

NCC RECORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1046 MAIN STREET NEWINGTON, CT 06111 (860) 666-2089

WINTER 2008 / 2009



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy twenty-o-nine! As we begin what for many of us is a new fiscal year we are planning, setting goals, looking ahead to what we hope will be a year of success and prosperity for our businesses. The Chamber is looking ahead too. We have many events and activities coming up for our members and for those who want to become members.

In March we will again offer the five-week seminar series for those who are looking for information about how to start a business successfully. It is a series designed to offer the potential, or very new business owner, education and information that can help them avoid some of the pitfalls that many new businesses get into. Our goal as a Chamber is to help businesses be successful.

On March 14th we have the 17th Annual Home and Business Showcase where businesses meet the community. It is a wonderful opportunity to let the people of Newington know who you are and what you do. There is no better marketing tool than person-to-person contact. People get to have a sense of who you are and you get a valuable minute to tell them how you can be of service to them! In addition to meeting the townsfolk, you get to market to other business people in the community who might need your service or product, or get to know you and become a referral source for your business.

In addition to the above major activities the Chamber continues to have the busy networking groups: The Wednesday morning 7AM Network that meets at the Chamber office; the Women's Networking Group that meets the third Thursday of each month at lunchtime at the Kellogg Eddy House; and, In the Mix that meets at 5:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month. Each of these groups offers opportunities for business people to get the word out about themselves and their business. Networking is a valuable marketing tool for every business in town. Try it, you might learn of a business that would be useful to you or your business, or you may find a new client for your business!

I cannot stress enough how important it is to belong to the Newington Chamber of Commerce and participate in the many marketing opportunities to help your business grow as well as help others grow their businesses so that we are all on the road to success. It is an old New England tradition called "interdependence" and that is how we all prosper. In Newington we can help the economic situation by supporting each other's business and doing business with each other. This is not a time to get scared and have a business paralysis, it is a time to get active and do business!

I wish you success and prosperity in twenty-o-nine. Please check the website, www.newingtonchamber.com, for information and how to participate in the Chamber's activities.

Joan-Alice Taylor, Psy.D., P.T.
President, Newington Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chamber Members,

I hope everyone had a prosperous 2008 and a happy and healthy holiday season. 2009 will be a year of challenges - as business people and Chamber members we need to work with each other, the local community, and the business community towards achieving success and prosperity.

As for Chamber events, 2009 will start on January 20th with a Business After Hours at Wireless Zone on Fenn Road, January 27th will be the 8th Annual New Member Recognition and Networking Social at Middlewoods of Newington, the Annual State of the Town will be on Thursday, February 12th at Newington High School, and the 17th Annual Home and Business Showcase/Taste of Newington is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th at Newington High School. So mark your calendars now for these 2009 events!

Happy New Year!
Gail Whitney
Executive Director

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Looking for a cost-effective way to promote your business while helping the Chamber grow? Consider being a sponsor of a Chamber event. Your sponsorship demonstrates your commitment to the Chamber and the community, and it helps offset the costs of putting on the event.

Numerous opportunities present themselves throughout the year such as the annual holiday gathering featuring the Newington High School Choir, the tree-lighting ceremony and carol sing in the center of town, the annual office opening anniversary celebration which features the food drive for the Newington's Department of Human Services, the Silent Auction, and of course, the Home and Business Showcase held each spring at the high school.

Sponsorships are available at many levels depending on the event to fit any budget and enable you to get your name out to hundreds (and in some cases, thousands) of potential customers via mailings, e-mailings, print ads, and on-site or website promotions.

Further information is available by either calling the Chamber office at 860-666-2089, or by e-mail: office@newingtonchamber.com.

7AM NETWORK ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009



Hazel Marsden, Gail Whitney, Diane Burke, and Anna Eddy enjoy the evening's festivities



Dan Henry, Margaret Christe, Dan Fisher, David Schreiber, Dan Balboni, and Jed Beaulieu enjoy the holiday party



Steve Holtz, Suzanne Edgardo, and Mary Sullivan partake in the 7AM holiday party

17TH ANNUAL HOME AND BUSINESS SHOWCASE SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

If you would like to participate in the 17th Annual Home and Business Showcase, please contact Gail at the Newington Chamber of Commerce office at 666-2089 or office@newingtonchamber.com – thank you!

SPONSORED BY:



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QUEST**
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TASTE OF NEWINGTON SPONSORED BY:



172 KELSEY STREET
NEWINGTON, CT 06111
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(860) 667-1605

5TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION/WINE TASTING/CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE
SPONSORED BY MICHAEL VANAUDEKERK OF STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008



Kathy Braga presents Mary Anne Charron of Cocoa Chi with the "Chocolate Challenge" winner plaque.



Gail Whitney, Michael Crouchley, and Kathy Braga enjoy the 5th Annual Silent Auction/Wine Tasting/Chocolate Challenge



Jess Rodriguez, Michael VanAudekerk, and Kathy Braga congratulate Jess on winning the "Pop For Prizes" Grand prize



"Pop for Prizes" at the 5th annual silent auction/wine tasting/chocolate challenge



Joyce Brown, Bea Priola, and Mimma Burke look over the auction items



Joe Brown, Joan-Alice Taylor, Joyce Brown, and Arlyne DellaDonna enjoy the auction evening



Dave Marsden, Fay Von Deck, Hazel Marsden, and John Von Deck enjoy the auction evening

LOG ON FOR CHAMBER NEWS

The Newington Chamber of Commerce can be found on the World Wide Web. Visit our site for news and information about the Chamber and its many activities and events: www.newingtonchamber.com. You can also e-mail us at office@newingtonchamber.com

MONTHLY FLYERS

The Newington Chamber of Commerce will be sending out twice-monthly flyers, around the 1st and 15th of each month. If you would like to participate in a piggyback mailing at a cost of \$85 where you supply 400 copies, please contact Gail at the Chamber Office at 666-2089.

7AM NETWORK

The 7AM Network meets every Wednesday of each month at 7:00 AM at the Newington Chamber of Commerce office, 1046 Main Street, Newington. Come enjoy a delicious breakfast and meet your business contemporaries sharing ideas, testimonies, and referrals! For information on the 7AM Network, please contact Co-Coordinators Bob Newbold at 232-1330, or Dan Balboni at 665-8041.

IN THE MIX – NETWORKING GROUP

In The Mix Networking Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. For more information on In The Mix, please contact Co-Coordinators Dan Balboni at 665-8041 or David Schreiber at 667-8339.

WoMeetAndNetwork

THE WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP OF THE NEWINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Newington Chamber of Commerce has begun a Women's Networking Group. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at noontime (excluding July and August). The "home base" for these meetings will be the Kellogg Eddy House, 679 Willard Avenue, Newington. Lunch will be served at each meeting. If you would like more information about the Women's Networking Group, please contact Gail at the Chamber Office at (860) 666-2089 or office@newingtonchamber.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors encourages all members to attend the monthly meetings. We hope you will find the time to come by a meeting, introduce yourself, and become involved with our committees. Board meetings are held at the Newington Chamber of Commerce Office, 1046 Main Street, and begin at 8:00 A.M. on the third Tuesday of each month.

****NOTE TO MEMBERS****

If there are any changes to the name of your company, the contact person, address, phone and FAX numbers, or e-mail, please contact the office at 666-2089 and let us know – Thanks!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Since June 2008, the Newington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted in new Chamber members at the Chamber's monthly Board meetings. These members are Artistic Nails, Motta Investments LLC, Tomasz Stosur, Cavos Tavern & Pizzeria, Petry Communications LLC, Ameriprise Financial, Buckingham Community Services, Aquiline Commerce Inc., Sumner and Sumner Inc., Aldi Inc., Travis Mortgage LLC, Envy Hair Salon, Graphically Speaking, Best Western New England Inn & Suites, The Castillo Agency. Feel free to contact the Chamber office to learn about these new members – and - please visit these establishments and welcome them to the Newington Chamber!

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHS

The Newington Chamber of Commerce office displays art work from the Newington Art League. Additionally, Alan Budney exhibits his photographs in the Chamber office. Please stop by the Chamber office to view these displays.

THANK YOU!!!

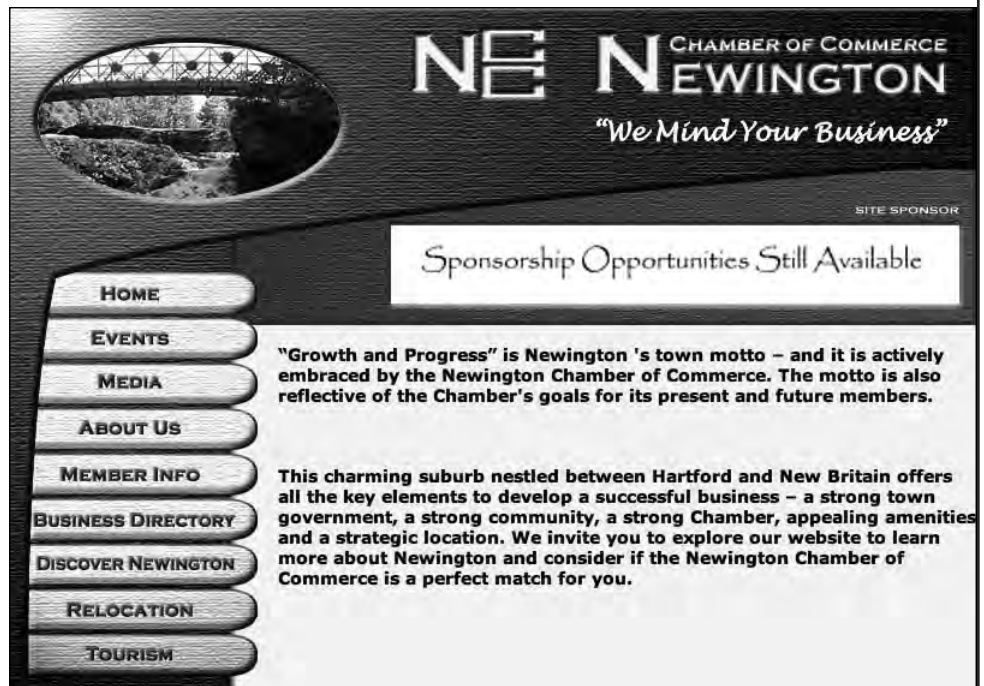
The Newington Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Alan Budney of Alan Budney Photography for the pictures from the 5th Annual Silent Auction/Wine Tasting/Chocolate Challenge, and Newington Night of Lights.

Currently, we are receiving more than 40,000 hits per month on our Chamber web site and that number is steadily increasing! The areas that receive the most clicks are the on-line business directory and the banner ads. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Chamber's web site, the yearly rate is \$300 - or you can advertise on the web site for a minimum three month time period at a cost of \$99. Call the Chamber at (860) 666-2089 for details today!

Key features of the new site include:

- Business Directory Listings of Chamber Members
- Member Benefits
- Event Features/Community Calendar
- Member of the Month Features
- Newington-at-a-Glance
- On-line Job Postings/ Employment Opportunities
- Discover Newington
- Tourism

CHAMBER WEB SITE RECEIVING OVER 40,000 HITS PER MONTH!



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS REMINDER TO CHAMBER MEMBERS

***NETWORKING** – Business networking at breakfast meetings as well as after work social events (Business After Hours). Chamber members do business with other Chamber members.

***7AM NETWORK** meets at the Newington Chamber of Commerce office in Newington each Wednesday – stop by, enjoy a delicious breakfast, but most importantly meet your business contemporaries and exchange ideas, testimonies, and referrals!

***IN THE MIX** - meets at Vito's Restaurant the second Wednesday of each month – stop by, enjoy some appetizers, but most importantly meet your business contemporaries and exchange ideas, testimonies, and referrals!

***INSURANCE** - Health, Disability, Group Life, Short and Long Term Disability, Dental, and Vision Care

***SHOWCASE** – The Newington Chamber of Commerce holds their Annual Home and Business Showcase in the Spring at Newington High School. The Taste of Newington is also held on this day and features area restaurants.

***MONTHLY MAILINGS/NEWSLETTER** – Around the 1st and 15th of each month the Chamber sends out flyers to Chamber members. If you would like to participate in a piggyback mailing, please contact the office at 666-2089. You supply your own copies (400) at a charge of \$85. The Newington Chamber of Commerce's quarterly newsletter features member news, upcoming events, and business recognition.

***CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP** – As a member of the Newington Chamber of Commerce, you can join the First New England Federal Credit Union.

***MARKETING/PROMOTION/RECOGNITION** – Become involved in the Newington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Committees. Your community involvement will result in higher visibility for your business.

***ON-LINE DIRECTORY** – You will have a free listing on the Newington Chamber of Commerce website business directory (www.newingtonchamber.com) and you will be listed on CTPhoneBook.com at no additional cost. This is a \$100 value. With a listing in both directories, your business will receive added exposure on the Internet.

***BUSINESS AFTER HOURS/GRAND OPENING CELEBRATIONS** – At least once per month the Newington Chamber of Commerce holds a Business After Hours sponsored by an area business. New businesses are also entitled to a Grand Opening Celebration/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

NEWINGTON: CRANES, BACKHOES, & TRUCKS!!!

Tom Ganley, Town Planning and Zoning

From time to time I have brought the readership up-to-date on the various proposals that the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission (TPZ) has reviewed and approved; please see these proposals below:

- Phase III Streetscape Improvements Market Square to Lowrey Place were completed and two façade renovations projects, 1052 Main Street and 28 Garfield Street, were undertaken with STEAP grant funds.
- Federal EPA Brownfield Assessment grant program completed environmental reports for 690 Cedar Street, National Welding property, and 21 Boulevard, a former foundry. These reports were conducted by licensed environmental engineers and will be used to further clean up of these properties.
- Affordable Age-Restricted Housing Study Committee voted to support lease option of New Meadow Phase II parcel to New Samaritan Corporation.
- Sam's Club Warehouse site development project construction initiated for 137,000 square foot building.
- Three Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation projects completed using repayments from revolving loan fund.
- Schuco Technologies 60,000 square foot warehouse/distribution center interior reuse of former Torrington plant renovations initiated.
- Aldi Food Store construction commenced for 17,000 square foot site work and demolition of JDC Trucking building commenced in June 2007.
- Holiday Inn Express 124 room hotel revised site plan approved in July 2007.
- 70,000 square foot ICS warehouse and 4 acre outside storage facility approved in August at Newington Business Park.
- LA Fitness Club 50,000 square foot reuse Stickley Audi Furniture Store approved.
- Redevelopment of older gas station and car wash at 129 Willard Avenue approved for convenience store/gas station use.
- Hoffman Gun store redevelopment of 2686 Berlin Turnpike of 14,518 square foot retail use approved.
- 6 lot residential single family subdivision approved for Culver Street and Shady Hill Drive.
- Mixed use commercial project with 120 room hotel, bank, restaurant, and possible second phase 15,000 square food retail use approved for the intersection of Cedar Street and Fenn Road.
- 14,000 square food adult day care building approved for Willard Avenue adjacent to Fountain Pointe Office Park.
- 2,400 square foot Dunkin Donut Coffee Shop with drive-through window service approved for vacant property adjacent to Wendy's Restaurant.

The following proposals will allow the Town to gain in tax revenue with the generation of the full tax bill due starting in fiscal year 2009-2010. The projects mentioned will reach their full potential for tax revenue during the

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NEWINGTON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (DBA)

The Newington Downtown Business Association (DBA) is a consortium of businesses and individuals who believe in the quality of life on Newington Center. With the recent improvements on Main Street, and planned improvements for Market Square, we are excited about the prospects for Newington Center.

The DBA offers many benefits to its business and individual members. We create opportunities for members to promote and improve both service and retail businesses. Members will have the opportunity to take advantage of excellent group advertising rates and special event promotions. In addition, members have the ability to create a collective voice for their concerns regarding Newington Center. The DBA will develop several co-op advertising plans, which will allow its members to share some costs on local and regional advertising.

The DBA encourages communications through networking. The DBA meets the second Thursday of each month at Cugino's at 6:15 PM. The DBA is currently looking for new members and promotion and event ideas. For more information, please contact:

Walter Gualtieri, Roma Tailors
666-9813

Rich Simon, Simon Sez Pets
757-3847
sales@simonsezpets.com

Nancy Tyler, Sovereign Bank
666-2408
ntyler@sovereignbank.com

Valeri French, French's Travel
666-4625
vacations@frenchstravel.com

NEWINGTON NIGHT OF LIGHTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008

Sponsors: Bob Newbold of Thomas Fahy Insurance Agency, Dave and Hazel Marsden of Prudential Connecticut Realty, Connecticut Valley Insurance Associates, and Webster Bank. Refreshments donated by: Cary Gagnon's Dunkin Donuts and Middlewoods of Newington



NEWINGTON: CRANES, BACKHOES, & TRUCKS!!!

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remainder of the fiscal year 2008-2009. These are the most visible:

- The nicely appointed L-shaped office building on Brockett Street
- Sam's Club and the adjoining gas station
- The motel on the turnpike next to the former Hoffman Gun store
- The renovated OFI building which is now Hoffman Gun
- Aldi Food Store and the adjacent rear building lot
- The Toll Brothers development (old Hartford Drive-In site)
- Pulte Homes on Fenn Road
- Volvo International (all interior high tech equipment since moved in after the addition was completed)

Newington is still well positioned to increase its commercial tax base. Over time with due diligence by the TPZ and the Economic Development Commission, it can be accomplished.



JOIN THE CHAMBER!!

Phone: (860) 666-2089

Email: office@newingtonchamber.com

Website: www.newingtonchamber.com

1046 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

