Supplies for eligible, essential small businesses will be distributed to designated municipal representatives at the established Region 5 Point of Distribution located at the following addresses:

Northern Site

Goshen Fairgrounds
116 Old Middle St
Goshen, CT 06756

Southern Site

Waterbury-Oxford Airport
300 Christian Street
Oxford, CT 06478

Please see attached breakdown of which municipality reports to which POD site for pick-up.

Each municipality in Region 5 will pick up their “community pack” on Thursday, April 30, 2020. This “community pack” will contain masks for eligible, essential businesses that requested them through the CBIA-CONNSTEP portal. Businesses must not be directed to the Regional Points of Distribution, they will be turned away. It will be the

responsibility of each municipality to determine how these masks will be distributed to the businesses within their community; a distribution roster will be included in each business pack to assist the municipalities with this distribution.

We thank you for your continued partnership as we support all of our communities and stakeholders during the COVID-19 response and recovery phases. Healthcare workers and first responders continue to be a priority with our distribution strategy for varying types of PPE.

Please direct all questions to your DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator, John Field.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are eligible, essential small businesses?

Eligible, essential small businesses must have 50 employees or less with a need for surgical masks.

The list of essential businesses is available here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Business-Exemptions-for-Coronavirus>

Should all eligible, essential small businesses request masks?

Eligible, essential small businesses and employees that have limited contact with the public are strongly urged to create their own facemasks following CDC guidelines. We must ensure the limited supply of surgical masks is available to eligible, essential businesses that need them the most.

How many times can surgical masks be used?

The CDC recommends the preservation of necessary PPE by instituting extended use policies. Additionally, FEMA, recommends preservation methods to reduce, reuse and repurpose PPE. Both FEMA and CDC guidelines can be found here.

Is there a limit to the number of Surgical Masks that can be requested?

Eligible, essential small businesses must limit their total request to 2 surgical masks per employee. The maximum request should not exceed 100 masks.

Region 5- Level 2,3 & 4 PPE POD's 4/26/2020	
North	South
Goshen Fairgrounds 116 Old Middle Street Goshen, CT	Waterbury/Oxford Airport 300 Christian Street Oxford, CT
Barkhamsted	Beacon Falls
Bethlehem	Bethel
Canaan (Falls Village)	Bridgewater
Colebrook	Brookfield
Cornwall	Danbury
Goshen	Middlebury
Hartland	Naugatuck
Harwinton	New Fairfield
Kent	New Milford
Litchfield	Newtown
Morris	Oxford
New Hartford	Prospect
Norfolk	Redding
North Canaan	Ridgefield
Plymouth	Roxbury
Salisbury	Sherman
Sharon	Southbury
Thomaston	Waterbury
Torrington	Watertown
Warren	Wolcott
Washington	Woodbury
Winchester	

How do eligible, essential small businesses make a request?

Eligible, essential small businesses can make a request on the CBIA-CONNSTEP Portal at the following link: www.ctcovidresponse.org/ct-smb-surgical-mask-requests. At this time, only surgical masks are available to eligible, essential small businesses.

Are healthcare workers and first responders receiving PPE?

Yes, healthcare workers and first responders continue to receive priority distributions of varying types of PPE as they are made available. First responders should continue to make resource requests through the local Emergency Management Director.

How often will this distribution to small businesses be occurring?

At this time, this is a one-time distribution of masks to eligible, essential small businesses in Connecticut.

Will every requestor receive masks?

Supplies are limited at this time; therefore, it is possible that not all requestors will receive the masks they request.



Upcoming

CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

May 5th – Small Business Council –
8 AM *HR Questions answered by HR Director*
May 7th – Membership Committee – 8AM
May 11th – Leads I – 12 Noon
May 13th – Leads II – 8AM
May 14th – Government Relations – 8AM
May 14th – Leads III – 12 Noon
May 25th – Leads I – 12 Noon
May 26th – Business With Breakfast – 8AM
May 27th – Leads II – 8am
May 28th – Leads III – 12 Noon

October 2nd – WOW! Forum –
Carole & Ray Neag Performing Center, The
Warner Theatre

October 22nd – Annual Job Fair –
Torrington City Hall – 10AM to 3PM

**November 17th – Great Giveaway
Business Showcase –**
Torrington Middle School

**Annual Meeting and
Chamber Hall of Fame –**
Dates to be determine

Please register for all events – call in will be available
to committee members. We encourage you to become
involved. Call: 860-482-6586 or email: joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org for more information.