

'Twas The Night Before Christmas 2020

'Twas the year 2020, and all through the house
every creature was stirring, from Human to Mouse.
The stockings were tossed on the chimney, who cares,
it's been months since we entertained, would Saint Nick
even dare?

The children were nestled all snug in their beds
as visions of rubber gloves danced in their heads.
and Mama in her gaiter and me and my mask,
had just settled our brains for a long cleaning task.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter.
I sprang from my mop to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash.
I peeked through the shutter, barely touching the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
gave me faith that someday we'd have somewhere to go.
When what do my wondering eyes should appear,
but a miniature sleigh, and eight spotless reindeer.

With a little old driver decked out in full gear,
I knew in a moment we'd have Christmas this year!
More safely than Hazmat the reindeer they came,
and he whistled and shouted and called them by name.

Now Clorox! Now Pine-Sol! Now Lysol and Purex!
On Comet! On Purell! On Top Job and Germ-X!
Wipe the top of the porch! Then the top of the wall!
Now wipe away! Wipe away! Wipe away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
when they finished and then took a jump to the sky.
So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew.
With a sleigh full of masks, and Saint Nicholas too!

And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof,
the pawing of each little rubber gloved hoof.
As I pulled up my mask and was turning around,
Down the chimney a big bucket came with a bound!

It was covered in plastic from bottom to top,
and the contents were sterile, despite the long drop.
I missed seeing his eyes and his dimples so merry.
But this virus prevents that, these times are so scary.

I imagined his face and his little round belly,
That shook when he laughed like hand sanitizer jelly.
but I saw him outside though, as he stood near his sleigh,
and I laughed when I saw him, from six feet away.

With a wink of his eye and a wave of his hand,
I felt warm inside, Santa too understands.
And without a word I went right to my work.
I filled all our stockings, then turned with a jerk

And laying a finger aside of his mask,
The reindeer rose up, they had finished their task.
He waved to me then, to his team gave a shout,
and socially distancing, quickly flew out.

But I heard him proclaim as he drove out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all, we will all be all right!

Carole L. Campbell | 2020



*From the Desk of Our
President & CEO*

JOANN RYAN



Staying Young at Heart

Thanks to Mike Chadwick for this article that appeared in his newsletter a number of years ago. Its content seemed to be relevant today considering what we are facing with COVID-19. Here are some tips that will help you stay “Young at Heart” and keep you healthy and happy.

Throw out nonessential numbers – age, height, outside temperature and anything else you cannot control. Focus on those areas you can control and register for some of our Webinars on timely topics. Watch for the next version of the Myths & Reality of COVID – 19. Excellent!

Keep cheerful, positive friends who understand what you are confronting and listen to your complaints. Precisely why we initiated the Peer Groups – manufacturing, healthcare, insurance, small business, restaurants and retail - that meet virtually every month. Most informative and enjoyable!

Learn every day – we now have the resources to simply go online to find the answers to a number of questions and can introduce you to resources that help you solve any dilemma.

Surround yourself with what you love – family, friends, hobbies, and some keepsakes. Downsizing also helps to remove some of the unnecessary clutter. My desk reflects this one!

Move on – tears are a part of life and help to cleanse your spirit – but always look forward to the next exciting adventure like some of the virtual events we are scheduling that will motivate and help you.

Laugh, laugh, laugh – often, loud and hard. You will do that once you start attending some of our Leads groups to learn about each other’s business but also to make new friends. It is fun!

Enjoy the options – this will help you achieve balance and flexibility during these unusual times. We are celebrating Chamber Day around the U.S. everyday to focus on you and our local businesses who contribute immeasurably to our community.

Please watch for announcements that will make a special impact on you to keep you young at heart.

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

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25 Days of Hope

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 Whiting Mills \$100 Gift Certificate to the shops	1 Northwest Community Bank \$100 Big Y	2 Torrington Savings Bank Ski Sundown Passes	3 Hatfield & Co. Jewelers Bracelet	4 Resource Devel. Assoc. \$100 GC to The Village	5 Venetian Restaurant \$100 Gift Certificate
6 Brooker Memorial Electric Toothbrush Basket	7 Northwest Hills Credit Union Yeti Cooler & Picnic Stuff	8 Litchfield Hills Nursery \$100 Gift Cert	9 Rowley & Ollie's 2-\$25 GC to Rowley 2-\$25 GC to Ollie's	10 Berkshire Hathaway Lily & Vine Floral Arrang	11 Lowe's Tool Set	12 Barron Financial Group TBD
13 Hickory Stick Book Store \$100 Gift Cert	14 WZBG \$150 Gas Card to A&R Autobody	15 KidsPlay Family Membership (\$150)	16 Staples Gift Certificate	17 Residential Resorts LLC Waterproof Digital Camera	18 Jersey Mike's Bose Speaker	19 Litchfield Bancorp \$100 Gift Certificate—True Value of Litchfield
20 Black Bear Music Festival 6 Fall Festival Passes (\$750)	21 Lowe's Tool Set	22 Servicemaster \$175 Carpet Cleaning	23 SCORE Restaurant gift cards	24 TMTFCU	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Upcoming

CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

- | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|--|
| Dec. 1 | Small Business Council – 8 am | Dec. 15 | Insurance Committee Meeting – 8 am |
| Dec. 3 | Membership Committee Meeting – 8 am | Dec. 17 | Chamber Board of Directors Meeting – 8 am |
| Dec. 7 | Leads 1 – 12 noon | Dec. 17 | Celebration of Success and Leadership Graduation – 12 noon |
| Dec. 9 | Leads 2 – 9 am | Dec. 22 | Business with Breakfast- 8 am |
| Dec. 10 | Government Relations Committee – 8 am | Dec. 24 – Jan.1 | Closed for the holiday |
| Dec. 10 | Leads 3 – 12 noon | | |
| Dec. 11 | How to Grow Your Business During COVID-19 Seminar Presented by: Lance Leifert – 8-9:30 am | | |



Torrington 309

One business success...

leads to another...

meets another...

helps another...

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Rebuild.
Recharge.

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REPRICED
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MEMBERSHIPS
FOR THE
CHANGING TIMES
WE'RE IN!

Reconnect.

- Workshops, Webinars
- Networking, Sales Leads
- Connections to American Job Center, Department of Labor and the NW Regional Workforce Investment Board
- Industry-Specific Peer Groups
- Communication, Access to Local, State and Federal Leaders
- Marketing Channels
- News Updates and Communications





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Company Name _____

Contact Person _____ Title _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Website _____

Type of Business _____

Number of Employees _____

Description of Business (25 words or less) _____

**JOIN NOW!
NEW, REDUCED
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
RATES!**

Limited Time!

MEMBERSHIP – ANNUAL DUES before December 31, 2020
Convenient payment plans are available.

- For Profit Business, Single Person Company: \$ ~~300~~ *Now \$199*
- For Profit Business, Two FT Employees: \$ ~~350~~ *Now \$299*
 Three or more, \$299 and ~~\$9~~ *Now \$7* per FT employee \$ _____
- Non-Profit Organizations or Retired Professional: \$ ~~225~~ *Now \$179*

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership automatically renews on your anniversary date and is continuous until a written resignation is received. For federal income tax purposes, membership dues and contributions to the Chamber are deductible as business expenses. Lobbying expenses are not deductible for federal tax purposes. The Chamber uses approximately 4.3% of dues for lobbying expenses. This portion of your dues is therefore not deductible for tax purposes.

www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org



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FREE GIVEAWAYS!

25 Days of Hope for the Holidays

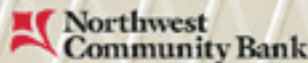
November 30 – December 24
visit our website to enter to win a new prize each day! Prizes are all worth at least **\$100** and there's no purchase necessary.

Check our Facebook page and Listen to FM 97.3 WZBG each day to hear the prize of the day and the winner from the previous day!

Winner will be announced on our Facebook page after 4 pm each day and on FM 97.3 WZBG the following morning.

Enter to win at nwctchamberofcommerce.org
Entry deadline-4pm each day
No purchase necessary to win. One entry per person, per day.

25 Days of Hope for the Holidays is Sponsored By:



Northwest Hills Credit Union

Celebration of Success

During this Holiday Season we are thrilled to recognize the honorees of the Chamber's 2020 Celebration of Success. Ralph Waldo Emerson described success as the following:

*"To laugh often and much;
to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others,
to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;
to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded."*

Here are some amazing stories of success as we continue the tradition of honoring individuals and institutions that have demonstrated exceptional and unselfish service to our Northwest region. They are distinguished leaders and truly meet the criteria established for recognition: Contribution to the business environment; Community involvement; and Commitment to the overall improvement in the quality of life in Northwest Connecticut.

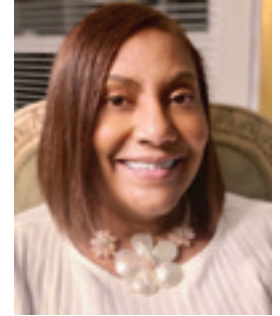
Stephen P. Reilly, President & CEO of Northwest Community Bank and its parent company, Connecticut mutual Holding Company, is the Chamber's 2020 Business Leader. He has been employed as a community banker at Northwest for 24 years having spent the majority of his career in commercial banking where he helped businesses throughout the Northwest corner and Farmington Valley. He joined Northwest Community Bank in 1996 as a commercial lending officer and since that time has served as Senior Vice President, Chief Lending Officer, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, President & CEO and President & CEO of Connecticut Mutual Holding Company.



Steve embodies the community banking model of strong ties to the community with active service to numerous non-profit organizations including the Northwest Community YMCA, Northwestern Connecticut

Community College and the United Way of NW Connecticut. If one were to inquire about the strong voice of community bankers, there is no question as to our response...Steve Reilly. Our Chamber and the business community are all the better due to his leadership.

Maria Gonzalez embodies Community Involvement and has been selected as the 2020 Chamber Community Leader. Her education and extensive background as a Community Health Worker, with a certificate from the UCONN Urban and Community Studies, the Dominican American Coalition



and Dominican Embassy in NY helped her become the voice of and for the growing Latino community. Her accomplishments are outstanding and numerous through initiatives she established: the after-school Youth Group program for Middle and High School students, the bilingual component of the Nursing Assistance Program at NCCC, and the Northwest Community Latina Woman Association.

She has served on the Mayor of Torrington's Cultural Committee, Women and Girls Fund, Chief of Police Community Action Committee and the Juvenile Review Board to reduce youth substance abuse. Board membership reaches far and wide: NW CT Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Ed Advance, Torrington PAL, The Gathering Place, and Community Health & Wellness. She is also a incorporator for the NW Community Bank, Torrington Savings Bank and Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial. There is no question that Maria truly deserves this honor and recognition.

Selected for the Quality of Life Award is KidsPlay Children's Museum established in downtown Torrington. The amazing story began in 2010 when a small group of community leaders examined and responded to some of the challenges that children and families face in the northwest corner of Connecticut. They envisioned an opportunity to enrich the lives of children and to contribute to the revitalization of Torrington through the creation of a children's museum.

Celebration of Success (*Cont'd*)



In 2012, KidsPlay opened, offering a safe and stimulating environment for purposeful play that is accessible to children and families across the socio-economic and educational spectrum. It has rapidly become an anchor institution in downtown Torrington attracting families from the entire region and well beyond. In 2017, KidsPlay added 140% more visitor space with the opening of the North Gallery.

KidsPlay welcomed its 200,000th visitor in 2019, established the KidsPlay Endowment Fund and purchased 57 Main Street for future expansion. Thanks to the brilliance of its founder, the Museum Director and staff, its Board of Directors and Advisors, as well as the thousands who have visited and supported KidsPlay, we are proud to honor this fine institution with the 2020 Chamber Quality of Life Award.

Please join us virtually on Thursday, December 17th at noon as we celebrate the success of our outstanding 2020 leaders in recognizing their contributions and applauding their extraordinary efforts.



Attitudes of Gratitude

Greetings – *Wishing you the happiest and healthiest of holidays.*

Good – Don Klepper-Smith gave a sobering but excellent presentation at the Economic Forecast meeting in November. We are grateful to him and to Dennis House, who was the Master of Ceremonies. It was a good event!

Great – Great month is upon us featuring the **25 Days of Hope for the Holidays**. Check out the website to enter so that you can win one of the exciting prizes donated by a special business each day. Thank you to **WZBG** for partnering with us to feature 25 businesses and to offer you the opportunity to win some great prizes.

Generous – There are so many reasons to be grateful during the pandemic. We are able to adjust to the major change in the way we are doing business because of the generosity of our Corporate Partners and Premier Members listed in this Newsletter.

Genuine – Congratulations to the Celebration of Success honorees: **Steve Reilly, Business Leader; Maria Gonzalez, Community Leader; and KidsPlay Children's Museum, Quality of Life Award**. Carolyn Morrison, Chairwoman of the Chamber Board and I had the privilege of informing them of this honor. Their humility and sincerity when they responded was heartwarming.

Gorgeous – You must take a ride through **Downtown Torrington** during the evening to see the white lights everywhere. You will also be amazed with Franklin Plaza that adds so much to the beautiful area. Congratulations to Mayor Carbone and her colleagues for bringing this project to its completion.

Glowing – Hopefully you were able to drive through the **Winter Wonderland at Action Wildlife** presented by Board members and volunteers of **St. John Paul the Great Academy** and to view the season's very special virtual **Nutcracker with the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts** performed on the Warner Stage.

Grateful – We count our blessings each and every day thanks to all of you.

New Benefits for CHAMBER MEMBERS



"Peace of Mind with a Place to Turn"

defend-id is an identity theft protection company headquartered in Canton, CT. Since its launch in 2018, defend-id has been offering small businesses and individuals identity theft protection services which include extensive identity theft monitoring as well as full-service recovery and insurance in the event of any unexpected loss. defend-id's mission is to provide peace of mind with a place to turn.

Living in an ever-increasing online world, Identity Exposure is a challenge for all of us. But when your identity is stolen, there is a whole new set of challenges that come along. Identity theft is an all-consuming, stressful, and costly experience for an individual and their employer that Brian Thompson, CEO of defend-id knows all too well.

Thompson became a victim of identity theft in early 2017. He spent many stressful and frustrating hours at the office and at home trying to recover his identity, which led him to question if there was an easier or better way.



There is a better way! Identity Theft protection providers monitor, insure against loss, and help individuals fully recover their identity. Access for individuals and large corporations, through employee benefits packages, are readily available and do provide these services. But there was a very large gap in the industry where small businesses were almost entirely overlooked and

underserved due to costly implementation processes and overhead of the identity theft providers. The identity theft protection industry was choosing to leave the large majority of businesses and their employees exposed without access to viable, cost-effective solutions.

As a board member of the Thompson Agency, a local insurance business, Brian saw the opportunity and need to incorporate this protection into the small business arena. The result was defend-id an identity theft protection company designed to serve individuals and small businesses with the same level of protection that the large business market and their employees have access to, at large corporate discounted pricing. "We felt it was extremely important to create access to small businesses where the effects of identity theft can have a truly detrimental impact on the companies and the families that work at them."

With defend-id, small businesses are now able to offer identity theft protection services as an employee benefit, with little or no cost to the company. With the average identity theft victim spending on average \$7,300 per incident and over 56 hours trying to recover their identity at work, according to the FTC, defend-id is able to drastically cut that time and cost down, allowing employees to stay focused at work. With defend-id, employees will work with a certified identity theft recovery expert who takes care of everything, drastically reducing the stress and distraction of an individual/employee who has had their identity stolen.

How they do it: defend-id provides three pillars of protection.

Detect and Alert	Recover	Insure Against Loss
<p>We help keep your identity secure... At defend-id, we search for and monitor threats to your employees personal identities. We'll notify them through text and email anytime we uncover a threat.</p> 	<p>We save your company time and money... If an employee's identity is stolen, one of our personal Recovery Advocates will take over every step of the recovery process and stick with it until full recovery is achieved.</p> 	<p>We've got your company covered... Your plan includes insurance that covers expenses an employee may incur throughout the identity recovery process.</p> 

Continued on page 11

New Benefits for CHAMBER MEMBERS

Why they do it:

<p>We're all at Risk!</p>	<p>Lights Out!</p>
<p>14,800,000</p> <p>14.8 million Americans were victims of Identity-Theft in 2018.</p>	<p>66%</p> <p>66% of small businesses experiencing a data-breach are out of business in 12 months.</p>
<p>Small Business Targets</p>	<p>Data Breach</p>
<p>67%</p> <p>67% of small businesses experienced a cyber attack in 2018.</p>	<p>\$3,620,000</p> <p>\$3.62 Million: the average cost of a data breach</p>

“Now more than ever, Identity theft is a serious concern for our agents and clients, and we are so excited to be able to provide our solutions which really do create peace of mind with a place to turn. Identity theft is stressful, intrusive and costly to the individual and the company, but with defend-id, we can really make a bad situation better for the individual and the company,” says Brian Thompson



defend-id has the endorsement of the Wilson Chamber of Commerce in NC, Canton Chamber of Commerce, Today Magazine, Birchwood Credit Services, AmWINS, The Thompson Agency, and is the exclusive provider of identity protection to members of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA).

For more information on defend-id’s services and their free offering in response to COVID-19 please contact Brian at is at 860.406.7961 or brian@defend-id.com On the web at www.defend-id.com





GOLD AND PLATINUM BENEFIT SUMMARIES

EVERY TWO SECONDS IDENTITY THEFT IS COMMITTED

There are many ways identity theft can occur. While you cannot completely prevent ID-theft from occurring, there are ways to protect yourself. Taking proactive steps now can reduce its debilitating impacts and help you restore your good name.



Detect & Alert

We search for and monitor threats to your personal identity. We do the work so you don't have to.



Recover

Sometimes it still happens. If it does, your Recovery Associate will take over every step of the process.



Insure Against Loss

It won't be your loss. Your plan covers expenses you might incur while recovering your identity.

"Peace of Mind With a Place to Turn"

We're founded on more than a century of service and backed by industry experts.



defend-id

www.defend-id.com



Can your company stand up to these qualifications?

Flashpoint Health & Wellness Program

Created to add value to your local Chamber of Commerce Membership

- ***Managing the increasing Cost of Providing Health Insurance Benefits***
- ***Attracting & Retaining Quality Employees***
- ***Effective Communication & Education of current Benefits***
- ***Enhancing Employee Benefits while staying within the Budget***

Flashpoint Health & Wellness is designed to help resolve these issues while costing the business nothing to implement. The **Flashpoint** solutions are customized to the individual needs of each business.

The *Flashpoint Health & Wellness Program* provides a company the possibility to:

- ***Saves companies on their FICA Taxes / Average Savings of \$550- per year / per participant***
- ***Reduces Workers Compensation Claims by roughly 1.5%***
- ***Generates between a \$100- / \$150- Wellness Reserve Benefit for participating Employees***
- ***Employees Reserve Benefit is used to elect Voluntary Benefit coverage***
- ***Accident / Critical Illness / Dental / Disability / Life***

Employees know they are financially exposed if faced with an Accident, Illness or disability. That's why over 80% of workers with Health Insurance are willing to pay for additional benefits with their own money. Utilizing the **Flashpoint Health & Wellness Program** your employees won't need to pay out of pocket to protect their family's financial well-being.

As the employer you will enhance your current benefits package, provide your employees with a Wellness plan while providing them with the opportunity to purchase valuable and needed insurance policies without effecting their take home pay. You can do all that for your employees while saving the company a substantial amount of money. It truly is a Win-Win situation.

**To learn more, please reach out to Steve Glick of
Chamber Insurance Trust at 800-953-4467**

The "New Look" of the Office Christmas Party

Show appreciation to your staff by ordering them one of our individual holiday meals... packaged with a red ribbon!

Mrs. Claus's Lunch Box-

Choice of:

- *Ham, Cheese and Asparagus Puff Pastry
- *Chicken Salad with Feta and Cranberry in a Spinach Wrap

Served with:

- Cranberry Waldorf Salad
- Shaved Brussel Sprout Slaw
- Chewy Cherry Truffle

\$15.00

Rudolph's Grazing Antipasto Box-

- Cheeses, Soppressata, Olives, Grapes, Crackers, Hummus, Candied Pecans
- Chewy Cherry Truffle

\$17.00

Santa's Gourmet Dinner-

Choice of:

- *Red Wine Braised Boneless Short Rib
- *Stuffed Chicken with Creamy Spinach and Artichoke
- *Everything Crusted Salmon

Served with:

- Candied Pecan, Pear and Pomegranate Salad
- Roll with Flavored Butter
- Mascarpone Mashed Potatoes and Vegetables
- Gourmet Chocolate Confection

\$25.00

All prices subject to tax. Delivery available. Pricing for Buffet Style upon request.

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860-806-8123

CALL FOR MORE INFO
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CONTACT:

Brian Mattiello, 860-496-6789

Brian.mattiello@hhchealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2020

CHH COVID Drive-Through Testing Relocating to 211 High Street in Torrington December 7th.

(TORRINGTON, CT) – The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital COVID Drive-Through Testing site will be relocating from the Hospital's outpatient parking area to 211 High Street in Torrington. The move, effective Monday, December 7, will increase testing capacity heading into the winter months and will alleviate congestion around the current site on hospital hill.

The new, accessible location is a mile from the current Hospital in the former JC Penney parking area and has a larger footprint to handle the influx of people seeking COVID testing.

Testing is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. with 7-9 a.m. as specific times for patients needing pre-surgery or medical procedure testing. If you do not require a test before a surgery or procedure, please consider arriving for testing later in the day.

This testing is for patients who are experiencing symptoms and may have possible exposure. They are tested without leaving their vehicles. The testing can accommodate adults and children of all ages, when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. To help expedite testing, you are encouraged to get a doctor's referral. If you do not have a doctor, call the Hartford HealthCare Community Care Center at 1.833.621.0600 for assistance.

How does it work? Patients drive up to the testing site where the test is performed by highly-trained colleagues outfitted in protective clothing, including a gown, goggles, mask and gloves. There are two types of tests. Both are effective in diagnosing COVID-19. In one, our colleague uses a long swab to sample in the back of the patient's nose. In the other test, the patient (under supervision of the colleague) swabs in the inside of both nostrils. The colleague collects the sample and it is sent for evaluation.

After testing, patients are given follow-up instructions and information about self-isolation. Patients receive their results online through [MyChart](#). Turnaround time is usually 3-4 days.

Hartford HealthCare has performed more than 500,000 tests since March, and is operating drive-through testing centers at several locations across Connecticut including Bradley International Airport and the Hartford Convention Center.

Visit HartfordHealthCare.org/testing for the latest testing updates and information or call the 24-hour coronavirus hotline toll-free at [1.833.621.0600](tel:18336210600).

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CORPORATE PARTNERS



CONTACT: Brian Mattiello, 860-496-6789
Brian.mattiello@hhchealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2020

CHH Reinstating Visitor Restrictions Due To Rising COVID-19 Infections - Effective November 30th

(TORRINGTON, CT) Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) will be updating its visitor policy and restricting visitors to its Inpatient Units, including the Behavioral Health Unit, ICU, and Emergency Department due to rising COVID 19 infections. The move is an additional safety precaution until further notice. Please note there will be exceptions for end of life care and for patients who require an escort during surgical and diagnostic procedures or for outpatient visits in the Hospital building.

This policy change applies to the Main Hospital building and Emergency Department only. The CHH campus Medical Office Building at 538 Litchfield Street and all other CHH offsite facilities and provider practices including the Center for Cancer Care are not affected at this time.

All incoming patients coming through the main entrance will continue to be screening: Asked to wear a face mask and temperature check. One escort per patient is allowed for inpatient and outpatient surgery and procedures. Patients with disabilities who receive care may also have a designated support person present with them to support their disability needs.

Individuals are asked **NOT** to visit the hospital if they are ill or have symptoms of cold or flu. And, as has been the case, the Hospital follows the State of Connecticut restrictions for anyone who is traveling from, or recently visited a "red" state.

Current entrance restrictions include:

- **OPEN:** Emergency Department is OPEN 24/7 to patients **ONLY**.
- **OPEN:** Main Front Entrance is OPEN to patients and vendors **ONLY**. All individuals will be health screened and have their temperature taken.
- **OPEN:** Turner Coe Annex Entrance is OPEN to patients **ONLY** who will be health screened and have their temperature taken.
- **CLOSED:** Outpatient/Blood Draw Entrance is CLOSED to patients/visitors. Please enter the main entrance for Quest Diagnostics/Blood Draw.

For more information, visit dedicated coronavirus websites in English at www.hartfordhealthcare.org/coronavirus and Spanish at <https://espanol.hartfordhealthcare.org/pacientes-y-visitas/coronavirus-covid-19>.

You can get text updates by texting keyword COVID19 to 31996. In addition, we offer a 24-hour coronavirus hotline, [860.972.8100](tel:860.972.8100) or, toll-free, [833.621.0600](tel:833.621.0600).

###

*Corporate***PARTNERS****SHARON HOSPITAL PRESIDENT TO UPDATE COMMUNITY ON DECEMBER 14**

Sharon, Conn. — Sharon Hospital, part of Nuvance Health, will host its online “Community Update” from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14, via online livestream video.

Members of the surrounding community are invited to join the virtual webinar to hear from hospital President Dr. Mark Hirko. He will discuss the latest hospital developments and updates on the affiliation that created Nuvance Health. The independent monitor engaged by Nuvance Health will be present to report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by Connecticut’s Office of Health Strategy.

A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org or calling (845) 554-1734 with their name and phone number.

Questions can also be mailed to: Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum, 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, Conn., 06069.

Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting are posted on the hospital’s website: www.nuvancehealth.org/CTforums.

The recorded session and a copy of the digital presentation will be accessible on the website following the event. To request a physical copy by mail, please call (845) 554-1734 (TTY/Accessibility: (800) 842-9710).

CONTACT

Marina Ballantine, Associate, Public and Community Affairs
(845) 554-1734 | marina.ballantine@nuvancehealth.org

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EVERY CUSTOMER COUNTS™

LITCHFIELD BANCORP DISTRIBUTES TURKEYS TO EMPLOYEES & LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

(Litchfield, CT) – Litchfield Bancorp along with Collinsville Bank and Northwest Community Bank have teamed up with Miller Farms to provide turkeys to all its employees. For every turkey handed out to an employee, one is donated to a local community food pantry.

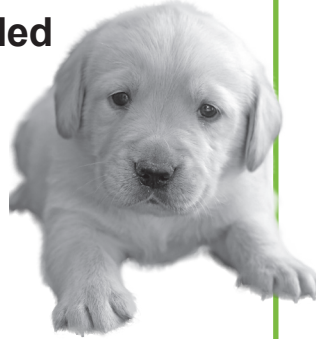
“It’s a small thank you to our staff for all their hard work this year and in turn helps provide meals to those in need. Some of our employees graciously paid it forward and donated their turkey for a grand total of 210 turkeys distributed to the local food pantries.” said Thomas Villanova, President and CEO of Litchfield Bancorp. “This year has been especially challenging for everyone in our communities, but Litchfield Bancorp as well as Collinsville Bank and Northwest Community Bank has weathered difficult times since 1850 and we will continue to be there for our employees, customers and community for many more years to come.



Pictured: from Left to Right: Tom Villanova, Danielle Audia and her son Robert receiving their turkey

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

*Chamber Member***IN THE SPOTLIGHT****URGENT! Puppies Needed NOW! Residents wait for Service Dogs**

Due to the debilitating effect COVID-19 is having on all aspects of daily life, ECAD is sending out an urgent request to the community. ECAD is the Winchester, CT, based not for profit that provides expertly trained Service Dogs to people with a wide variety of disabilities.

ECAD is facing an **unprecedented financial crisis** which is forcing decisions to be made that could be detrimental to the lives of people living with disabilities. People who need these dogs more than ever in these trying times. People who are living in even greater isolation in fear of COVID-19 and desperately need the support and assistance a Service Dog provides. Imagine living life in a wheelchair, with limited access on your best day. And now having even greater restrictions placed on your life--no visitors, no outings, limited assistive care.

This is exactly what people like the Eslingers are living everyday.

The Eslinger family realized they had to have a Service Dog for their son, Timothy, over six years ago. Timothy is autistic and at age eight would act out his trauma in ways that would disrupt everyone, ways that were frightening to his family, to strangers, and dangerous to Timothy himself.

All that changed when Timothy was paired with Sky Rocket four years ago. Sky was a miracle dog. He and Timothy bonded at first sight. Now, tragically, **Sky had to be retired due to a fast moving and fatal cancer.** A reality that is threatening to shatter the Eslinger family, AGAIN.

“We didn’t want to medicate Tim, so we started looking for the right Service Dog and that lead us to ECAD [and Sky]. It was a long process – it took about two years once we found ECAD – and we had a lot of help with the fundraising – but it was worth the wait,” says dad Bill. Please help Timothy, his family, and so many others like them regain their independence.



Please help ECAD by December 31, 2020 to give people living with disabilities a fighting chance in these desperate times. A chance to live a life of independence and less isolation than they are suffering now.

Life without a Service Dog as a member of the family is unthinkable to mom Jeanine, and dad Bill Eslinger. It is painful to think about for anyone who has interacted with the family. Sky has made so many good moments, happy moments possible: for Tim, now 13, for his 10 year old siblings, Christopher and Sarah, for his parents.

Will you join together now to help people living with disabilities get through this global crisis?

The hope is that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy in these unsettling times. Your safety and well being is paramount. But, please take a few moments to help those less fortunate gain the lives they deserve. Especially now when fear, isolation and uncertainty is at an all-time high.

2020 has been a trying year for so many, especially those living with disabilities like Timothy and their families. BUT, there is still time to be the change this year of challenges needs! [Send your gift by December 31st](#) and make 2020 just a little brighter for someone who truly needs you.

Chamber MEMBERS

It's Snowing on Main Street in Winsted!

Michael Genovese, a sign painter in West Hartford, CT, calls these painted snowflakes a Symphony of Snowflakes – 65+ snowflakes painted down Winsted's Main Street – one mile long (from McGrane's On The Green to Little Red Barn Brewers)

Northwest Community Bank, headquartered in Winsted, CT, is partnering with Friends of Main Street-Winsted to announce It Is Snowing On Main Street! Starting at the corner of East End Park and Route 44, you cannot miss the large beautiful white snowflakes appearing all along Main Street – each one different and unique. This is Friends of Main Street's largest effort to date to carry the holiday season from our historic green down our Main Street.

Northwest Community Bank has been a sponsor of Friends of Main Street-Winsted (FOMS) since its inception over two decades ago. For many years, the Bank has sponsored our Summer Concert Series, which unfortunately had to be canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When asked if they would support repurposing their concert funding to decorate Main Street for the holidays – their answer was, "Of course, yes!"



"We could not have asked a greater supporter of our town during such challenging times for businesses," said Fran Delaney, President of Friends of Main Street-Winsted.

Last year a member of Friends of Main Street saw a four-story building in Meriden with all of its large windows painted with snowflakes and reached out to their Economic Development Commission for the artist who painted the building. The artist, Michael Genovese, a sign painter in West Hartford, CT, calls these painted snowflakes a Symphony of Snowflakes, #symphonyofsnowflakes. "We are so grateful that he is sharing his artistry on

our storefronts for the holidays," said Town of Winchester Selectman Candace Bouchard.

To add to the festivities along Main Street this holiday season, the Winchester Economic Development Commission recently announced the ribbon-cutting for a new shop, Plant Life Apothecary, at 60 Main Street on December 9 at 3:00 pm. Also, two new restaurants are slated to open on Main Street: Lee's All American Family Diner is now open at 108 Main Street, and the Railway Cafe, formerly located in the center of Canaan, will open at its new location at 580 Main Street (formerly the Cafe de Olla) early in the new year.

SALISBURY BANK STARTS ITS ANNUAL "WE BELIEVE" PROGRAM, COLLECTING NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Lakeville, CT – Please join Salisbury Bank in bringing holiday magic to special children through its "We Believe" Program.

"As we kick off our 33rd annual toy drive, we encourage the community to join us in experiencing the joy of giving this holiday season," said Rick Cantele, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Making a difference in our community is important to us and working together, we can provide a magical holiday season for some very special children."

Together, we can help to make this a very special time of year for local children who would otherwise not experience the joy of the holiday season. You can drop off new, unwrapped gifts at any of Salisbury Bank's fourteen offices by



December 11th. Due to the pandemic, we are encouraging gift cards and cash donations for local families during these unprecedented and difficult times.

Gift ideas include, but are not limited to, sports equipment and balls, books, board games, hand-held electronic games, backpacks, building sets, craft kits, purses, and cosmetics. Additionally, gift cards to local retailers are always an excellent option.

Salisbury Bank is extremely thankful to all of the individuals and local businesses who have contributed over the past 30+ years and is looking forward to another successful holiday season.

Chamber MEMBERS

VIRTUAL PHYSICAL THERAPY

Questions?

- Are you interested in coming to Geer's Outpatient Physical Therapy but nervous about Covid 19?
- Are you currently on quarantine but wish to do physical therapy?
- Are you experiencing cold like symptoms, and concerned that you be contagious, but want to do Physical Therapy?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, Virtual PT may be right to you.

What is virtual physical therapy?

- Virtual physical therapy sessions are performed within the comfort of your home using a secure Zoom video platform.
- This works by either using computer, tablet, or smart phone.

Why are we offering virtual PT sessions?

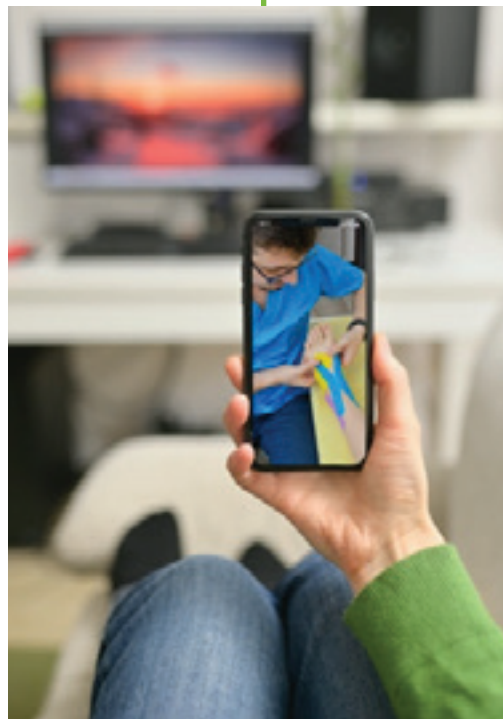
- At Geer, we take every precaution to prevent the spread of Covid-19, including weekly staff testing.
- As we move into cold and flu season, please monitor your health closely. Please call to reschedule or consider virtual visits if you have any symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, sneezing, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- If you have any of these signs or symptoms, you can still participate in a PT program by doing the virtual PT.

The benefits of virtual physical therapy include:

- The sessions are extremely attentive and guided by the physical therapist, one on one.
- No need to travel!
- You perform the PT session right within the comfort of your home, which is a great option if you are currently on quarantine.
- This is not only a convenience, but doing the exercises within your usual environment, it becomes easier to develop a routine that works for you within the space and with equipment you have at your fingertips.



- You will learn how to self-manage your condition through proper guided therapeutic exercise, posture education, and movement instruction.



How has been the response to Virtual PT?

- Prior to re-opening our clinic on June 29, 2020, Geer outpatient physical therapy was offering exclusively virtual PT sessions.
- Although patients were initially skeptical about doing the virtual PT, the response after doing the 1st PT session was OVERWHEMINGLY positive and patients continued doing their regular PT sessions, typically 2-3 times per week. Patients were surprised at how good the sessions went and decided to continue with their physical therapy plan of care.

Is Virtual PT covered by insurance?

- Yes. Virtual PT sessions are covered under insurance just the same as in person PT sessions.

Do I need to be an existing patient, or can I do my first PT session virtually?

- You can do your first session virtually and continue virtually throughout your course of care, convert to in-person physical therapy sessions, or do a type of hybrid option.

Call to get started: (860) 824-3820

99 South Canaan Road, North Canaan, CT 06018

www.geercares.org

Chamber MEMBERS

MEDICAL ASSISTING PROGRAM AT NCCC RANKED 4TH IN CONNECTICUT

WINSTED, CT - Northwestern Connecticut Community College's Medical Assisting Program was recently ranked fourth best of the twenty-five Medical Assisting Programs available in Connecticut that were evaluated by MedicalAssistantAdvice.com, an online resource that has been serving medical assisting students and professionals since 2012. The rankings were based on factors such as, graduation rate, net price, admission rate, retention rate number of enrolled students and the reputation of the school.

Two CSCU sister schools, Quinebaug Valley Community College and Norwalk Community College were ranked number one and number two respectively, in Connecticut.

Nationally, 1241 schools that are currently offering medical assisting education were assessed. Each school had to meet minimum entry requirements for evaluation. The school must offer either a certificate, diploma, or associate degree program in medical assisting. The complete list of accredited medical assistant programs was gathered from CAAHEP – Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and ABHES – Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. Admission rate, graduation rate, and average net price was collected from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and College Navigator, both of which are hosted by the National Center for Education Statistics. In addition, student ratings and reviews were accumulated from websites such as niche.com, facebook.com, gradreport.com and ratemyprofessors.com.

Professor Jane O'Grady, Program Coordinator, Allied Health & Medical Assisting Programs at NCCC asserts, "Medical Assistants play an integral role in health care delivery because of their rare blend of

knowledge, competence, and versatility. Our dedicated instructors provide the best clinical and administrative patient-centered training. I could not be prouder of Northwestern, my instructors, or my students."

Dr. David Ferreira, Dean of Academic & Student Affairs at Northwestern Connecticut Community College adds, "The pandemic has highlighted the need for high quality medical assistants. I am proud that our program at NCCC is recognized for the superb training of our frontline essential workers in Northwestern Connecticut. Congratulations to our exceptional faculty for their hard work."

Medical assistants work alongside physicians, mainly in outpatient or ambulatory care facilities, such as medical offices and clinics. Medical assisting is one of the nation's fastest growing careers, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, attributing job growth to the following: Predicted surge in the number of physicians' offices and outpatient care facilities, technological advancements, growing number of elderly Americans who need medical treatment. Medical assistants are cross trained to perform administrative and clinical duties.

For more information about Northwestern Connecticut Community College's Medical Assisting Program, please contact, Professor Jane O'Grady at joigrady@nwcc.edu.

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www.nwcc.edu



Chamber MEMBERS



AT THE HEART OF WELLNESS

Maria Coutant Skinner,
Executive Director

Dear friends;

One of the many gifts of being a social worker is that we have the rare experience of being invited into another's heart. Being invited to listen and appreciate another's experience is an honor. Learning what brings them joy, causes pain, and where the spots of shame still linger, is a privilege. There is an alchemy that occurs in this space. Perspective shifts, empathy expands, and an appreciation for how the full measure of the person sitting across from you arrived at where they are today emerges.

The work of the therapist is to build a compassionate bridge of understanding to facilitate healing. In order to be effective, you must find space in your heart for your client. But, as I'm sure you know, this is not the exclusive domain of a social worker. I'm sure there are many times you can point to when you've felt this level of empathy – given and received.

My hope for you in this strange and challenging holiday season is that you can experience transformational moments of sharing heart space. Imagine the potential healing – truly needed in our world – that would take place, were this to happen for all of us.

I'm deeply grateful for each of you and the beautiful ways you engage in and support the healing mission of McCall.

All my very best to you,
Maria

Make a difference in someone's life and support McCall today.

Our mission is to provide comprehensive integrated substance abuse and mental health treatment to help people lead healthier and more productive lives. Your donation will directly support our prevention, recovery and community programs and help us provide clients with the support they need regardless of their ability to pay. [Click here to donate today!](#)



Winter Hours!

Through the winter, Saltwater Grille will be open Tuesday through Sunday seating guests from 4PM to 8PM (you can come in or make a reservation for 8PM and enjoy dinner until 9:30 per governor's executive order)



Salt 2.0 (our quick service bowls, burritos, and wraps concept located on the side of our building) is open for takeout 7 days from 11:30AM - 8PM. Order online at our website and we will text you when your order is ready - normally in 5-15 minutes.

salt20togo.com

Thank you to the hundreds of people who have come to this exciting new concept in Litchfield!

Other Updates!

As we move to colder weather, Saltwater continues to maintain its COVID precautions as we did last summer. We encourage people to come out Tuesdays - Thursdays as we have four regular dining areas and can, generally provide more separation than other restaurants.

saltwater-grille.com

We also have room for private parties of up to 25 in our loft (subject to COVID related executive orders and restrictions, currently, these can be configured in tables of up to 8 people each.) Call or email for more information or to plan an event.

Our screen porch now has clear vinyl curtains on it for cold and rain. We have installed high output heaters which make it very cozy even on the coldest days. For those looking for a compromise between indoor dining and sitting outside in the cold and rain/snow, the porch offers good air flow around the outside doors and between the curtains and the building.

We will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25th.

All the best,
Brook and Andy

Chamber MEMBERS



Are you looking for a new way to market your business?

Jade Athas, a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway, is looking to partner with fellow Chamber members and advertise their businesses. She will be creating short social media facing videos that will spotlight the synergies between your businesses. Jade's goal is to partner with a new Chamber business each week through 2021; it takes about 10 - 15 minutes of your time and has no cost to you. She is sharing the important message of creating community connections and supporting our fellow Chamber small businesses. The videos are 2 - 3 minutes long and shared on social media. She has done a few already and has had great success: most of the videos are hitting 1,000 views in a short period of time. Jade has copied her Facebook page below so you can see an example of a community connection video.

<https://www.facebook.com/JadeAthasRealtor>

The question she asks you in the video is: *What do you want the community to know about your business?*

Please reach out to Jade by calling 860-248-1822 or emailing jadeathas@bhhsne.com. She is looking to fill up her calendar for the new year.

Cheers!



'Tis the season to take a deep breath . . . to relax and enjoy the simple things . . . to be thankful for the loved ones in our lives. This year, we want you to know how grateful we are that you are a member of our LARC community.

You make a difference in the lives of the hundreds of individuals served in our residential, vocational, day, and social enrichment programs, as well as our staff, in so many ways . . .

LARC Members support our mission and are part of a strong, committed community of advocates.

Volunteers help us achieve things we could not realize without such dedication and generosity.

Vocational partners provide opportunity and help make possible a path to independence.

Donors enable us to offer social enrichment such as interactive outreach, music and art as well as experiential outings, and our much-loved dinner dances.

Sponsors make possible special events that build community, raise essential revenue, and provide educational offerings.

Community partners expand the opportunities for individuals to be out in community, interacting and sharing experiences.

The generosity shown by our community throughout 2020 has been tremendous and we are deeply grateful. LARC has been stretched to the limits this year. Our fundraising opportunities have been greatly altered with special events cancelled or indefinitely postponed. If you can support LARC with an end-of-year contribution, it will be tremendously appreciated. No amount is too small, and every donation will make a difference.

We thank you for your support and commitment to our mission and vision. We wish you all the best for this holiday season. Please stay safe.

With Gratitude,
Michael Menard, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Chamber MEMBERS

Watch the Winners of the “Step with SONORO” Dance Contest

LITCHFIELD COUNTY, Conn. (November 20, 2020) — Local composer and musician Sharon Ruchman announces the winners of the “Step with SONORO” dance contest, orchestrated to see how dancers across Connecticut would interpret her original dance piece, Con Brio, and to give them the opportunity to get excited and have some fun amidst the pandemic. Rooted in classical with a Latin influence, Con Brio is one of 10 original tracks on Ruchman’s new album, Simply SONORO, composed for her musical ensemble SONORO.

The first place winner was a tie between Dimensional Dance in Hartford, CT and The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory in Torrington, CT, each receiving a cash prize. A second place cash prize was awarded to Wanessa Anderson, studio founder and a Certified AFAA Group Activity Instructor as well a Certified AFAA Personal Trainer from W. Rhythm Fitness and Wellness LLC Studio in Kent, CT.

View a video compilation created by video editor, Miles Bettinelli:

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO OF WINNERS](#)



The call for entries began October 6, 2020, and ended November 9, 2020. To participate in the contest, each entrant had to be 18 years old and a Connecticut resident in order to submit a choreographed video of their dance performed to Con Brio. Judging was based on technique, execution, a unique interpretation of the song and showing the love for dance.

About SONORO

Founded by composer, pianist and violist Sharon Ruchman, SONORO is a musical ensemble reflecting a combination of classically trained musicians juxtaposed with those steeped in Latin, jazz, and blues. Listen to Sharon’s music on streaming services that include Apple Music, Spotify, and Soundcloud. Visit www.sharonruchman.com and follow Sharon Ruchman & SONORO on social channels Twitter [@ruchmanmusic](https://twitter.com/ruchmanmusic) and Instagram [@sharonruchmanandsonoro](https://www.instagram.com/sharonruchmanandsonoro)

More Information about the Winners:

The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory

Artistic Director & Choreographer: Victoria Mazzarelli
Dancers:

Solee Dinio, Sarah Frank, Gianna LaRoche, Emma Sapp, Cassidy Schroyer

Duncan Gwinn, Gavin Haas, Khalil Jackson, MacGregor Lay, Nate Watkins

Dimensional Dance

Artistic Director & Choreographer: Ruth Lewis

Soloist: Chloë Knopf

Ensemble: Allison Pearsall, Savana Jones, Pam Glauber, Cat Quinn, Jus Hues, Emilee Alexander, Erica Maillet

Wanessa Anderson

W. Rhythm Fitness and Wellness LLC Studio
Studio founder and a Certified AFAA Group Activity Instructor as well a Certified AFAA Personal Trainer.

Jennifer Carmichael

PR Consultant/Writer

jcarmllc@gmail.com

Website: jencarmichael.com

Cell: 860.388.7652

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4u5NVEpB-Qo>

News and NOTES



WARNER COMMUNITY GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Register to Enter by December 1!

Torrington, CT – In the spirit of the festive winter season, we are welcoming young baking artists between the ages of 8-17 to put their creative hats on and enter our first-ever Warner Community Gingerbread House Contest!

To enter/participate, baking artists between the ages of 8-17 must design, build, and decorate your own gingerbread house/building/setting and submit a short video (45 seconds or less) of you showing off your creation and explaining why you chose your design and what it means to you. The winners' entries will be featured on our Facebook page and in our e-Newsletter!

REGISTER TO ENTER BY TUESDAY DECEMBER 1 by emailing your name, age, and town to Isabel Carrington at icarrington@warnertheatre.org. Once registered, COMPLETED VIDEO ENTRIES (VIA EMAIL) MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY DECEMBER 15. Most creative/unique design(s) will win! For more info email icarrington@warnertheatre.org. Happy Holidays to all!



To Our Valued Customers,

Happy Holidays! As you prepare for the holidays in these unprecedented times, we wanted to share the steps we are taking to provide you with the best possible shopping experience this holiday season at Staples.

Holiday Delivery

With online holiday shopping reaching record levels this year, many retailers may face delivery delays. We encourage you to shop early to avoid any unnecessary stress. On our side, we've been working around the clock to ensure that our Staples' fleet and our external shipping partners are prepared to help you receive your packages as quickly as possible.

Free Shipping, No Minimum

Staples.com will continue to offer FREE Shipping no minimum, with thousands of items delivered next day. If something is delayed, updates will be communicated in your order status emails. You can also check your order status at any time here.

Safe Shopping In Store

We have taken extra precautions to provide a safe and healthy shopping environment this season at our Staples stores, including enhanced cleaning protocols and contactless shopping options like curbside pickup. So whether you head in store to shop or arrange for curbside or in-store pickup, you have options to best fit your holiday shopping needs.

Extended Return Policy

We are extending our return policy to ensure you have more than enough time for returns. For all purchases made between 11/16/2020 and 12/24/2020, you'll have until 01/25/2021 to return them. And as a reminder, returns are always free, see details here.

Holiday Savings

Lastly, we have great deals on gifts and everything else you may need, whether you're working from home or returning to the office. Plus, you can now earn up to 5% back in Rewards in store and online.

From all of us at Staples, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Sandy Douglas
CEO, Staples, Inc.

News and **NOTES**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

Dear Partner(s),
We asked, you delivered and now we simply say, "Thank You."

We have reached another milestone in the U.S. Census Bureau as our 2020 Decennial count has come to an end, and we want you to know that we could not have made it without you. No words can truly convey what your sacrifices have meant as we, together, worked to achieve a complete and accurate count throughout the country.

Partners like you are the true trusted voices in the community, helping to raise awareness and spread the importance of counting everyone once, only once and in the right place.

We know it has not been an easy task, but because of your dedication and commitment to service, we have been able to tackle every challenge that has come our way, including natural disasters, social unrest and a global pandemic. Wow, what a journey.

Your contributions can positively impact your community's healthcare services, schools, senior centers, roadways, public transportation and public libraries over the next decade. These improvements can make a difference in the lives of so many Americans.

It is official. You are forever part of the team. We look forward to our continued service of the nation.

Thank you again for being part of this remarkable, historic 2020 Census.



May your holidays bring you the gifts of love, peace, and joy.

Happy Holidays



(860) 496-2152 TorringtonSavings.Bank   
TORRINGTON | TORRINGFORD | BURLINGTON | FALLSVILLAGE | GOSHEN | NEWHARTFORD

News and **NOTES**

WHAT'S NEW AT NORTHWEST?

Start your Job search

- Spanish services for CT DOL (unemployment, etc)
- English services for CT DOL (unemployment, etc)

[English services](#)

[Spanish services](#)

[Visit our website](#)

COVID-19 Disaster Relief Worker grant

In partnership with the CT Dept. of Labor, The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board received a COVID-19 Disaster Relief Worker grant from the US Dept of Labor. This grant, available through June 2021, will provide funding to certain employers to hire disaster relief workers. The program reimburses wages and fringe benefits (capped at 30%), 30-40 hours per week and PPE expenses for participants.

Connect with an American Job Center Today!
(Offices are closed to public, you must make an appointment to plan your visit)

Waterbury American Job Center
249 Thomaston Ave
Waterbury, CT 06702
Phone: 203-574-6971

Danbury American Job Center
185 Main Street
Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: 203-730-0451

Torrington American Job Center
59 Field Street,
Torrington, CT 06790
Phone: 860-496-3500



Career Path APP – Manufacturing your future:

The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board is pleased to announce the launch of its new smartphone and desktop app designed to guide those who are interested in pursuing a career in Manufacturing.

“Careerpath” will guide participants to register on CTHIRES.com, meet with a career coach and acquire training to land them an interview at local manufacturing companies. The manufacturing industry is growing incredibly fast in CT, but employers face a barrier to fill open positions with skilled employees.

[Career Path](#)

FREE Manufacturing Training

Northwestern Community College is offering FREE Manufacturing Training. The program is 2 weeks and upon completion you may interview with DYMAX in Torrington, CT. CT has hundreds of job openings in Manufacturing that need to be filled. Reserve your space now, complete your training and land a career! Contact Jane Williams (860-738-4444) to register, or to see if you qualify!

[To Register](#)

Upcoming

CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

Dec. 1	Small Business Council – 8 am	Dec. 15	Insurance Committee Meeting – 8 am
Dec. 3	Membership Committee Meeting – 8 am	Dec. 17	Chamber Board of Directors Meeting – 8 am
Dec. 7	Leads 1 – 12 noon	Dec. 17	Celebration of Success and Leadership Graduation – 12 noon
Dec. 9	Leads 2 – 9 am	Dec. 22	Business with Breakfast- 8 am
Dec. 10	Government Relations Committee – 8 am	Dec. 24 – Jan.1	Closed for the holiday
Dec. 10	Leads 3 – 12 noon		
Dec. 11	How to Grow Your Business During COVID-19 Seminar Presented by: Lance Leifert – 8-9:30 am		



25 Days of Hope

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 Whiting Mills \$100 Gift Certificate to the shops	1 Northwest Community Bank \$100 Big Y	2 Torrington Savings Bank Ski Sundown Passes	3 Hatfield & Co. Jewelers Bracelet	4 Resource Devel. Assoc. \$100 GC to The Village	5 Venetian Restaurant \$100 Gift Certificate
6 Brooker Memorial Electric Toothbrush Basket	7 Northwest Hills Credit Union Yeti Cooler & Picnic Stuff	8 Litchfield Hills Nursery \$100 Gift Cert	9 Rowley & Ollie's 2-\$25 GC to Rowley 2-\$25 GC to Ollie's	10 Berkshire Hathaway Lily & Vine Floral Arrang	11 Lowe's Tool Set	12 Barron Financial Group TBD
13 Hickory Stick Book Store \$100 Gift Cert	14 WZBG \$150 Gas Card to A&R Autobody	15 KidsPlay Family Membership (\$150)	16 Staples Gift Certificate	17 Residential Resorts LLC Waterproof Digital Camera	18 Jersey Mike's Bose Speaker	19 Litchfield Bancorp \$100 Gift Certificate— True Value of Litchfield
20 Black Bear Music Festival 6 Fall Festival Passes (\$750)	21 Lowe's Tool Set	22 Servicemaster \$175 Carpet Cleaning	23 SCORE Restaurant gift cards	24 TMTFCU	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		