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As you know, the SBA is getting ready to open applications for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). As such the Connecticut District Office will be holding multiple sessions to give an overview of who is eligible, use of funds, how to apply and the priority application process. The American Rescue Plan appropriated \$28.6 billion to RRF and authorized SBA to award funds, not loans. It is important to get the most accurate information out to our Connecticut businesses and entities.

Eligible businesses include food stands, food trucks, food carts, caterers, bars, lounges, taverns and restaurants. Also eligible are snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars (e.g., coffee shops, ice cream shops), bakeries, brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms, breweries and/or microbreweries, wineries and distilleries to name a few more.

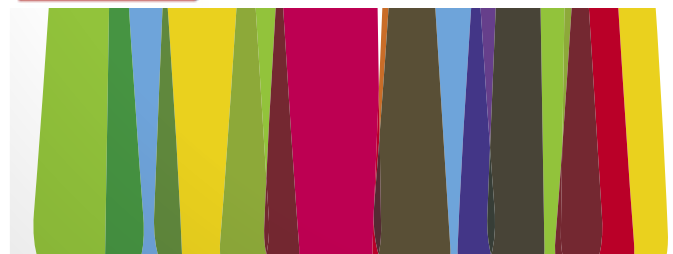
The application portal is open, so sign up today. Published information is available at www.sba.gov/rrf.

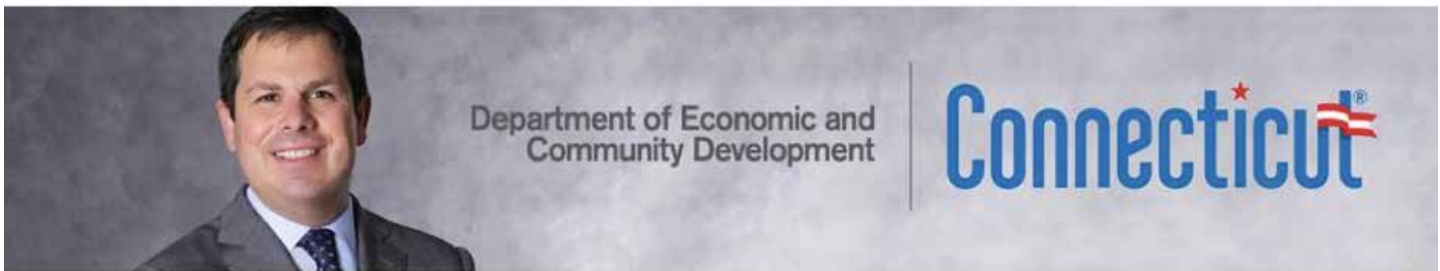
Warmest Regards,

Catherine Marx
District Director
Connecticut District
Office
U.S. Small Business
Administration
Phone (202) 313-8800
Email address:
catherine.marx@sba.gov



U.S. Small Business
Administration





COVID-19 Restriction Update

Governor Lamont just announced plans to further ease and then eliminate most of the state's COVID-19 restrictions contingent upon Connecticut maintaining sufficiently low rates of infections and increased vaccination rates.

Effective Saturday, May 1, 2021

- The curfew for restaurants, entertainment venues, recreation venues, and theaters will be moved back one hour to 12:00 am midnight.
- Bars that do not serve food can open for service – OUTDOOR ONLY. Food is still required when serving alcohol indoors.
- The 8-person per table limit will be lifted – OUTDOOR ONLY. The limit remains in effect for indoor dining.

Effective Wednesday, May 19, 2021

- All remaining business restrictions will end.
- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will issue recommendations for indoor and large outdoor events (e.g., concerts).
- Indoor masks will continue.

If you have any questions about these changes, information is available on the state's [Sector Rules](#) page.

We encourage all Connecticut residents over the age of 16 who have not been vaccinated to [schedule their vaccination](#) today. Getting vaccinated protects you and the people around you. It also remains the most important thing we can do to ensure a smooth reopening.

Sincerely,
David Lehman, Commissioner
david.lehman@ct.gov, (860) 500-2310

IN THE ERA OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, PEOPLE ARE CHANGING THE WAY THEY THINK ABOUT HOME.

In 2020, residential moving trend data shows that major metropolitan areas experienced more outbound flight, while suburban/rural areas saw higher levels of inbound migration. Connecticut alone has seen 16,500 new residents since March of 2020 compared with more than 7,000 moves out in 2019. New residents can breathe new life into States, create new business, and drive revenue.

As the global pandemic begins to stretch into its second year, signs of a new normalcy are popping up. A growing portion of the population is vaccinated, more and more schools are returning to on-premise education, and the number of new COVID-19 cases nationwide seems to be subsiding. This means that time may be running



short to ensure new residents don't return to prior living arrangements. How can State and Local Governments work together to keep new residents? Join Accenture's Stephen Nocera and Laura Zucker as they discuss a new way for Connecticut to [Create Home](#).

Upcoming

CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

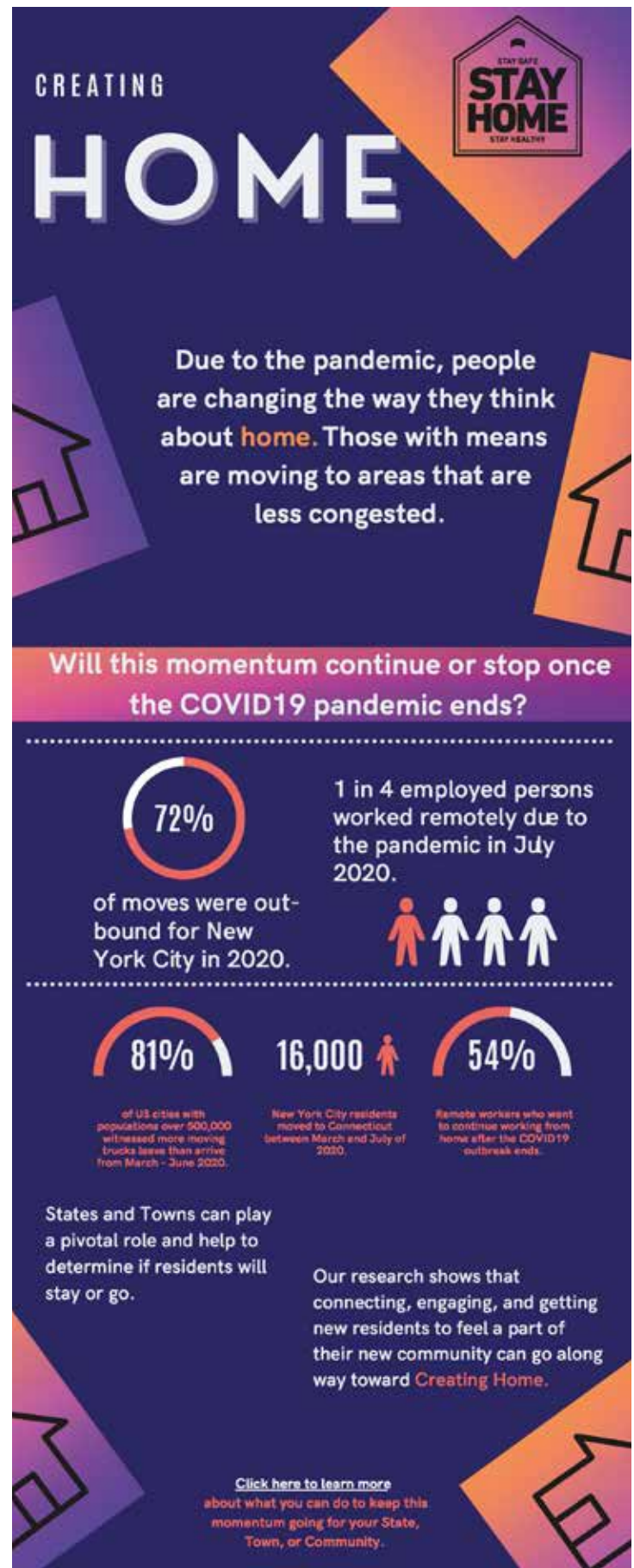
- May 4 Small Business Council Meeting – 8 am
- May 5 WOW Advisory Committee Meeting – 8:30 am
- May 6 Membership Committee Meeting – 8 am
- May 7 Manufacturers' Coalition Meeting – 8 am
- May 10 Leads I – 12 noon
- May 12 Leads II – 8 am
- May 13 Government Relations Committee Meeting – 8 am
- May 13 Leads III- 9 am
- May 13 8am to 9:30am – Webinar: Creating Home...
How we can harness pandemic population growth
featuring Steve Nocera, Accenture
- May 18 Insurance Committee Meeting – 8 am
- May 19 Health Council Meeting – 8 am
- May 20 Restaurant & Retail Peer Group – 10 am
- May 24 Leads I – 12 noon
- May 25 Business with Breakfast Hosted by Awecast – 8 am
- May 26 Leads II – 8 am
- May 27 Board of Directors Meeting – 8 am
- May 31 Chamber Closed in observance of Memorial Day

Save the Date

Celebration of Success –
Wednesday, July 28th, Time TBD

WOW Forum – Hybrid
Friday, October 1st, 8 AM | The Warner Theatre

25 Days of Hope for the Holidays
FM 97.3 WZBG and the Chamber
December





30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

*Join us in celebrating 30 years of
excellence fighting food insecurity*

June 12, 2021
6:30 - 9:30 PM

at

Haight - Brown Vineyard

\$75 per person

INCLUDES

Wine and Food Pairings

Hors d'oeuvre Stations

Dessert Bar

For Tickets Go To:

www.FHFB.org

Or Contact: Tania Stater at 860-309-1066

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We're Hiring! Join the TSB Team!!

Torrington Savings Bank is coming to Bristol and we are looking for an experienced AVP-Branch Officer, Assistant Branch Manager, Financial Advisor and Customer Service Representatives to join our team. If you want to work for a customer-focused community bank with great benefits, **expand your career with TSB.**

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2021 CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Nomination Request

Since 1991, Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce has recognized outstanding business and community leaders. In 2003, another category was added to include exceptional organizations. This year we will continue to honor those who have demonstrated exceptional and unselfish service to our Northwest Corner. We are asking for your involvement in nominating worthy individuals & organizations.

We will present **Distinguished Leadership Awards** in three categories:

- ♦ **Business Leader Award** - Based on contributions to the business environment.
- ♦ **Community Leader Award** - Based on community involvement.
- ♦ **Quality of Life Award** - Based on commitment to the overall improvement in the quality of life in Northwest Connecticut.

Please recommend an individual or organization that you believe to be worthy of recognition fitting these categories.

Nominations must be received in writing or via email on or before May 28. The Chamber Executive Committee will review all nominations and select the recipients.

The award recipients will be honored at the Chamber's **Celebration of Success** on **Wednesday, July 28th.**

Thank you in advance for your involvement in this exciting event!

CHAMBER CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS OFFICIAL NOMINATION

Category (please select one): ☐ Business Leader ☐ Community Leader ☐ Quality of Life

Name of Nominated Individual or Organization: _____

Reasons for nomination:

Note: Please attach additional pages if necessary in the form of a bio or resume.

Nominated by: _____

Submit forms to the attention of: Executive Committee c/o Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce
 Mail: P.O. Box 59, Torrington, CT 06790
 Fax: 860-489-8851
 Email: JoAnn@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

Please call the Chamber at 860-482-6586 with any questions or visit <https://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/events-programs/celebration-of-success/> to view a list of past honorees.

Chamber Member OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS VACCINATION OUTREACH PROGRAM NW REGION – Hartford HealthCare and the NW Chamber of Commerce April 2021

PROBLEM STATEMENT: A full economic recovery requires an immune workforce and consumer-base. To this end, and to continue increasing vaccine uptake, distribution and dispensing efforts must become more mobile and flexible, outreach and education efforts must be more tailored, and partnerships between and among employers and business organizations with health care providers must be taken to the next level.

OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT: By combining forces, Hartford HealthCare and the NW Chamber of Commerce have organized a membership vaccine outreach program. All Chamber members will be offered an opportunity to request vaccinations for their employees, and depending on demand can arrange on-site vaccinations, participate in near-by mobile vaccination sites, or arrange clinic access with reserved appointment times for their workforce.

THE PROGRAM: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, a partner of Hartford HealthCare, has set up a mobile team of clinicians and have eliminated registration and appointment hassles many have encountered to date. As requests from Chamber Members are received, we will schedule our mobile team with an emphasis on arranging as many on-site vaccinations as possible. Secondly, in some cases a near-by central mobile vaccine distribution site will be established to which several businesses can participate will be arranged

such as in an industrial park. Finally, the option of priority appointments at fixed clinics sites in Torrington can be arranged.

WHAT'S NEXT: On Friday 4/30, The NW Chamber of Commerce will send a communication to all of its members inviting them to consider this opportunity and if desired directing them to call Pam Tino at the CHH Business Vaccine Registration Line at 860-496-6725. It is our intention to begin this effort as soon as the following week and sustain it for as long as there is demand.

THE CHAMBER DIRECTORY IS HERE!

They are available at the office, at the side door entrance or delivery by staff and Ambassadors. Please give us a call at 860-482-6586 or email info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org on your preference.



EXCITING CIT NEWS

Chamber Insurance Trust is pleased to offer a new FREE program to employees of our member companies. In conjunction with the Community Care Prescription Drug Discount, CIT will be providing drug discount cards to all Chamber members as an additional membership benefit. This is not insurance, no premiums, no activation, no exclusions.

No personal info is required to use the card and as soon as we receive them, you will be notified. You then simply present the card to your pharmacist at your next visit.

- No cost for the card and no age requirement
- Card never expires
- A discount can be used for Pet Medications
- Can be used for Diabetic Supplies, Smoking Cessation products, Durable Medical Equipment with a prescription

CIT is working in collaboration with PBI Rx.
For drug pricing and pharmacy locations, visit:
www.CapRxProgram.org/CIT

Premier MEMBERS

Brandywine Living at Litchfield
Chatterley's Banquet Facility
Commercial Sewing, Inc.
Eversource Energy
Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
Litchfield Woods Health Care Center
Seitz LLC
T&M Building Company, Inc.
and Torrington Downtown Partners
UCE Fine Builders
Valerie Manor
Webster Bank

Corporate PARTNERS



SHARON HOSPITAL, FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE REPORT

SHARON, Conn. — April 22, 2021 — To envision a stable Sharon Hospital of the future, the leadership team and board of directors have partnered with the Foundation for Community Health to study the development of a sustainable healthcare model to support medical needs in northwest Connecticut and northeast New York for years to come.

Intending to identify realistic and implementable best practices for the delivery of care in rural communities, the report will examine the demand for services and programs, in addition to fiscal and operational performance evaluations. With consideration for historic, current and anticipated community need, the review will also include insights from recent interviews and previous community health needs assessments, town halls, public hearings and the many community meetings held over the past 18 months.

The study is led by Stroudwater Associates, a private healthcare consulting firm that helps strengthen the vital role of hospitals and clinics in rural America across strategic, financial, clinical and operational areas.

“We share an obligation to improve the region’s quality of life with comprehensive programs that support our rural communities,” said Dr. Mark Hirko, president of the hospital. “This collaboration is an innovative step to ensure Sharon Hospital delivers sustainable care for the foreseeable future.”

Survey data, to be shared with the community upon completion, will offer key guidance as Sharon Hospital looks to adapt an operational and financially viable model of care aligned with best practices for rural hospitals.

“It is our hope that this study results in the development of an actionable plan for Sharon Hospital that will ensure its resiliency, enhance its responsiveness to the community and allow it to continue to play its historically critical role as an anchor for all healthcare services,” said Nancy Heaton, CEO for the Foundation for Community Health.

As the hospital and community work to evolve beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic challenges, the study will bridge knowledge about barriers, trends and determinants to healthcare access in rural areas, such as proximity, affordability, utilization, resources, socioeconomic status and population demographics.

Funding for the analysis was awarded to Sharon Hospital by the Foundation for Community Health, also located in Sharon. The private, nonprofit foundation is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of residents in the greater

Harlem Valley in New York and the northern Litchfield Hills of Connecticut, with an emphasis on serving those most vulnerable.

Find out more about Sharon Hospital and the Foundation for Community Health.

CONTACTS

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

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CHH RECEIVES \$120K GRANT FROM THE ROBERT ROSENHEIM FOUNDATION FOR ITS YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER

TORRINGTON, Conn. The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Center For Youth and Families in downtown Torrington has recently received a generous \$120,000 grant from the Robert Rosenheim Foundation.

The Center for Youth and Families will be using the funds to equip its conference room at the Center with state of the art technology to enhance the video and telephone mental health services they offer to the community. These new resources will help the staff overcome the barriers to access and delivery of care and counseling as well as enhance collaborations with other healthcare and child advocacy professionals throughout the region and state.



"Improving access is so important especially now with increased mental health needs due to the pandemic and the long term access issues that exist for kids in the far Northwest Corner." Said Joan Neveski, LCSW, Director of the Center For Center Youth and Families. "This will also help enhance sessions with patients where transportation is a physical or monetary barrier including those families in rural Northwest Connecticut who experience long round trips to Torrington with little mass transit opportunities. It will also provide an opportunity to connect to children and their caregivers during inclement weather situations where travel is not advised." Joan added.

Remote family sessions also benefit children by giving people the opportunity to connect from their home if they cannot attend sessions otherwise due to various reasons. Using telehealth also improves coordination and communication



Robert Rosenheim Foundation Board Member Diane V. Libby awards HHC Regional VP of Operations John Capobianco a \$120,000 donation to be used to support telehealth services at the Torrington based Center for Youth and Families.

with Center staff, educators, healthcare providers, psychiatrists, and pediatricians. The new technology will also assist Center staff provide more accessible group therapy and trainings where the sound and video capability will be top of the line.

**Hartford
HealthCare**
Charlotte Hungerford
Hospital

"We are so excited to support the dedicated work of the CHH Center for Youth & Families. This gift will provide valuable services and resources to youth and their families in Litchfield County. The Robert Rosenheim Foundation was funded by the Estate of Robert Rosenheim, and as a foundation board member we are blessed with the honor of fulfilling the wishes of Bob Rosenheim. Although Bob had no specific requests for his foundation, his intentions were quite clear. His wish was that his money be used for the benefit and well-being of children and animals." Said Diane V. Libby, CPA, of Adams, Samartino & Co., PC.

"The board of the Robert Rosenheim Foundation is diligent about finding the right opportunities to support. It is important that each gift be impactful, and in some way, have a tie in to Bob. He was an astute businessman, possessing the ability to recognize needs and provide solutions. As the foundation board we follow in his footsteps." Diane added.

Corporate PARTNERS

Hartford HealthCare 
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2021

CONTACT:

Tim LeBouthillier: 860-496-6544

Tim.LeBouthillier@hhchealth.org

CHH Diabetes Education Program Receives ADA recognition

TORRINGTON, Conn...The American Diabetes Association (ADA) has recently awarded CHH Diabetes and Endocrinology of Torrington a prestigious recognition certificate for their diabetes self-management education and support education program. The designation means ADA believes the service offers high-quality education that is an essential component of effective diabetes treatment.

To qualify, the Torrington program had to meet the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support that were developed and tested under the auspices of the National Diabetes Advisory Board most recently revised in 2017. Services that achieve recognition status have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide participants with comprehensive information about diabetes management. Education Recognition status is verified by an official certificate from ADA and awarded for four years.

"I thank all of my colleagues for making this achievement possible. Receiving this recognition and complying with ADA national standards that measure the quality of services we offer provides real peace of mind for our patients and community," said CHH Certified Diabetes Educator Lois Pelletier, RN CDCES.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 30.3 million people or 9.4% of the population in the United States who have Diabetes. While an estimated 23.1 million have been diagnosed, unfortunately, 7.2 million people are not aware that they have this disease. Each day more than 3,900 people are diagnosed with diabetes. Many will first learn that they have diabetes when they are treated for one of its life-threatening complications – heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, nerve disease, and amputation.

Dr. Egils Bogdanovics, Dr. Deepti ~~Raval~~ ^{Raval}, David Ohotnicky APRN, Lois Pelletier RNCDCES and Bonnie Blethen RD offer a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to diabetes treatment and disease management. The staff are certified diabetes specialists that are specifically trained to help people with diabetes avoid complications and maintain better health.

The practice at 780 Litchfield Street, Torrington, operates the ADA recognized program to help people with diabetes and offers insulin pump training, weight loss programs, carbohydrate counting classes, and continuous glucose monitoring. The team of board certified diabetes physician specialists, certified diabetes educators, and registered dietitian, are specifically trained to help people with diabetes avoid complications and maintain better health throughout their lifetime. Their goals are to provide a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to diabetes treatment and disease management.

Chamber MEMBERS

CHH & TORRINGTON LIONS CLUB LOW VISION CENTER NOW AT SKYTOP PLAZA OFFERS HELP TO PATIENTS WITH SIGHT LIMITATIONS

TORRINGTON, CT... Are you or someone you know experiencing the challenges of low vision? Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and the Lions Low Vision Centers of Hartford and Litchfield counties partner together to help by provide free medical and financial support to those affected by assessing their sight limitations.

The Lions Low Vision Center is now located at the Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network office at the Sky Top Plaza, 1012 East Main Street in Torrington. The service is provided by appointment by Registered Occupational Therapist Michelle Whitford who has extensive training in low vision diagnoses and treatment.

"Low vision affects over two thirds of adults over 65 years of age. It's our goal to ensure that older adults with low vision are able to maintain their independence and experience quality of life." Said Michelle Whitford.

Macular degeneration, glaucoma, or history of stroke or Diabetes, are the most common medical conditions causing low vision. Simple tasks may become more difficult and frustration often occurs with low vision. Although low vision can't be corrected, there are many ways to make daily tasks easier.

Low vision is a condition that can't be corrected by medical or surgical intervention or by eyeglasses. It limits an individual's ability to complete many daily activities, which may include any of the following examples: reading and signing forms, reading the numbers on a clock, or difficulties locating steps, curbs or items within one's home.

Our hospital is pleased to partner with the Lions as we are inspired by them. The Center is really made possible by their resources and encouragement." Said Brian Mattiello, VP of Strategy and Community Development at Hartford HealthCare Northwest Region.

Patients begin with an assessment to determine their degree of vision loss and then an individualized plan is created with specific goals focused on providing assistance and improving their quality of life. Strategies are then developed to help people perform daily tasks, at times using tactile and talking products. Individuals are educated on availability of assistive technologies and learn to use their remaining vision effectively and live more safely and independently.

Call 860.496.0046 for more information and to schedule appointments.

The service is covered by most insurances which are billed for services provided. The Lions Low Vision Centers supplies any devices a patient may need free of charge and may also assist in financial hardship situations. A physician referral for Occupational Therapy Low Vision is needed which can be faxed to 860.496.0036.

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Chamber Member IN THE SPOTLIGHT



YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE

The global pandemic seems as if it has been with us forever. The past year been a challenging and difficult experience for us all. At times it seemed as if normalcy would never again be possible, that hope had been completely extinguished. But now, as spring begins again, with more than half of all Connecticut residents on their way to being fully vaccinated, we are close to breathing our first collective sigh of relief. Rules and restrictions are relaxing and there is hope in the air. While maintaining and promoting safety, it is equally important that we give ourselves permission to celebrate the great progress that is being made, recognize our part in that progress, and look to the future with hope and assurance.

Suicide Rates Drop 17% in CT

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) recently published a [report](#) on the leading causes of death in 2020 in the US. The report showed a 6% decrease in suicide deaths, the only cause of death that decreased. In Connecticut, we saw a 17% decrease, three times greater than the national average. Surprising even the experts, the 18-24 age group saw the greatest decrease in suicide death similarly among all races.

The drop may be due to suicide prevention programs, such as [Zero Suicide](#) here in CT, and mental health promotion. It may also be explained through the support of a collective

human experience. Suicidologists have observed this same drop in suicide deaths during times of trauma and catastrophe (war, famine, disease etc). There seems to be a sense of community after a disaster, helping people to feel part of something, looking externally, and helping their pain to become more tolerable.

Give Yourself Grace

As we slowly return to normal, we need to be aware of our own emotions and those of our loved ones. For both adults and children who experience anxiety or have become used to being at home, returning to work, school, or social situations may bring uncomfortable feelings. For every parent, the wellbeing of their children is what matters most. We try to be aware of arising issues and try to bring comfort, but we cannot always know everything that our children are going through. We make mistakes, we misjudge, indeed sometimes we fail. We are only human after all.

Keep in mind that when we are hard on ourselves and focus only on our failures or deficiencies, we are worse off. If we speak to ourselves kindly and allow ourselves grace and forgiveness, we will be better parents, partners, friends, employees, and neighbors. Remember you do not have to walk alone. If you or a loved one needs help, we are only a phone call away. To find out how McCall can help, call (860) 496-2100.

**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR NEW CHAMBER
MEMBER JOSHUA
KELLY!** The New Town
Manager for Winsted.



HAPPY RETIREMENT TO THE FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING LEADERS:

Ellen Ebbs, The Cancer Care Found of the
Litchfield Hills, Inc.

Bob Geiger, Town Manager of Winchester

Rick Lynn, Northwest Hills Council of Governments

Jane Williams, Northwest Connecticut Community
College

It has been a pleasure to work with all of them.

Chamber MEMBERS

NCCC SELECTED TO ATTEND RESEARCH CENTER'S INSTITUTE

Northwestern Connecticut Community College has been selected to attend the Community College Research Center's Summer 2021 Institute.

The Community College Research Center at Columbia University is an independent research center that studies two-year college institutions to strengthen opportunities and improve outcomes for their students, particularly those from underserved populations, an announcement from NCCC said.

The Institute is designed to help rural and rural-serving colleges overcome the challenges they face in implementing

what the announcement called the nationally successful initiative of guided pathways.

With the support of CCRC researchers, NCCC will develop data-driven plans for implementing reforms that will help the community college to recruit and retain students, improve student success rates and close equity gaps. NCCC will receive additional support from CCRC researchers through the end of 2021.

NCCC will attend the institute virtually, during the month of July and will begin implementing the reforms in the fall.



SALISBURY BANK
enriching.

SALISBURY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY ANNOUNCES EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Lakeville, CT – April 14, 2021 – Salisbury Bank employee awards for the year 2020.

Salisbury Bank employees voted and Aidan Gilligan received the "Employee of the Year" award for his tremendous work ethic, and his extremely likeable and approachable demeanor. Aidan is highly respected and regarded by his peers. He willingly shares his knowledge and is eager to learn from and help others. Aidan was instrumental in leading the Bank's Paycheck

Protection Program (PPP) initiative during the pandemic. He accepted the responsibility with enthusiasm, and without hesitation, to help the Bank and its customers during a difficult time. Since joining the Bank in February of 2018, Aidan has excelled at every position and task assigned to



Aidan Gilligan

him. He began his career working in our Commercial Credit Department. In July of 2019 he was promoted to Commercial Lending Officer, covering our Massachusetts market, and this past January was promoted to Vice President.

The "Rookie of the Year" award went to Machayla Karcheski. This award recognizes an employee who has really stepped up during their first year. Machayla has a can-do attitude and is eager to learn and help in any way that is needed. She assumed a leadership role within the PPP initiative and her involvement has been vital to the success of the program. Machayla joined the Bank in November 2019 as an Executive Assistant. She had no prior banking experience, but "hit the ground running" and "took the bull by the horns" – as quoted by her fellow colleagues.



Machayla Karcheski

Doug Cahill and Kimberly Downey were recognized for volunteering on behalf of the Bank throughout the year, and both received the "Volunteer of the Year" award.

Doug consistently volunteers for bank sponsored events each year in addition to the volunteer work he does with the Sharon Board of Education and Sharon Day Care. Doug joined Salisbury Bank as Director of Human Resources

(Continued on next page)

Chamber MEMBERS

(Continued from previous page)

in August of 2005. He was promoted to Vice President, Director of Human Resources in May of 2014.

Kim not only volunteers for Bank sponsored events, she dedicates a good amount of her time outside of the Bank for volunteer activities in her community. Kim is Board President of Salisbury Central School PTO; Board Treasurer for Salisbury Youth; and Board Treasurer for EXTRAs Program. She joined the Bank in February of 2005 in a retail capacity and then transferred to the Trust and Wealth Advisory Division.

We sincerely appreciate the volunteer work that Doug and Kim do for both the Bank and for the community at large.



Doug Cahill

With great pride and a heartfelt thank you, the "President's Award" was presented to the frontline employees of the Bank. Together, this group of devoted individuals stepped up and became the backbone of Salisbury Bank's success during a time when teamwork was essential. They have shown up for work and faced a new set of rules during a time when fear and uncertainty was predominant. It has been nothing short of inspiring to see the staff at the Bank's branches, and all those who came to work ready to face the challenges of this pandemic, set aside their fears to serve the needs of customers.



Kimberly Downey

The virtual award ceremony was held on March 31, 2021.



NEW LEADER AT CANCER CENTER

The Board of Directors of the Cancer Center Fund of the Litchfield Hills recently appointed Susan Smith as its new executive director.

"After three years as a Board member, I am very pleased to become the Executive Director of this wonderful organization," Smith said in a statement. "I look forward to do my part, with the Board, to manage and grow this important resource for cancer patients and their loved ones. We have such amazing support from the people and businesses in our region who truly make a difference to those most in need."

Smith's first priority was to update the fund's website (www.ccflh.org), which is now complete and features the latest information on fundraising events and the ability to donate online. She will also be using social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram to promote activities and fundraisers and sending out an annual appeal later in the year.

Prior to joining the Fund, Smith was an independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay for 33 years, 19 of which she was an independent sales director.

Over her career, she has been very involved volunteering for many local community and business organizations and is the past President of both Litchfield County Business and Professional Women's Network. She has also been very active with the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Membership Committee and Torrington House Tour, as well as being a past chair of the WOW! Forum.



Susan Smith

The fund recently honored its most recent executive director, Ellen Ebbs, who retired at the end of last year, with a special recognition leaf on the "Tree of Life" at the Center For Cancer Care in Torrington. Ebbs was the first person appointed to lead the fund and served as director for the last 15 years. Mary Gilman, a long serving board member, also received special recognition for her long-time dedication to the fund and its mission.

"We wish to thank both Ellen and Mary for their service and commitment to our core mission. So many patients and their families have benefitted over the years from their work and fundraising, and we cannot be more grateful." Said fund president Alan Diulio.

Chamber MEMBERS



LEADS 1:

LEADS I was the original LEADS group established at the chamber and, due to demand for this type of networking format, two additional groups were requested and created. LEADS I consists of more than 30 of the most reputable and well-known businesses across the NW corner. With lunchtime meetings every 2nd and 4th Monday, LEADS I members regularly share information about their business and strive to think about and recommend other group members to grow and foster their relationships. If you're looking to connect and network with like-minded individuals, look no further than your chamber's LEADS groups!

John E. Seagrave, CFP®, CRPC®
Investment Advisor Representative
Barron Financial Group, LLP – A Registered Investment Advisor
103 Albert Street
Torrington, CT 06790
(860) 489-0432

LEADS 2:

Leads II is a networking group that is dedicated to increasing our members network connections and sharing business leads with our peers. We focus on generating business leads as well as personal connections. Our group is warm, friendly and welcoming to new members and guests. As a group, we build each other up, brainstorm how to grow our businesses, troubleshoot challenges, and support each other's marketing efforts.

We have openings in our group and welcome the opportunity to meet you and have you share your business and experience with our members. We meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 8:30am via Zoom.

Jade Athas
Berkshire Hathaway – New England Properties
(860) 248-1822
JadeAthas@bhhsne.com

LEADS 3:

Leads Group 3 meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 am via Google Meet. We have a variety of industries in our group with 15 companies represented. We are a new leads group newly formed prior to Covid-19. We are actively seeking new industries to join our group.

Specifically, we are seeking legal, financial, trades and services. Deirdre Tindall from Tind-All Creative Marketing and Michael Ruwet from Barron & Company, LLP are Co-Leaders. Please contact them if interested in visiting the group. mruwet@barronco.com, deirdre@tind-allcreativemarketing.com

Deirdre Tindall
Tind-All Creative Marketing
Creator of Opportunities
860-916-4561
Deirdre@Tind-AllCreativeMarketing.com

Special **SHOUT OUT**

SENATOR BOB DUFF
MAJORITY LEADER

Twenty-fifth District
Norwalk & Darien



State of Connecticut
SENATE

State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-8600
Home: 203-840-1333
Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov
www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov

April 29, 2021

JoAnn M. Ryan
26 B Sedgewick Lane, PO Box 212
Litchfield, CT 06759

Dear Ms. Ryan:

Pursuant to the provisions in section 31-250a of the Connecticut General Statutes, I am pleased to officially appoint you to the **Employment Security Advisory Board**. Your appointment is effective immediately and expires on Sept 16, 2023 or until a successor has been appointed and qualified.

I am confident that the knowledge and experience you bring to this position will be of great value to the board. Please accept my thanks for your willingness to serve. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact my office at (860) 240-8674.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob".

Bob Duff
Majority Leader

cc: The Hon. Ned Lamont, Governor
The Hon. Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State
The Hon. Martin Looney, Senate President Pro-Tempore
The Hon. Matt Ritter, Speaker of the House
The Hon. Jason Rojas, House Majority Leader
The Hon. Kevin Kelly, Senate Minority Leader
The Hon. Vincent Candelora, House Minority Leader
Michael Jefferson, Senate Clerk
Frederick Jortner, House Clerk
Carrie Lisitano, Legislative Library
Auditors of Public Accounts

News and NOTES

RISEUP

RiseUP is partnering with the NWCT Arts Council and Our Culture is Beautiful to complete a large-scale, mural that will depict messages and symbols of diversity, equality, and equity along with local and national Civil Rights Leaders. The mural will include Torrington's own, John Brown, Martin Luther King, Jr., and poet Amanda Gorman. The Torrington Mural will be unveiled on June 19th at 42 Water Street, highly visible from the heart of Downtown. The mural will be completed by Ben Keller, a nationally recognized Connecticut based artists.

We are still looking for donations and sponsorships to make the project a reality. Donations can be made at https://www.patronicity.com/project/torrington_civil_rights_mural#!/ and every dollar donated is matched DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR by Sustainable CT.

HELP US CREATE A MURAL TO CELEBRATE CIVIL RIGHTS IN TORRINGTON



We are raising funds to create a **mural on the side of the WAPJ building** on Water Street this spring.

Every donation made **before June 7, 2021** will be matched!

Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.*



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION
DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

SCAN HERE
TO DONATE



RISEUP



News and NOTES



AWECAST IS A DIGITAL VIDEO PRODUCTION AND CONTENT CREATION COMPANY

We produce video for social media, television, OTT and web, as well as long-form videos that power the growth of organizations and businesses, communicating clear and effective messaging. Our team works with you to produce compelling video to help communicate with your specific audience and meet your marketing goals.

Awecast is one of the most flexible, diverse and affordable production companies sitting right between New York City and Boston. Call Awecast directly to discuss your goals at **877.431.1011**.

Our products and services

- Commercials for social media, TV, OTT and web
- Aerial drone video and photography
- Real estate video tours
- Live streaming and online event management
- Remote surveillance & time-lapse camera systems as a service
- Copywriting and storyboarding
- Digital signage
- Actors and multi-lingual voice talent
- Makeup and style services
- Graphic design and animation
- Editing and post-production
- Distribution to television and web including live online broadcast
- Closed captioning and transcription services

Digital video production for social media, television, OTT & web

LIVE streaming and online event management

Advanced aerial drone services

awecast.com



News and NOTES

At Torrington Staples, we're committed to helping small businesses grow by investing in you and our community. That's why we're celebrating small businesses this week with two virtual events to help SMBs like you grow your reach. Visit staplesconnect.com/small-business to learn more and to sign up.

Bill Thomas, General Manager | Torrington Staples | 860.489.3686 | William.Thomas@staples.com



SAVE THE DATE

SMALL BUSINESS CELEBRATION

5/2/21-5/9/21



At Staples, we're committed to helping small businesses grow by investing in you and our community. That's why we're celebrating small businesses this week with two virtual events to help SMBs like you grow your reach.

Visit staplesconnect.com/small-business to learn more and to sign up.

Event 1: Content Marketing that Connects with Your Customers

- Join us on 5/5/21 at 3 pm ET for a presentation hosted by Staples Connect™ and wiseHer on how to create marketing collateral that connects with your customers. Emily Aborn, founder and owner of She Built This, will be presenting this workshop for small business owners who are ready to effectively get their message out.



Event 2: CO – Roadmap for Rebuilding: Maximize Your Marketing

- Join us on 5/6/21 at 12 pm ET as the U.S. National Chamber of Commerce and Staples Connect host a panel discussion to help you define your audience, build a cutting-edge marketing plan and amplify your reach through social media.



by U.S.
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



Plus we've got two great in-store offers you can take advantage of all week long.

\$15 off your in-store Print & Marketing Services order of \$75 or more.*

20% off UPS® express shipping services.**

Associate: Refer to Register Guide for codes.

*\$15 off: Valid in Staples® U.S. stores only on select print and marketing services. Not valid on Instacart orders. Limit one coupon per customer, nontransferable. Offer is subject to change or cancellation at any time. Minimum purchase requirement must be met with purchases to which no other coupon or instant savings offer applies. Tax not included in calculating the minimum purchase. Not valid on self-service print, business services or shipping. Each item purchased can only be discounted by one coupon, applied by cashier in the order received. Coupon not valid if purchased or sold and must be surrendered. Not valid on prior purchases or purchases made with Staples® Procurement or Convenience Cards. No cash/credit back. Coupon value applied pre-tax. Expires 5/9/2021.

**20% off UPS: Valid in Staples® U.S. stores only. Not valid on Instacart orders. Limit one coupon per customer, nontransferable. Offer is subject to change or cancellation at any time. Not valid on postage stamps. Does not apply to ground shipping or additional services. Each item purchased can only be discounted by one coupon, applied by cashier in the order received. Coupon not valid if purchased or sold and must be surrendered. Not valid on prior purchases or purchases made with Staples® Procurement or Convenience Cards. No cash/credit back. Coupon value applied pre-tax. Expires 5/9/2021.

From the Desk of Our President & CEO

JoAnn Ryan



Positive Comments from the Chamber Board of Directors

The day started off on a high note with our monthly Board of Directors meeting led by Carolyn Morrison, Chair of the Board. Excellent attendance as usual and participation from each Board member who shared their pandemic experience professionally and personally. The results were upbeat and honest. Themes were apparent: optimism, collaboration, helping others, opportunities, appreciation and importance of family. Here are comments some paraphrased.

"Attending lots of Zoom meetings. Miss seeing others in person."

"Not much has changed at work since many of us are working at the office. I do not see my family and that is an issue but hopeful this will change."

"We never shut down because we are an essential business but we have weathered the storm. It is tough with over 500 employees but OK."

"Working in office and very busy with PPP financing. Saw small businesses suffering so we had to help."

"Business as usual and extremely busy especially during a merger but proud of our staff who is Zooming and adjusting to technology."

"Part of a medical supply company with employees engaged from afar. Starting to see a push in more business."

"Very effective and outstanding staff working from home with technology."

"Life coming back to normal with college re-opening. On line through the pandemic with some challenges such as drop in enrollment but pleased with plans for outside drive-in graduation."

"Kept staff in person because dealing with people who are shut in. Working on new opportunities through partnerships while creating new programs."
"Retired so not working with logistics but miss our family."

"Winding down my business but clients kept me busy and this has helped with open communication. It was a good experience."

"Our bank stepped up to support non-profits. It gave us opportunities to help others in need."

"Huge impact but we came through. Amazing working together and amazing support from the community."

"Life changed completely; different way of doing business; never closed; became essential. Tired but haven't stopped."

"Mixed emotions losing loved ones but not too bad a year with now opportunities opening up."

"Extremely busy, even opening a new office. Concerned about our children in and out of college looking for employment."

Needless to say, we are most grateful to these leaders for their commitment and support of the entire business community and the Chamber.



Upcoming **CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS**

May 4	Small Business Council Meeting – 8 am	May 18	Insurance Committee Meeting – 8 am
May 5	WOW Advisory Committee Meeting – 8:30 am	May 19	Health Council Meeting – 8 am
May 6	Membership Committee Meeting – 8 am	May 20	Restaurant & Retail Peer Group – 10 am
May 7	Manufacturers' Coalition Meeting – 8 am	May 24	Leads I – 12 noon
May 10	Leads I – 12 noon	May 25	Business with Breakfast Hosted by Awecast – 8 am
May 12	Leads II – 8 am	May 26	Leads II – 8 am
May 13	Government Relations Committee Meeting – 8 am	May 27	Board of Directors Meeting – 8 am
May 13	Leads III- 9 am	May 31	Chamber Closed in observance of Memorial Day
May 13	8am to 9:30am – Webinar: Creating Home... How we can harness pandemic population growth featuring Steve Nocera, Accenture		

Save the Date

Celebration of Success –
Wednesday, July 28th, Time TBD

WOW Forum – Hybrid
Friday, October 1st, 8 AM | The Warner Theatre

25 Days of Hope for the Holidays
FM 97.3 WZBG and the Chamber
December