

OUR MISSION

To promote tourism and education in northwest Connecticut by displaying appropriate business information and materials for the purpose of introducing residents and visitors to the numerous historical, educational, civic, recreational, and cultural opportunities available throughout the region.

NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CHAMBER EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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The Northwest CT Welcome & Information Center would not be possible without the collaboration of:

*Chamber of Commerce of Northwest CT, Inc.
Church of Saint Maron
City of Torrington*

*Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials
Litchfield Hills Convention & Visitor's Bureau
NW CT Chamber Education Foundation, Inc.
NW CT Economic Development Corporation
NW CT Council of Governments
Torrington Historical Society*



NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT WELCOME & INFORMATION CENTER

SKEE'S DINER
Relocation and Renovation Project

preserving our history
supporting our future
growing our business

A Program of the
Northwest Connecticut Chamber
Education Foundation

Supported by the
Chamber of Commerce of Northwest CT, Inc.
www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org

SKEE'S DINER TIMELINE

- Skee's is a Jerry O'Mahony, Inc. diner — the oldest known structure of its kind in Connecticut.
- 1920** It was built around 1920 and moved from Old Saybrook to Torrington in 1944.
- 1945** Skee's is named after Tony "Skee" Cisowski, who owned and operated the diner with his brother Edmund upon their return from serving in the Navy in World War II.
- The Cisowski's ran the diner for 30 years, serving a broad spectrum of community members from the town mayor to Torrington Company workers.
- 1975** They sold Skee's to Judith A. Belmonte in 1975, who then sold it to Saint Maron's Church several years later. After attempting unsuccessfully to lease the diner, the Church closed Skee's in 2001.
- 2001**
- 2002** The diner was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 2002 due to its architectural and cultural significance.
- 2006** In the fall of 2006, the Chamber began researching the possibility of purchasing Skee's, moving it to the Route 8 commuter lot at Exit 44 in Torrington, and renovating it into a Welcome & Information Center.
- 2009** When this project is completed, Skee's Diner will be the only Jerry O'Mahony diner in the United States to be restored and converted into an historical and educational facility.

A History of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation, Inc.

- ▶ August 3, 2007—The Northwest CT Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. received a **501c3** IRS designation as a private foundation established for educational purposes, allowing **private contributions and donations to be tax-deductible**.
- ▶ The Foundation is proud of the initiatives that provide **educational programs** benefitting the residents and visitors of this beautiful region (e.g. seminars, job training, career fairs, leadership development, school-to-career, the WOW! Forum, Wellness Directory, Read Aloud, and the dream of the Northwest Connecticut Welcome & Information Center).
- ▶ October 5, 2007—The Chamber Education Foundation was awarded a **matching grant of \$100,000** from the Endangered Building Fund Grant Program of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism.

With your financial support, this dream will become a reality!

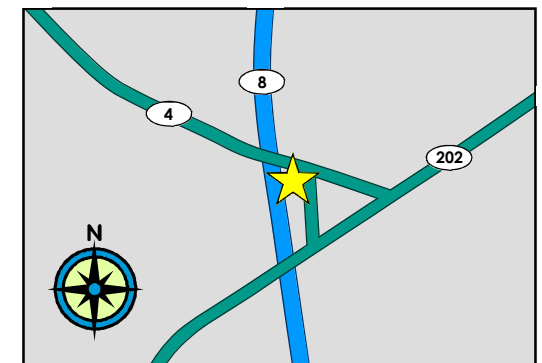
Please submit contributions to:

*Northwest Connecticut Chamber
Education Foundation, Inc.
333 Kennedy Drive
P.O. Box 59
Torrington, CT 06790*

Help This Historical and Educational Dream Come True!

Statistics on state tourism indicate **the Litchfield Hills region is the second most visited area** in the state. In addition to the beauty and historic nature of the region, northwest Connecticut is also home to a **vibrant business community**. Whatever you are looking for—arts and entertainment, antique shops, galleries, restaurants or recreation—you will find it here.

The Northwest CT Welcome & Information Center will educate residents and visitors on the diverse local opportunities available, and expose area businesses to the **thousands of tourists** who visit northwest CT every year.



The star on the map indicates the future location of the Northwest CT Welcome & Information Center.

The building will be located near Route 8's Downtown Torrington exit and will be visible from Torrington's three major roads—the gateway to the Northwest Corner.