

# NORTHWEST CHAMBER YEAR IN REVIEW

As the end of 2019 approaches, we are always amazed at how fast the years fly by. The holidays are in full swing and we have a lot to be thankful for this year. Our programs and events were successful, we gained many new friends, members, and Corporate Partners, and as we look back on the year, we would like to highlight some of our many initiatives.

kicked off on a high note with a Chamber Open House at our office. The space was packed with over 130 businesspeople and great energy and excitement was felt by all in attendance. Members and perspective members enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and listened to the many wonderful resources the Chamber provides. It was a great refresher for seasoned members and a chance for perspective members to see how the Chamber supports business and quality of life in Northwest Connecticut. We look forward to having another soon and you won't want to miss it!



*ebruary* featured the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Read Aloud Day at elementary schools around the region. Read Aloud Day is graciously sponsored by The Draper Foundation Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. Over 400 volunteers read to more than 7500 students in grades pre-k through 6th. The volunteers were treated to refreshments before the students escorted them to their classrooms to read. After reading, each book was donated to the classroom's library. The objective of Read Aloud Day is to make elementary students more aware of the importance of childhood literacy. Over the course of 28 years, the Northwest CT Chamber Education Foundation has donated over 10,000 books to classroom libraries around the region, thanks to the generosity of the program's sponsor. Save the date for the 2020 Read Aloud Day on February 12th.

Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Job Fair was held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Torrington City Hall Auditorium. Over 40 companies from all industries were represented at this year's fair which was attended by



hundreds of job seekers from all over the region. The feedback from attendees was excellent and many hires were made as a result. The Job Fair is sponsored by the City of Torrington, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, FM 97.3 WZBG, Connecticut Department of Labor, The Register Citizen, Republican-American, and ctjobs.com.

The 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut, Inc. was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. This year's keynote speaker was The Honorable Ned Lamont, the 89<sup>th</sup> Governor of the State of Connecticut. The 2019 inductees into the Chamber Hall of Fame were Karen Kuhl of Geer Village Senior Community and Paul Patch, Associate Member and retired from O&G Industries, Inc. Both have contributed countless hours of their time to our Chamber. If you'd like to nominate someone for the 2020 Chamber Hall of Fame, please contact JoAnn.

The Chamber's 3rd Annual Great Giveaway Business Showcase was held on May 9th at Chatterley's Banquet Facility. Exhibitors and Chamber members enjoyed a private networking hour from 4-5 p.m. The event opened to the public at 5 p.m. Over 50 exhibitors participated in the Showcase. Each of them

offered an exciting door prize that was raffled off at their table. The event featured free food and a cash bar. Save the date of April 1st for the 2020 Business Showcase. Tables will sell fast for this highly anticipated event.





69 Water Street Torrington, CT 06790

155 Hazard Avenue, Suite 12 Enfield, CT 06083 855 Sullivan Avenue, Unit C South Windsor, CT 06074

# From the Chamber President & CEO JOANN RYAN



Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind,

To speak of health, happiness, and prosperity to every person that you meet.

To make all your friends aware of the special qualities within them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and let your optimism work to make your dreams come true.

To think, work for, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others, as you are about your own.

To forget past mistakes and press on towards a greater future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times, as a smile radiates warmth and love.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time left to criticize others.

To be too wise for worry, too tolerant for anger, and too courageous for fear.

To Be Happy.

Anonymous

This is my hope for the Chamber and the extraordinary people who surround us: our Corporate Partners, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors; committee chairs, volunteers, a most professional staff, you, our steadfast members and many new collaborators throughout northwest Connecticut.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you with renewed enthusiasm and optimism resolving to make 2020 healthy, happy and worthwhile. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to lead this outstanding organization.



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# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

**CUTIE PIES LLC** Bakery • 860-601-0988 • cutiepiesct.com Tanya Clark 88 Trestle Lane • Thomaston

#### THE DURKIN GROUP

Education • 860-799-6120 • thedurkingroup.org Corey Durkin 35D Danbury Road • New Milford

#### QUIET ZONE

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#### RACHEL A. SAMPSON, PSY.D.

Psychologist & Credentialed Mediator • 860-485-1459 P.O. Box 2159 • Torrington

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715) 771-0421

# Corporate Partner SHOUT OUTS.

#### **BANTAMWESSON ENERGY**

BantamWesson Energy recently announced their merger with Cheshire, CT - based Arbor Energy to provide their customers with expanded services. The merger allows BantamWesson to expand their service to 71 towns throughout Connecticut.

With locations in Waterbury, Canton, Cheshire and Bantam, BantamWesson offers the following services: heating oil (BioHeat) and propane delivery, HVAC installation, service and maintenance, plumbing services, electrical services, generators, energy efficiency assessments, insulation, windows and air quality testing. Contact BantamWesson at 203-755-1148 for details on any of these services.

### **CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL**

The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) Auxiliary is offering ten \$1,000 scholarships to local students pursuing an education in a healthcare field. Two additional scholarships, the Doctor Alfred Fabro Award and the Doctor Joseph Curi Award will also be presented in the amount of \$1,000 each. Applicants must reside in a community served by CHH and must be planning to matriculate at a college or institution of higher education for a healthcare degree.

Applications and instructions for completing the application may be obtained by e-mailing chhscholarship@gmail.com. For more information call (860) 482-3135.

# Chamber Member **NEWS**

#### KAREN LEONARD, EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS

Karen Leonard, a financial advisor with the financial services firm Edward Jones in New Hartford, and Donna Robideau, a branch office administrator, recently attended an invitation-only training opportunity at the firm's headquarters in St. Louis. The three-day Advanced Practice Management Forum is offered to branch teams throughout the country who rank among the



Bring your party to our party! A holiday party, perfect for small to medium sized businesses who want to spend more time merrymaking and less time party planning. Enjoy a buffet luncheon of holiday favorites with a modern spin.

#### JOIN US ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.



top third most successful in the firm in helping clients work toward their long-term financial goals.

"The Advanced Practice Management Forum gave us an opportunity to share ideas with other successful teams, visit with home-office experts to discuss ways to meet more clients' needs and view technical demonstrations highlighting a variety of systems and tools," Leonard said. "Donna and I also were able to tailor some of the training to focus on areas of our business that we want to grow."

Robideau adds, "Attending this training together will help us better serve our clients. We now share a clearer vision of the best practices, tools and resources to use in earning new clients, deepening relationships with existing clients and overall delivering an ideal client experience."

#### **PRIME TIME HOUSE**

Prime Time House's pop up store, Prime Finds Home for the Holidays, is located in the former Murphy's Pharmacy at 59 West Street on the Litchfield Green. Selling high quality, gently used furniture, home decor and holiday items, Prime Finds has new items arriving daily.

The pop-up store will be open through Dec 29th.. The scheduled hours of operation are:

• Through December 15th - Wednesday thru Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sundays 11am to 3pm.

• Beginning December 16th - Monday thru Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sundays 11am to 3pm.

# Coming Up at NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER



## **MANUFACTURERS' COALITION**

The Manufacturers' Coalition meeting will take place on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Chamber of Commerce office and the focus will be on legislation relating to manufacturing, both newly passed and upcoming this year. Our local delegation will be on hand to update attendees and answer questions. The meeting will also feature an introduction to Connecticut's first Chief of Manufacturing Colin Cooper. This meeting is open to manufacturers and educators from the region. RSVP online at nwctchamberofcommerce.org to attend the meeting.

## **READ ALOUD**

We are seeking volunteers to spend two hours of their day sharing their love of reading with elementary school students. For the 29<sup>th</sup> year, our Chamber is excited to host Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> (snow date- Feb.13) at elementary schools around the region. After attending a short orientation and reviewing the book, a student will escort you to the classroom for your Read Aloud experience.

Participating schools include: Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Cornwall, Falls Village (Kellogg), Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield (Center & Intermediate), Morris, New Hartford (Ann Antolini, Bakerville, New Hartford Elementary), Norfolk (Botelle), North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington (East, Forbes, Southwest, St. John Paul the Great Academy, Torringford, Vogel-Wetmore), Thomaston, Warren, Winsted (St. Anthony, Batcheller, Pearson).

Read Aloud is a program of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation sponsored by the Draper Foundation Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING

Connecticut's Time's Up Act Requires: employers to provide all existing employees with two hours of training by October 1, 2020, employers to provide two hours of training and education to new employees hired on or after October 1, 2019 within six months of their start date, employers to provide two hours of training and education to all existing supervisory employees by October 1, 2020 or within six months to new supervisory employees, employers to provide periodic training not less than every ten years.

The Chamber is now hosting Sexual Harassment Prevention Trainings to fulfill these requirements. So far two dates have been scheduled; the first was held December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the next is March 10<sup>th</sup>, both from 8-10 am.

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# Coming Up at NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

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## SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING (Continued)

This Sexual Harassment In the Workplace seminar will cover all aspects of the new statutory requirements for employers, including, information about what has changed, what new obligations exist for employers and where employers can find additional resources to ensure compliance. The presentation and discussion will also focus on understanding the spectrum of workplace conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, best practices in appropriately addressing sexual harassment and, in understanding the legal implications employers should be aware of when dealing with harassment issues in the workplace.

This seminar will satisfy Connecticut's two (2) hour sexual harassment training requirement and is being provided by Secor, Cassidy & McPartland, P.C. Only 40 spots available at each class. The cost is \$50/person to attend. Sign up your employees online at nwctchamberofcommerce.org or by calling the Chamber at 860-482-6586.

# What's Been Happening at NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ORGANIZATION

The Chamber's Young Professionals Organization met on November 13th at Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted for a networking Happy Hour event. Over 30 young professionals from around the region attended the event which featured live music, Singing Sliders' food truck with food for purchase, and a tour of the facility. The Young Professionals Organization is a great way for younger employees to build their network and develop lasting friendships with other young professionals in the region. If you have an employee who would be interested in joining the group, please email Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

## LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

The Leadership Northwest class had their second full day session on Wednesday, November 20th. The purpose of the session was to expose attendees to some of the many social service organizations in Northwest Connecticut and to gain knowledge and understanding of issues affecting our region.

The first stop of the day was to the Winsted Y Emergency Homeless Shelter. The Y's six rooms, with a combined 17 available beds, offers a short-term respite for families, couples and individuals suffering through difficult times. Housing Director, Daniel Lamont, works with guests and helps them on the road to securing housing of their own. Dan spoke to the group about the shelter and gave a tour. One of the residents from the shelter shared her very moving story with the class.

Their next stop was the Torrington Police Department where they met with Community Relations Officer Rob Simon and the Chief of Police Bill Baldwin. The Police Department's mission is to improve the quality of life through a community partnership which promotes safe, secure neighborhoods while affording dignity and respect to every individual. The class heard about the many programs and initiatives offered through the department, as well as issues and obstacles faced in this area and had a tour of the department.



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### NOT GETTING OUR EMAILS?

If you are not receiving emails from us but have in the past, the problem could be that we changed our email servers earlier this year. First, make sure to check your Spam folder. If it's not there, have your IT department check to ensure our domain of nwctchamberofcommerce.org is Whitelisted. If this has been done and you are still not receiving our emails, please give us a call to let us know and we'll have our IT check things on our side.

If you've never received our emails, but would like to, simply email anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org and we'll get you added to the distribution list immediately. Finally, please note, we do not share the email distribution list.

# NORTHWEST CHAMBER YEAR IN REVIEW

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**Une** The awards for Business Leader, Community Leader and Quality of Life were presented on June 27th. The Business Leader award recipient was Steven Temkin, T&M Building Co., Inc. Steven is the Chief Executive Officer of T&M Building Co., Inc., a homebuilding company headquartered in Torrington, Connecticut. He is also a member of Torrington Downtown Partners, LLC, an entity that owns, renovates and leases spaces in downtown Torrington. The community involvement of James O'Leary earned him the 2019 Community Leader award. Jim has been a dedicated resident of Goshen for more than 50 years, giving his time to many organizations and public service. Prime Time House, Inc. was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Quality of Life award due to the organization's commitment to the overall improvement in the quality of life of Northwest Connecticut. Prime Time House provides opportunities for adults living with mental illness to lead productive, independent, and fulfilling lives throughout Litchfield County. If you'd like to nominate an individual or business for the 2020 Celebration of Success Awards, email JoAnn today.



Northwest CT's Chamber Small Business Council welcomed Alesia Kennerson, Revenue Examiner with the State of CT Department of Revenue Services at the July 2nd meeting. Ms. Kennerson provided an informational presentation on sales and use tax requirements for the State of Connecticut. For those that were not able to attend, information on the presentation can be found at https:// portal.ct.gov/DRS/Businesses/New-Business-Portal/ Business-Information-Website. There are a number of helpful links for businesses on the page. The specific information shared on July 2nd can be found by clicking "Business Tax Help Presentations" and then "Sales Tax Overview" presentation. Businesses can find exemption certificates and lists of taxable services as well. The Small Business Council meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber and is open to any Chamber member with less than 10 employees.

🕻 We didn't slow down in August hosting educational seminars and networking events. The Chamber's Young Professionals Organization held a networking event at Rowley Grill & Tap in Winsted. The Organization provides a great opportunity for 21-40 yearolds who live and/or work in Northwest Connecticut to network with each other and foster relationships they otherwise might not have the chance to make. If you have young professionals in your company who would like to get involved in the group, have them email Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org. The Chamber's Young Professionals Organization is sponsored by Conquest. The Chamber partnered with Litchfield High School to put together an educational panel for their senior class on August 28th. The purpose of the panel discussion was for the seniors to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be college and/or career ready in the 21st century, and to reinforce the perspective that setbacks to achieving one's goals are really just steps in the process.



The Chamber was pleased to offer a Learn at Lunch workshop in September- A New Era in Digital Marketing: On-Line Visibility - New for 2019 presented by Lance Leifert, CEO of Conquest. If you'd like to host a Learn at Lunch in 2020, contact the Chamber today.

**EXAMPLE 1** Exploring the property of the Village Wine Cellar. Local music group *Seldom Herd* performed in the historic barn on the property of the Inn at Mount Pleasant on University Drive. The Torrington House Tour took place on September 20th at The June Pleasant in Torrington. In conjunction with the Fall Membership Drive, the Chamber New Member Fest offered the over 100 attendees the opportunity to enjoy business with pleasure. The evening featured food courtesy of Ciesco Catering and beverages courtesy of the Village Wine Cellar. Local music group *Seldom Herd* performed in the historic barn on the property of the Inn at Mount Pleasant on University Drive. The Torrington House Tour took place on September 28<sup>th</sup> with hundreds of people taking the

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## What's Been Happening NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT'S CHAMBER Continued from page 7

#### LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST (Continued)

After lunch, the class traveled to The Gathering Place of Northwest Hills to meet with Executive Director Nancy Cannavo. The mission of the "Gathering Place" of Northwest Hills Litchfield County is to improve the quality of life of homeless individuals in Litchfield County, to provide referral services and advocacy, and to end the cycle of homelessness. New Beginnings, a non-profit, is the sponsoring organization of the "Gathering Place" - a drop in center for the homeless. The "Gathering Place" serves as the local point of entry for all homeless, serving all 26 towns in Litchfield County. Open every weekday, they offer supports ranging from a hot shower to washing clothes to securing housing to homeless individuals and families.

The last stop of the day was to McCall Center for Behavioral Health to meet with Maria Coutant-Skinner, Executive Director, and her staff. McCall is a private, non-profit, behavioral healthcare agency focused on recovery, prevention and community. But, more than that, they're a group of dedicated professionals who are passionate about helping the people of our community. The people they serve are at the heart of everything they do. Every program, service and decision they make is centered around them and their wellness.

During last month's session, the group was divided into their teams and started brainstorming some ideas for a solution to a problem in the community. The groups will work together over the next 6 months to plan and execute their projects and will present on them at the graduation in June.

The December session will take place on December 18<sup>th</sup> and will feature a Corporate Leadership Panel in the morning followed by a Board Participation Panel in the afternoon.

Thank you to our sponsor Torrington Savings Bank and to Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board for their support of the program.

# Thanks to Our **RENEWING MEMBERS**

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of October 26th through November 22nd. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold indicate a Corporate Partner. Milestone anniversaries are indicated in parentheses.

- Ackley Insurance Solutions
- Advanced Physical Therapy
- Air Compressor Engineering Co. (15 years)
- ♦ Alternative Employment
- Barron & Company, LLP
- Barron Financial Group, LLP
- The Binding Source (25 years)
- Center for Human Development
- ♦ Check It Off, LLC
- Da Capo Italian Restaurant
- Devereux Glenholme School (5 years)

- Edward Jones Investments, Gary Nicksa & James Zeller
- Ericson Insurance Advisors
- Hocon Gas of Torrington, LLC
- Susan F. Jordan, Attorney at Law
- Learning Dynamics
- Lily & Vine Floral Design
- Litchfield Hills Nursery
- National Iron Bank
- Northwest Community Bank
  - Northwest Hills Dealerships
- Nuvance Sharon Hospital

- Petrovits, Patrick, Smith & Co., LLC
- Putnam Tennis & Recreation
- Regional School District No. 6
- Reynolds Carbide Co. (15 years)
- Seitz LLC (40 years)
- Stepcraft, Inc.
- Superior Plus Energy Services
- Torrington Business Park (10 years)
- Torrington Lodge of Elks B.P.O.E. #375
- Town of New Hartford
- Winchester Industries, Inc.

# NORTHWEST CHAMBER YEAR IN REVIEW

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tour around Torrington to visit six homes ranging in age from 60-200 years old. The House Tour benefits the Torrington Historical Society and the Northwest CT Chamber Education Foundation.

The annual WOW! Forum took place on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Carole & Ray Neag Performing Arts Center at The Warner Theatre. The all-day professional women's conference featured 6 incredible keynote speakers, a delicious continental breakfast and lunch from Chatterley's Catering, a chocolate reception by Fascia's Chocolates, a wine reception courtesy of Sunset Meadow Vineyards, giveaways throughout the day, a silent and penny auction, and a few exciting free gifts. The WOW! Advisory Committee will begin meeting again in February to plan the 2020 WOW Forum. To join the Advisory Committee, contact Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

**Overnoer** The Chamber's Annual Economic Summit was held on November 19th at the Torrington Country Club. Economists Donald Klepper-Smith of DataCore Partners LLC and Peter Gioia provided an informative and entertaining review of the current state of the economy and give their insight into the future of our region. Attendees enjoyed breakfast and networking before the event.

This month, we had lots of celebrating to do as we embraced the holiday season with our annual Holiday Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at American



Project. We also celebrated our Corporate Partners on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Chatterley's Banquet Facility. Corporate Partners are an elite group of businesses who have committed to the Chamber on an elevated level. Their investment enables us to serve our smaller members and the business community at large by providing initiatives that benefit all companies located within the 21 towns the Chamber serves. If your company is interested in becoming a Corporate Partner, contact JoAnn today.

We look forward to working with you in 2020. Make sure to read our monthly newsletter in print or on our website to keep up to date on everything going on at our Chamber. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!



333 Kennedy Drive, P.O. Box 59 Torrington, CT 06790-0059

Return Service Requested

#### Corporate Partners

Altek Electronics, Inc. AssuredPartners Northeast AT&T BantamWesson Energy BD Borghesi Building & Engineering Co. Brandywine Living at Litchfield Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Chatterley's Banquet Facility Commercial Sewing, Inc. Conquest **Cook Funeral Home** Dymax Corporation Eastside Electric, Inc. **Eversource Energy** FuelCell Energy, Inc. Keystone Place at Newbury Brook Litchfield Bancorp Litchfield Woods Health Care Center National Iron Bank Northwest Community Bank O&G Industries, Inc. The Register Citizen Republican-American **Resource Development Associates** Sharon Hospital TD Bank **Thomaston Savings Bank Torrington Savings Bank** Union Savings Bank United Construction & Engineering, Inc. Valerie Manor Webster Bank

# **Chamber Calendar of Events**

All events listed below will be held at the Chamber offices at 333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington unless otherwise noted. Dates and locations are subject to change. Please visit our website for up to date details. Thank you.

#### **DECEMBER 2019**

- 9th Leads I Meeting 12 Noon Restaurant in the Spotlight at The Interlaken Inn, 74 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, 5:30-6:30 PM
- 11th Leads II Meeting, 8 AM
- 12th Leads III Meeting, 12 Noon
- 13th Manufacturers' Coalition & Government Relations Meeting, 8 AM
- 17th Business with Breakfast at The Chamber, 8 AM
- 18th Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM Health Council Meeting at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's Library Conference Room, 1st Floor Memorial Building, 540 Litchfield Street, Torrington, 8 AM
  - Leadership Northwest
- 25th Jan. 1st Chamber Closed for Christmas & New Year Holidays

#### **JANUARY 2020**

- 2nd Membership Committee Meeting, 8 AM
- 7th Small Business Council Meeting, 8 AM
- 8th Leads II Meeting, 8 AM
- 9th Government Relations Committee Meeting, 8 AM
  - Leads III Meeting, 12 Noon
- 13th Leads I Meeting, 12 Noon
- 15th Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM Leadership Northwest
- 16th Business After Hours at KidsPlay Children's Museum, 61 Main Street, Torrington, 5-7 PM
- 20th Chamber Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22nd Leads II Meeting, 8 AM
- 23rd Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM Leads III Meeting, 12 Noon Business After Hours Snow Date
- 27th Leads I Meeting, 12 Noon
- 28th Business with Breakfast at St. John Paul the Great STREAM Academy, 360 Prospect Street, Torrington, 8 AM
- 29th Business with Breakfast Snow Date

RSVP on-line at nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar or call 860-482-6586.