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**Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Business Working Together

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Please join us for our

Holiday Celebration

*Sponsored by Whiting Mills and
National Iron Bank*

Wednesday, December 7th

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hosted by

Whiting Mills

210 Holabird Ave., Winsted

*Please remember to bring a monetary
donation for our collection to support
area food banks.*

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres,
beer and wine.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

*From the Desk of Our
President & CEO*
JOANN RYAN



Holiday Letter December 2022

A Chinese proverb reads, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Together we have covered a thousand miles in making a positive difference in our business community. As 2022 comes to an end, it seems most appropriate to consider the major steps we have taken together to combat this challenging economic period.

We continue to forge new alliances with old friends and demonstrate our commitment to increasing the awareness of the economic, educational, cultural and civic opportunities available to the business community, Chamber members and friends. The collaborations with the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities, NW Regional Workforce Investment Board, Council of Governments and NW CT Economic Development Corporation continue to grow and strengthen this region.

Due to your support, we have undertaken some important initiatives that position us to serve as an even greater voice and strength in not only the NW corner but throughout the state. Special thank you to our Corporate Partners, Premier Members, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Committees, an Outstanding Membership and Dedicated Staff.

Leadership NW, Job and Career Fairs, Legislative Agenda, Chamber Insurance Trust, SCORE, Business Showcase, Webinars, Young Professionals, Small Business Council, Leads Groups, Health Council, Manufacturers’ Coalition, Government Relations, Business After Hours, Business with Breakfast, Economic Summit and WOW! Thanks to you, these initiatives continue to thrive.

And so...this extraordinary journey continues. An unknown author said, “To be one of thousands who have worked together to make possible some worthy event in history – that is our opportunity.” Let’s take advantage of these opportunities together as we continue to build a bright future for our region.

Happy Holidays and Happy 2023 to you all!



Find our new office on the [MAP](#)

Did You Know...

You can scroll through the pages of the newsletter by clicking on the link to the right of this page.

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Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

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nwctchamberofcommerce.org
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/nwctchamber

Corporate Partner NEWS

COVID-19 Testing & Vaccinations at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Location: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
Laundry Building Parking Lot
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington CT 06790

Drive-Up PCR TESTING

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
8 am – 4 pm

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS *(for individuals 12+)*

Wednesdays and Fridays:
Pfizer: 8 am – 11:30 am
Moderna: 12:30 pm – 4 pm

Appointments are recommended. You can make an appointment by...

Logging into MyChartPlus
Online at www.hartfordhealthcare.org
Calling 860.972.8100

Please bring your CDC vaccine card,
a photo ID and insurance information.
Masks are required.

Corporate Partner NEWS

Charlotte Hungerford
Hospital

A Hartford HealthCare Partner

HHC earns excellence awards and five-star ratings from Healthgrades for high-quality care

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital earns accolades in critical care, gastrointestinal surgery

Hartford HealthCare's hospitals earned nine awards for specialty Excellence and 32 Five-Star ratings according to new research released by Healthgrades, the leading marketplace connecting doctors and patients. The specialty Excellence Awards include Cardiac, Neurosciences, Spine Surgery, Prostate Surgeries, Pulmonary and Critical Care.

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital was recognized for Critical Care, with a five-star recipient for treatment of sepsis for two years in a row (2022-23) and five-star recipient for treatment of respiratory failure in 2023.

The hospital was also recognized as a five-star recipient for upper gastrointestinal surgeries.

"We are proud to again receive such high marks from Healthgrades for our efforts to ensure that we provide the highest quality, safe care," said Ajay Kumar, MD, executive vice president and chief clinical officer for Hartford HealthCare. "This is a testament to our team's commitment

to each and every patient who comes to us in times of need. I'd like to thank all Hartford HealthCare colleagues for their devotion to continuous improvement, excellence, professionalism and innovation.

Each year, Healthgrades evaluates hospital performance at nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide for 21 of the most common inpatient procedures and conditions. Their Specialty Excellence Awards recognize hospitals with superior performance in specific specialty lines and specialty focus areas, and indicate services where patients have a lower risk of complications.

"We commend Hartford HealthCare for their ongoing commitment to providing high-quality care to patients," said Brad Bowman, MD, chief medical officer and head of Data Science at Healthgrades. "Consumers can feel confident that Nationally-Recognized hospitals by Healthgrades have demonstrated their ability to deliver consistently exceptional outcomes."





Happy Holidays

 From Everyone at

Torrington Savings Bank



With gratitude as we head into 2023, this holiday season our thoughts turn to how great things can happen when we come together as a community. May the New Year be filled with smiles and good health!


Torrington Savings Bank

 TorringtonSavings.Bank (860) 496-2152

 EQUAL HOUSE LENDER | MEMBER FDIC

Corporate Partner **NEWS**

Monica Diulio Promoted at Northwest Community Bank



Northwest Community Bank Assistant Vice President Monica Diulio has been promoted to Vice President. She is Branch Manager in Torrington, a position she has had since 1996. Diulio began her banking career at Northwest Community Bank in October 1989. She has an associate degree from Northwestern Connecticut Community College, a bachelor's degree from UCONN, and is a graduate of the Connecticut School of Banking and Finance.

Northwest Community Bank EVP, Chief Retail Banking Officer Paul McLaughlin states, "In her thirty-three years at Northwest Community Bank, Monica has been an excellent leader. She is well respected by customers, peers, subordinates and superiors alike. She is deeply involved in the community and represents the bank in a professional manner in everything she does. She is truly a very valuable asset to the organization and we're pleased to recognize her accomplishments."

Diulio emigrated from Poland to the United States in January of 1980, immediately enrolled at Northwestern Connecticut Community College and began a new chapter of her life. Currently she is a trustee of St. John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington and serves as a director and treasurer of the board of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County. She is a volunteer for the Tour of Litchfield Hills as well as various Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce events. She resides in Torrington with her husband Alan, and enjoys walking, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Northwest Community Bank is a mutually owned state-chartered bank, headquartered in Winsted, Connecticut since 1860. The bank has branches in Avon, Granby, New Hartford, Simsbury, Torrington, and an academic branch at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted. Collinsville Bank – A Division of Northwest Community Bank has branches in Collinsville, Canton and Farmington; and Litchfield Bancorp – A Division of Northwest Community Bank has branches in Litchfield, Lakeville, Torrington and Watertown.



Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

2022 Corporate Partner Appreciation Breakfast

Friday, December 2, 2022
8:00 a.m.
Green Woods Country Club
300 Torrington Street, Winsted

Guest Speaker
Michael Rell
Chamber's Lobbyist
International Government Strategies

*If you are unable to join us, please feel free to
send a representative from your company.*

Please RSVP by November 28th to 860-482-6586 or email
Info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

Sponsored by:



Become a Corporate Partner

Our Annual Corporate Partner Appreciation Breakfast is just one of the many benefits of being a Corporate Partner.

PLUS...

- Free Use of Our Conference Facilities
- Company Listed on Letterhead
- Company Listed in Monthly Newsletter
- Corporate Logo Sign Displayed in Conference Room
- Annual Recognition Gift

... and MORE!

Member NEWS

Barron Financial Group Welcomes John Seagrave as Newest Partner



Barron Financial Group Partners: Sandra Thibault, James Thibault & John Seagrave

The team at Barron Financial Group, LLP is excited to announce the promotion of John Seagrave, CFP®, CRPC® to Partner, effective for the 2022 calendar year.

“John has been a great addition to our team. For over five years he has been learning the advisory practice and building his business.”, said Managing Partner, Jim Thibault. “Yes, John has been a big part of our growth, but just as important, John has been very helpful in reviewing our business practices and offering positive suggestions. I believe we are a better firm today than before we hired him. That’s about as big a compliment as I can offer.”

John was hired by Barron Financial Group in early 2017 to assist the team in growing their advisory and planning practice. Since his arrival, the firm has nearly doubled the size of its client base and assets under management as well as transitioned to an SEC-registered advisory firm. During that time, John deepened his understanding of the industry by becoming a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNING™ professional and a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®).

“For more than five years I’ve had the privilege of working with and learning from some of the best people I’ve met during my professional career.”, said Seagrave. “To be with a firm as focused on honesty, integrity, and community - as Barron Financial Group has proven to be - is a dream come true. I am truly excited for what the future holds.”

Jim & Sandra Thibault founded Barron Financial Group in 2006. As Partner, John is now on a path to purchasing the firm from Jim and Sandra. Jim will continue to be a big part of the firm going forward, particularly with investment strategies. The bottom line is that Barron Financial Group will continue servicing clients, with the same personalized focus we’ve always had, for years to come.

Learn more about the BFG team at www.barronfinancialgroup.com.

Congratulations John!!!

Member **NEWS**

OWTS

Oliver Wolcott Technical High School



Manufacture Your Future

Well over 100 parents and students attended Oliver Wolcott Technical School's Annual Open House on Wednesday, November 2nd. The Northwest Connecticut Chamber's Manufacturers' Coalition partnered with the school, bringing local manufacturers to present to the public the vast career opportunities available in our area. Among those present, were AEI Staffing, Altek Electronics, Becton Dickinson (BD), Connecticut Department of Labor, Dymax Corporation, Outer Armor by Commercial Sewing Inc., Seitz/Southwest Mold Inc., and Wittmann USA.



Happy
Holidays
from



President's Holiday Message

I want to personally wish all of Northwestern's friends, alums, community, and business partners a warm and safe holiday season.

I am proud to report that Northwestern has been highly ranked for the sixth year in a row; #11 in the nation - and equally proud that our community college system has been ranked #1 in the nation!

It has been great to see so many students back on campus and for Northwestern to be, once again, welcoming back the community to our events.

As we move toward our transition to CT State in July 2023, I want to ensure the northwest community that Northwestern will continue to be here to serve all students with their educational aspirations; whether just beginning their college career after high school, working to advance or change careers, or for lifelong learning interests. We are proud to continue a tradition of equity through education to all students who choose our institution.

As the only institution of higher education in the northwest corner, many of our students, in turn, serve you in your communities. They are your nurses, your EMT and Allied Health specialists, police officers, veterinary technicians, new business owners, future social advocates, early childhood teachers, CNC operators and machinists, and more. Their service and work give back to your communities with growth and sustainability and we do not take this responsibility lightly.

Northwestern is proud to be contributing needed and future expertise within our communities adding to their strength and growth. But we would not be where we are without all of our campus friends, alums, and community partners.

Thank you for your continued support for our students and our mission. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Dr. Michael A. Rooke

Member **NEWS**

Business After Hours *at*
PRIME FINDS ~ Home for the Holidays



From left: Anita Cilfone, Tom Stanton, and Kathy Minck

A fun and festive time was had by all at our latest Business After Hours event on Tuesday November 29th at PRIME FINDS Home for the Holidays pop-up store, hosted by Prime Time House and LABA. The event was held in the Pilgrim Hall at Lourdes of Litchfield. Attendees networked, sipped, and shopped the beautiful array of holiday gifts, housewares, and furniture at amazingly low prices—All to benefit the programs at Prime Time House. Such a great way to spend on Giving Tuesday!

[PRIME FINDS Home for the Holidays](#) is presented by Torrington Savings Bank and will be open to the public through Friday December 30th.



Lisa Ferris pours a beverage as Susan McGowen (left) and Doreen Roy (right) watch.

Premier **MEMBERS**

- [Brandywine Living at Litchfield](#)
- [Commercial Sewing, Inc.](#)
- [Cook Funeral Home](#)
- [Eversource Energy](#)
- [Keystone Place at Newbury Brook](#)
- [Seitz, LLC](#)
- [Systems Support Group](#)
- [T&M Building Company, Inc. and Torrington Downtown Partners](#)
- [UCE Fine Builders](#)
- [Webster Bank](#)

Welcome New Members

Geppetto ~ Osteria e Bisteccheria
geppettoct.com

**Special Chamber Member Deal- Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine with your charcuterie board order! Valid through December 15!*

Live Oak Bank
www.liveoakbank.com

Northwest Home Care
www.abhomecare.com

Women's Business Development Council
www.ctwbdc.org

Member **NEWS**



IDENTITY THEFT WEBINAR

presented by **defend-id**

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is a challenging and sensitive issue. It is typical for you and your employees to experience emotional distress as a result of this crime.

Identity theft victims may at times experience overwhelming psychological pain from loss, helplessness, rage, loneliness, betrayal, and even embarrassment. Deep-seated worries about one's ability to maintain financial security, keep family members safe, and regain trust are unfortunate realities when you have your identity stolen.

Did your identity theft incident lead you to have any adverse feelings or emotions?

8 in 10 Said YES!

- 9 in 10 Worried/anxious
- 8 in 10 Angry
- 8 in 10 Violated
- 1 in 10 Feeling suicidal

(TRC Impact Report 2021)



Detect & Alert

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



Recover

If an employee does have their identity stolen, a Recovery Advocate will take over every step of the process for the employee.



Insure Against Loss

Employee plans cover expenses they may incur while recovering their identity.

Join us to learn how identity theft could impact you, your family, and your employees, and some things you can do to help!



Brought to you by
Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

THURSDAY | TIME
DECEMBER 1ST | 9:00 AM

REGISTER NOW

SALISBURY BANK STARTS ITS ANNUAL “WE BELIEVE” TOY DRIVE COLLECTING NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Salisbury Bank announces the start of its “We Believe” Toy Drive and asks the community to join them in bringing holiday magic to children. Together, we can help make this a very special time of year for local children who would otherwise not experience the joy of the holiday season.

“As we kick off our 35th 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 deserving children.”

You can drop off new, unwrapped gifts at any of Salisbury Bank’s fourteen offices by December 9th.

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.

Salisbury Bank is a full-service community bank headquartered in Lakeville, Connecticut and presently operates full service branches in Canaan, Lakeville, Salisbury, and Sharon, Connecticut; Great Barrington, Sheffield, and South Egremont, Massachusetts; as well as Dover Plains, Fishkill, Millerton, New Paltz, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Red Oaks Mill, New York.

SALISBURY BANK PROMOTES GARY COPE TO ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HELP DESK MANAGER



Salisbury Bank and Trust Company is pleased to announce that Gary Cope has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Information Technology Help Desk Manager in the IT Department.

“Gary is a two-time winner of the Employee of the Year Award (2015, 2021), which is a testament to how our staff

view him,” said Todd Clinton, Executive Vice President, Chief Risk Officer at Salisbury Bank. “He’s the ‘go-to’ guy in IT for those with questions and he always does his best to help. He lives the Bank’s Core Values, particularly “Service to the customer above all else.” We’re proud to have Gary as part of our team.”

Gary started as an IT Specialist in October 2012, and has been a team leader in the department for the past few years. He will be responsible for the planning, organizing, and management of resources to meet IT department goals and customer service objectives.

Gary started in his new role on Monday, September 19.

SALISBURY BANK ANNOUNCES ITS 14TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY SHRED DAYS SEASON A BIG SUCCESS

Community Shred “Drive-thru” Days were held during the months of May through October at select branches throughout the tri-state area and included a free shred service as part of the Bank’s commitment to help in the fight against identity theft, as well as a Food Drive to support local food pantries in the area. Community Shred “Drive-thru” Days were open to all local residents and businesses.

Salisbury Bank is proud to offer this service as a way of making a difference in the communities it serves. In total, approximately **51,250 lbs.** of paper was shredded and recycled (saving roughly 430 trees and 77 cubic yards of landfill). The Bank volunteers also collected **2,071** non-perishable food and house-

hold items which were donated to food pantries in the communities we serve.

If you missed the 2022 Community Shred “Drive-thru” Days, the Bank will begin hosting its Shred Days again in the spring of 2023. The schedule will be posted on the website SalisburyBank.com/Community/Community-Events sometime next April.

The fight against identity theft is very important to the Bank and if you would like more information on protecting yourself, please visit SalisburyBank.com/Personal/Customer-Security.

Member NEWS

CT STATE PRESENTS

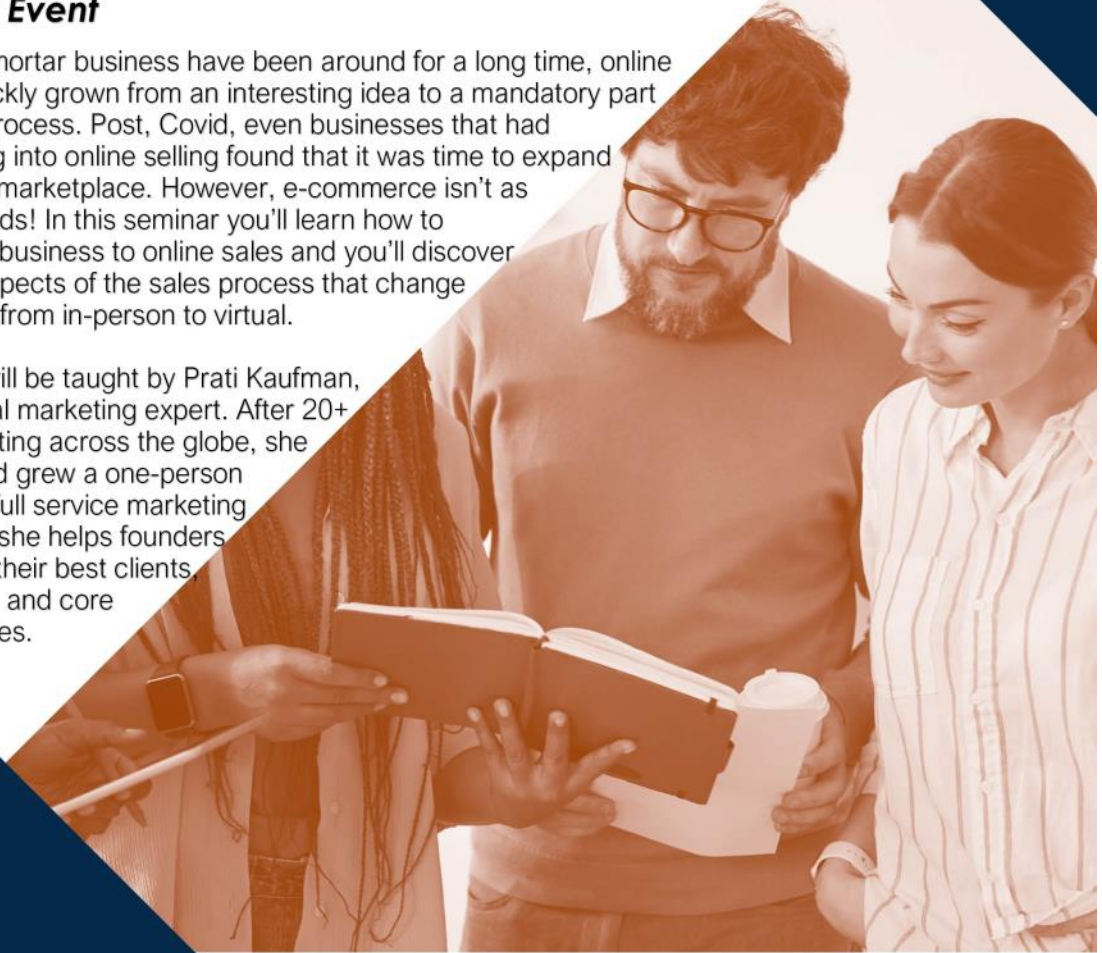
E-Commerce: The Basics
State-wide Seminar

with NCC & HCC Entrepreneurial Centers

A CT STATE Event

While brick & mortar business have been around for a long time, online selling has quickly grown from an interesting idea to a mandatory part of the selling process. Post, Covid, even businesses that had resisted getting into online selling found that it was time to expand into the digital marketplace. However, e-commerce isn't as easy as it sounds! In this seminar you'll learn how to transition your business to online sales and you'll discover the different aspects of the sales process that change when you shift from in-person to virtual.

This seminar will be taught by Prati Kaufman, a leading global marketing expert. After 20+ years in marketing across the globe, she quit her job and grew a one-person company to a full service marketing agency where she helps founders get in front of their best clients, customers, and core audiences.



Tuesday
Dec. 6th
5:30 to 8:30 pm

REGISTRATION REQUIRED ☀

TO REGISTER, VISIT www.housatonic.edu/state-seminars ☀

MAX 15 PARTICIPANTS ☀

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT ☀

@ NWCT Chamber, 59 Field St. Torrington, CT

For more information and to register
Housatonic.edu/state-seminars

event in partnership with



Member NEWS

WINTER MARKETPLACE & CRAFT FAIR

KEYSTONE PLACE AT NEWBURY BROOK

Get some holiday shopping checked off your list! Grab some lunch or a sweet treat at the Baked Goods table, take a shot at the raffle table and shop with our local vendors!

- *Color Street*
- *Tastefully Simple*
- *Local Crafters- Jewelry, Antiques, Custom Handmade Cards, Personalized gifts, Wine glasses, Tumblers, Wristlets, Snow Globes, Scarves, Purses, Holiday Décor, Candles, Baked goods*
- *and so much more!*

Saturday December 3rd from 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM
1058 Litchfield Street, Torrington CT

**** Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Torrington Parkinson's Support Group and the Alzheimer's Associations**



WHITING MILLS

Annual Holiday Open Studios



December 3rd & 4th

11:00 to 5:00 pm



**A Fun and Festive Weekend
with Resident Artists, Crafters,
Specialty Shops & Guest Artists**



Free Admission • Free Parking • Food Truck



**The Holiday Shoppes of Whiting Mills
Open Sundays 11 - 4 pm
November 20th - December 18th**



**860-738-2240 www.whitingmills.com
www.facebook.com/WhitingMillsLLC**

Chamber Member IN THE SPOTLIGHT



"Providing the most basic of human needs... food, shelter & hope"

FISH • Friends In Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut, Inc.

332 South Main Street Torrington, CT 06790

Office 860.482.7300 • Fax 860.489.4807 • info@fishnwct.org

Amazing things happen under our roof at FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut – aiding our homeless and food insecure neighbors in need. We are forever grateful to the many heroes and angels that have appeared during this pandemic.

FISH is observing our 50th anniversary this year and was the 2015 recipient of the Chamber’s “Quality of Life” award! Our mission at FISH NWCT is to provide the most basic of human needs – food, shelter and HOPE. The FISH Homeless Shelter has 35 beds, 5 designated for veterans. Among our shelter residents are four families with 8 children, including a sweet baby. Our Case Manager develops a plan of action with each resident, overseeing educational and social service resources, medical and mental health needs, employment opportunities and housing possibilities. We encourage educational opportunities and vocational training.

FISH also has a food pantry with over 1000 individual clients/families registered, where we distribute food for over 110,000 meals annually. We depend completely on the generosity of the community. We are currently in full holiday mode – providing food needs for holiday meals, “raising coats” and providing toys to assist Santa.

There are “feel goods” every day at the FISH Shelter - especially days when a resident moves into their own apartment, or meeting a former resident who shares their positive progress, or delight in the little girl that races across the Shelter to hug Santa at our “Cocoa and Cookies” party – saying, “I knew you were real” – showing that we provide hope and dreams.

At FISH, we see daily the very human, social welfare challenges of families, individuals and vets facing life crisis. We strive to restore and rebuild the confidence and self-worth of those who are the most vulnerable and seek our help. We feel profound joy when we hear how FISH provided a safe haven, with much appreciation for the FISH program and our caring staff. FISH NWCT has proven resilient, with renewed faith and optimism.

Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, Executive Director

November 17, 2022

ddicara@fishnwct.org

www.fishnwct.org facebook.com/fishnwct



From Left: Robin King, Dan Santorso, Adam Pitts, Santa, Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, and Margaret Franzi

Happy Holidays!





LEARN at LUNCH
M&T Bank

Your Path to Homeownership
First-time Homebuyers

Your Credit Matters

How much home can I afford?

Mortgage products

Get Pre-approved

Your Mortgage Application

You Are Invited...

Date: December 8th, 2022
Time: 12pm - 1pm
Where: NWCT Chamber of Commerce - 59 Field St. Suite 120 - Torrington, CT
RSVP: www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org

Lunch will be provided!!



Lydia Falconer
Loan Officer | NMLS# 593040
860-309-5933 | lfalconer@mtb.com
www.MTB.com/lfalconer



Todd Bailey
Branch Manager, AVP |
NMLS# 1759579
860-489-5014 tbailey4@mtb.com

Equal Housing Lender. All loans subject to credit and property approval. Certain conditions and restrictions apply. ©2022 M&T Bank. NMLS# 3SL076. Member FDIC

Learn at Lunch



Sustainable Growth Masterclass was taught by David Olchowski from Acadia ActionCOACH Business Coaching during our Learn at Lunch Series on November 8th. Key Takeaways:

- Invest Time; Don't Spend Time
- Need a Vision Mission Culture
- Focus on What's Most Important
- Leverage for Efficiency
- Build a Winning Team
- Focus on Self-Development

Leadership Northwest



Winsted YMCA



FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut

On Wednesday November 16th, our Leadership Northwest class visited FISH, the Winsted YMCA, and the McCall Center for Behavioral Health. It was our Social Service session and the mission was to expose the attendees to some of the many social service organizations in Northwest Connecticut, and to gain knowledge and understanding of issues affecting our region.

Chamber NEWS



From Left: John Seagrave, Sandy Evans, Carolyn Morrison, Allison Blackwood

Chamber Board Retreat

Our Chamber Board of Directors attended a retreat at our Chamber Office on November 3rd. Hors d'oeuvres were from Catered by Gia and beverages were from the Village Wine Cellar.

Chamber board member, Allison Blackwood, from AEI Staffing, conducted a SWOT Analysis in an effort to see how well our Chamber is performing. The Board divided into four groups, each taking one of the four areas (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). After a brainstorming session, they reassembled in the conference room to evaluate the results. It was apparent that the Pandemic aftermath was still affecting the results. Overall, our Chamber is doing quite well, yet there are some areas that could be improved.

A full analysis with next steps will be discussed in the new year.



Chris DiPentima, CBIA President

Economic Forecast

Chris DiPentima, President of CBIA, was the Keynote Speaker at our annual Economic Forecast, held on November 10th at the Torrington Country Club, following a delicious buffet breakfast. Here are some highlights:

- As of August, Connecticut has 114,000 job openings—40% more than before the pandemic
- Labor market—those employed plus those actively looking for work—down 47,100 people since February 2020
- Labor shortage crisis the greatest threat to economic recovery, growth
- While pandemic saw influx of new residents, population growth over last decade negligible, compounded by aging workforce
- State's voluntary quits rate and separations rate tied for third lowest in the country
- Connecticut's Cost of Living and Taxes are too high
- Need to make it easier for small businesses to access and provide affordable health insurance options for employees
- Need to make necessary investments in the state's unemployment trust fund to address pandemic solvency issues and protect against future recessions

Chamber NEWS

Committee Reports

Small Business Council: The Small Business Council is tailored toward business owners or C-level employees of a business of ten employees or less. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss business related issues shared amongst all. This week discussions encompassed the work-at-home theme and how to recruit and retain employees in this challenging environment. If you are a business owner or a C-level employee and wish to participate in our discussions, please contact Lauren (lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) for more information.

Lance Leifert on behalf of Erick Royer
Small Business Council Chair

Government Relations Committee: We had a very informative and nutritional meeting this month. CBIA President, Chris DiPentima, spoke to us about Connecticut's economic forecast. We met in person and had a wonderful breakfast at the Torrington Country Club. Chris' report was encouraging, but we have a lot of work before us to sustain the economic vitality in our region. I want to encourage everyone to attend our next G.R. meeting as we prepare our legislative agenda for the next session. Sign up now with Lauren Zordan, V.P. of Chamber Programming & Events to get on our zoom call list.

Jacque Williams
Government Relations Committee Chair

Health Council: The NWCT Chamber Health Council continues to meet monthly and offers its membership access to a variety of guest speakers from the local healthcare community. In November we introduced Emma Hollis, Behavioral Health Director for the Western CT Coalition. Emma provided the Council with an overview of their Recovery Friendly Workplace program. The Coalition provides education and training for companies in the following areas: mental health, opioid education, suicide prevention, Narcan administration training, and more.

In December we will be joined by the President of Sharon Hospital, Christina McCulloch, who will introduce the hospital's new Chief Nursing Officer, Dawn Woodruff. Nuance Health has appointed Dawn Woodruff, MSN, RN, as chief nursing officer of Sharon Hospital. The appointment was made on Thursday, Oct. 13. Woodruff has worked in the health-care field for 35 years and at Sharon Hospital for more than eight years, most recently serving as director of Patient Care Services since 2020. We will also receive an update from Dr. Mark Marshall, Vice President of Medical Affairs regarding Sharon Hospital's Transformation plan - [Sharon Hospital Transformation | Nuance Health](#).

The Chamber Health Council is looking forward to 2023 and is seeking healthcare professionals and organizations that would benefit from Chamber membership and participating in Health Council events. If you have an idea for a guest speaker or would just like to learn more about health council membership, please reach out to Lauren Zordan or JoAnn Ryan at the Chamber for more information.

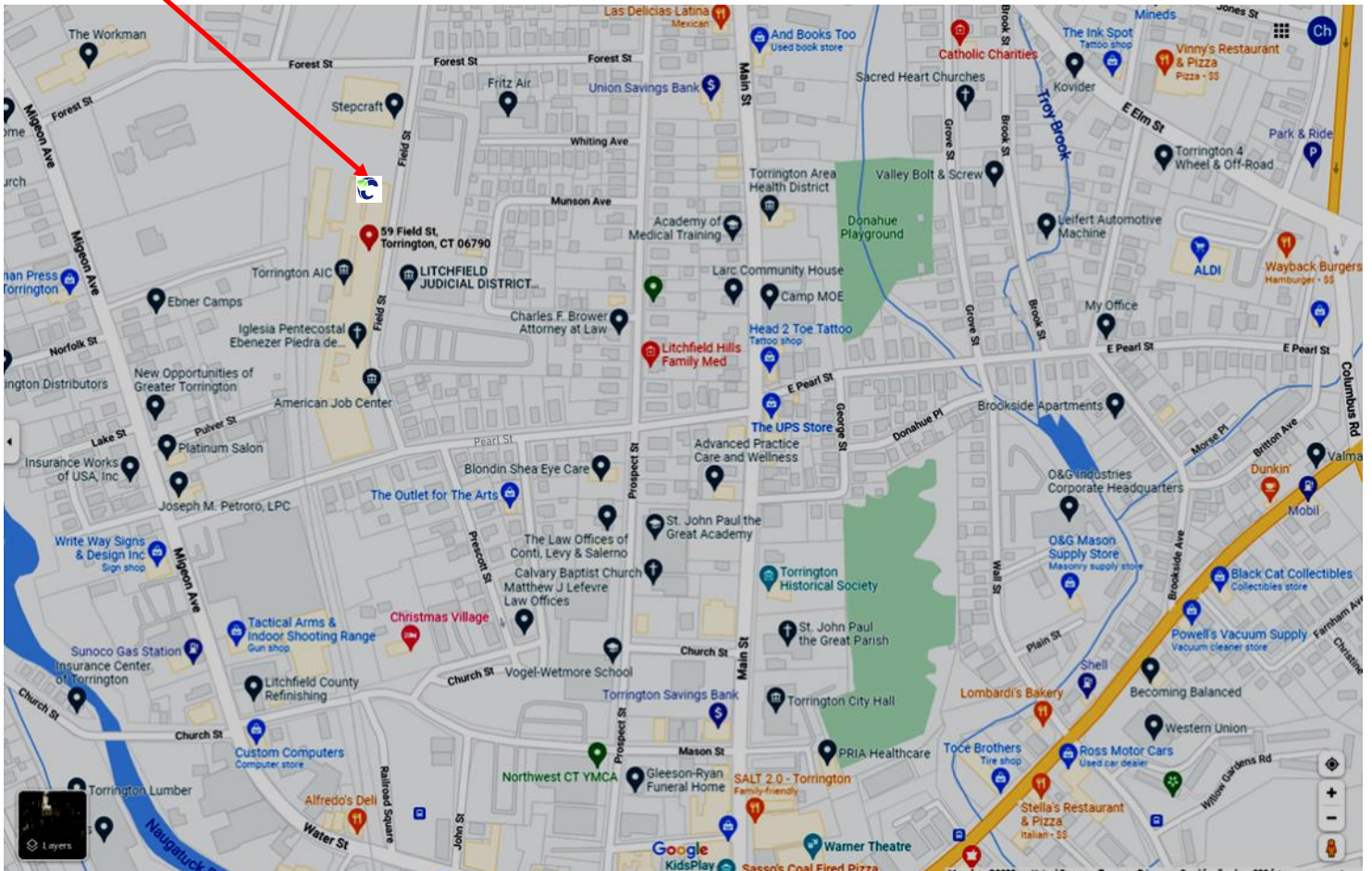
Kevin O'Connell
Health Council Chair

Membership Committee: The Membership Committee umbrellas the Ambassador, Hospitality, and Marketing & Communications Subcommittees. Together, the group acts as a liaison between membership and the Chamber of Commerce. At our November meeting, we were busy planning new ways to keep members connected and engaged with the many programs offered by the Chamber. In addition, members can look forward to the Member Discount Program, again. This program allows Chamber members to offer other members special discounts for products and/or services! The Membership Committee meets the first Thursday of each month .. if you have not participated in a Membership Meeting, we invite you to attend .. contact Lauren (lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) for more information.

Lance Leifert
Membership Committee Co-Chair

Chamber NEWS

Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce
59 Field Street, Suite 120, Torrington



Chamber NEWS

During the Pandemic, our Chamber had offered FREE advertising to help support our members. January 1st, we will reinstate our reduced ad pricing structure to enable us to better serve you.

PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY WITH THE



Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

DON'T WAIT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE MEMBER ONLY BENEFITS!

CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

Display Advertisements are available to Chamber members. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Submit ad in JPEG or PNG format to info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

Cost:

Full page (7 1/2" w x 9 1/2" h) - ~~\$250~~ **\$125**

1/2 page horizontal (7 1/2" w x 4 1/2" h) - ~~\$150~~ **\$75**

1/2 page vertical (3 1/2" w x 9 1/2" h) - ~~\$150~~ **\$75**

1/4 page (3 1/2" w x 4 1/2" h) - ~~\$75~~ **\$50**

Business card (3 1/2" w x 2 1/4" h) - ~~\$50~~ **\$25**

Member News and **Member in the Spotlights** may be submitted for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter and will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis. Bites should be approximately 100 words in length. Spotlights should be approximately 250 words in length and may include a logo or photo. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Email information to info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

Cost: Complimentary

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Display Advertisements are available to Chamber members in the Annual Business & Membership Directory. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of February. Information and pricing are available by contacting Lauren Zordan at lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

CHAMBER EXCHANGE – MEMBER TO MEMBER E-MAIL BLAST ADS

The Chamber sends e-mail blasts to all members with special offers and advertisements. These e-mails are sent separately from the standard member e-mails and are specially identified as offers from members. Members are able to place one ad per month. Ads can be linked to a website or FaceBook page. The e-mail distribution list exceeds 1,500 individuals. Ads should be submitted in JPEG or PNG format and should be 7" wide x 3-5" high. The fee is \$50 per ad. To schedule your Chamber Exchange ad, contact JoAnn Ryan at 860-482-6586 or joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Present a **Member to Member Workshop** to fellow members and highlight the products and services of your business. Utilize the Chamber's conference room, obtain a set of mailing labels, receive a 1/2 page advertisement in the newsletter and an email to the membership promoting the workshop. Contact Lauren Zordan to schedule at lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

Cost: ~~\$300~~ **\$250**

Chamber Space Rentals



Conference Room - Conference Style (seats up to 28)



Conference Room - Classroom Setup (seats 20-25)



Library - (Seats up to 6)



Reception Area - (Seats up to 8)

Member Room Rates: 8 am – 5 pm, \$35 for the 1st hour, \$20 per hour thereafter
 5 pm – 10 pm, \$45 for the 1st hour, \$35 per hour thereafter

Non Member Room Rates: 8 am – 5 pm, \$80 for the 1st hour, \$55 per hour thereafter
 5 pm – 10 pm, \$125 for the 1st hour, \$100 per hour thereafter

*After hours (5 pm – 10 pm) rates also apply to weekend use.
 Corporate Partners of the Chamber may utilize the conference rooms at no charge.
 Premier Members of the Chamber may utilize the conference rooms at half price.*

Projector, Whiteboard, and Flip Chart are available at no additional charge

News and **NOTES**

Struggling to pay your electric or heating bill? We have programs to help.

For more information on these assistance programs, scan the QR code below, visit Eversource.com/billhelp or call us at 800-286-2828. We'll work with you one-on-one to find the best program for you.

Protection from Shutoff for Hardship Customers

For qualifying gas or electric customers experiencing financial hardship, service cannot be turned off between November 1 and May 1.

Medical Protection

If you or a member of your immediate household has a serious or life-threatening medical condition, you may be eligible for protection from service disconnection for non-payment. Please call us at 800-286-2828 to learn more or enroll.

Matching Payment Program *(For electric heating and gas heating customers)*

Reduce your past due balance with affordable monthly payments.

Call us at **800-286-2828** or visit **211ct.org** to find your local community action agency to enroll and apply for state energy assistance funds.

Once enrolled, Eversource will match your payments, plus the amount of energy assistance you receive on your account, down to a zero balance.

If you receive public assistance benefits, your payments can be reduced to as low as \$50.

New Start *(for electric customers)*

Have your balance at the time of enrollment, eliminated in as little as 12 months.

We'll establish a monthly payment for you based on your usage.

Make your scheduled New Start payment, and a portion of your balance at the time of enrollment, will be eliminated or "forgiven," reducing the amount you owe each month.

Home Energy Solutions

Reduce energy use and stay comfortable for less with energy-saving upgrades. You may qualify for an energy assessment and services like air sealing at no cost, up to 100% off approved insulation, and additional services at a reduced cost. Please call 1-877-WISE USE (947-3873) or visit Eversource.com/billhelp for an application.

To be eligible for income-based assistance programs, your household income must be at or below 60% of the State Median Income:

2022-2023 Income Eligibility Guidelines

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Household Size | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Income Level | \$39,761 | \$51,996 | \$64,230 | \$76,465 | \$88,699 | \$100,933 | \$103,227 | \$105,521 |
| Household Size | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Income Level | \$107,816 | \$110,110 | \$112,404 | \$114,698 | \$116,991 | \$119,285 | \$121,579 | \$123,873 |

Other Help:

Operation Fuel: **860-243-2345**, Operationalfuel.org/gethelp
 United Way Infoline: **211**
 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority: **800-382-4586**

Scan here for more information





Upcoming **CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- Dec. 1 - Membership Committee - 8 AM
- Dec. 1 - Identity Theft Webinar (Presented By: defend-id) via ZOOM, 9 AM
- Dec. 2 - Corporate Partner and Premier Member Breakfast @ Green Woods Country Club, 300 Tarringford St, Winsted, 8 AM (Sponsored By: Ebner Camps)
- Dec. 6 - Small Business Council - 8 AM
- Dec. 6 - Small Business Seminar - E-Commerce: The Basics @ NW CT Chamber of Commerce, 59 Field Street, Suite 120, Torrington, 5:30 - 8:30 PM
- Dec. 7 - WOW Advisory Committee - 9 AM
- Dec. 7 - Holiday Party @ Whiting Mills, 210 Holabird Avenue, Winsted 5-7 PM (Sponsored By: Whiting Mills and National Iron Bank)
- Dec. 8 - Government Relations Committee - 8 AM
- Dec. 8 - Learn at Lunch: Your Path to Home Ownership (Presented By: Lydia Falconer, M&T Bank) @ NW CT Chamber of Commerce, 59 Field St, Suite 120, Torrington, 12 - 1 PM
- Dec. 12 - Leads I - 12 PM (Venue TBA)
- Dec. 14 - Health Council - 8 AM
- Dec. 14 - Leadership Northwest Session #3 - 8:30 AM
- Dec. 15 - Board of Directors Meeting - **7:30** AM
- Dec. 20 - Business with Breakfast @ The Cobblestone Restaurant, 236 N. Elm St., Torrington - 8 AM
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2 - **CHAMBER CLOSED** for the Holidays

Save the Date

- January 3 - Small Business Council @NWCT Chamber, 8 AM**
- January 5 - Membership Committee @NWCT Chamber, 8 AM**
- January 9 - Leads Group 1 @NWCT Chamber, 12 PM**
- January 12 - Government Relations Committee @NWCT Chamber, 8 AM**
- January 16 - CHAMBER CLOSED - In Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- January 18 - Health Council @NWCT Chamber, 8 AM**
- January 18 - Leadership Northwest Session #4 @NWCT Chamber, 8:30 AM**
- January 18 - Business After Hours @ KidsPlay Children's Museum, Torrington, 5-7 PM**
- January 23 - Leads Group 1 @NWCT Chamber, 12 PM**
- January 26 - Board of Directors Meeting @NWCT Chamber, 8 AM**

Newsletter Submissions:

Please send us your newsletter submissions by the 15th of the month. Beyond that date, we cannot guarantee that it will be in the following month's edition.

Thank you.