



AUGUST 2022

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Our New Home

59 Field Street, Suite 120, Torrington

It still needs a bit of work, but we're getting there.





From the Desk of Our President & CEO JOANN RYAN



Summer Sizzlers!

Despite the relaxing days of summer, be assured that we're still hard at work dealing with a challenging economy striving to build a stronger business community. Here are some suggestions to make your summer sizzle with the Chamber.

<u>Schedule</u> your calendar around some worthwhile events and initiatives that will help you personally and professionally. There is information available on our website or at the Chamber. Please do call us with any questions. All are invited.

<u>Sell yourself</u> and your business by surrounding yourselves with the very best new friends. Join us for the favorite networking events that you will find on our website calendar. It might be the Business After Hours, Leads Group or Business With Breakfast. All will benefit you.

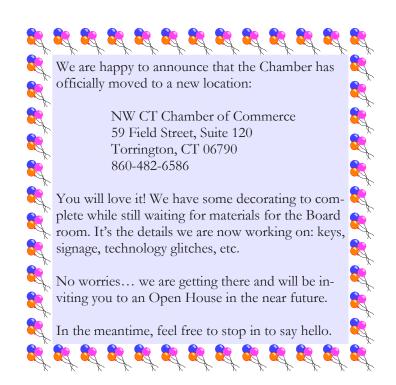
Shape your future by getting involved in the coalitions that have been created with your business success in mind such as the Manufacturing Coalition, the Health Council and the Small Business Council. Are there jobs? Do businesses expect growth? What opportunities lie ahead? Where will you find your future employees? Tell us your story so that together we can make an impact.

Score by making an appointment with the outstanding SCORE representatives that volunteer their time and expertise to help you with your business plan and answer any questions you may have regarding your business. Whether it's a legal, financial or technical issue, they can direct you to the right place for assistance. Please take advantage of this resource. Since we are now open at 59 Field Street, SCORE will be scheduling sessions for you once you call for an appointment.

Stir the pot. Let your legislators know your feelings about the bills recently passed and other issues important to you. We are scheduling a Legislative Reception in September at NCCC to which you will be invited. We also meet at the Chamber office with the Government Relations Committee on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00am at the Chamber. You are invited.

Save the date. Register for the 18th Annual WOW! Forum featuring Unstoppable Women. It's at the Carole & Ray Neag Performing Arts Center of The Warner Theatre on Friday, October 7th. Go to www.WOWforum.org for details that will be updated as plans progress.

Stick with us! Good things are in the works behind the scenes that will make you sizzle with success.





59 Field St., Suite 120, PO Box 59 Torrington, CT 06790 p 860.482.6586 • f 860-489-8851

JoAnn Ryan, President & CEO, joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org **Lauren Zordan**, Vice President, lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

Pamela LaRosa, Director One-Stop Workforce Operations, pam@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

Sharon Kunay, Administrative Assistant, info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org

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News and NOTES

New \$150 Million Loan Program For Connecticut Small Businesses and Nonprofits

Governor Ned Lamont recently <u>announced</u> the launch of a \$150 million loan program for Connecticut small businesses and nonprofits.

The result of an innovative public-private partnership, the Connecticut Small Business Boost Fund is designed to help small businesses and nonprofits access the flexible working capital they need to grow and thrive.

What makes this initiative so unique is that it:

- Focuses on underserved communities that have historically experienced barriers to accessing working capital including organizations in distressed municipalities as well as those led by women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and people of color;
- Brings together a network of community lenders who are committed to addressing the needs of historically under-resourced and underbanked communities; and
- Offers a one-stop shop for business owners for hands-on support and guidance before, during, and after the loan application process.

Applications are being accepted now for loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$500,000 at a fixed, 4.5% interest rate. These loans are available to qualifying small businesses and nonprofits with operations in Connecticut that have 100 or fewer full-time employees and annual revenues of less than \$8 million.

Applications can be submitted online at <u>CTSmallBusinessBoostFund.org</u>. Please help us spread this good news to small businesses and nonprofits across the state.

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



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Northwestern to Offer OSHA 10 For Construction Training

The Office for Workforce Development at Northwestern Connecticut Community College is pleased to announce three upcoming opportunities for community members to receive **OSHA 10 Training for Construction.** Cost for the course to be held at Northwestern is \$125 and high school level reading and comprehension skills are all that are required.

The three separate class opportunities are scheduled for: August 2, 3, 4 from 5-9 p.m. September 13, 14, 15 from 5-9 p.m. October 26 and 27 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Upon completion, class attendees will receive an official OSHA 10 card from the U.S. Department of Labor. The inperson and fully interactive course will provide an orientation to OSHA training standards, cover health hazards and safety practices for people who work on construction sites, and will especially focus on hazard identification, avoidance, control, and prevention.

OSHA authorized instructor, Robin Denny, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational safety and health, a Master's certificate in emergency management, a Master of Science degree in public safety management, and is a State of Connecticut certified Fire Marshal. Denny has spent 37 years in the safety, environmental, and emergency service fields.

For more information or to register, contact John Fiorello, Entrepreneurial Center Director, at 860-738-6444. You can also register online at www.nwcc.edu/osha.



LEARN at LUNCH



Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us for a light lunch and learn about



Is Business Back to Normal?!: Labor Market Update

(with a focus on CT and NW Corner)

Presented by Patrick Flaherty

Director of Research and Information, CT Dept. of Labor

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022 • 11:30AM - 1:00PM

Virtual & In-Person Options Available

In-person: NWCT Chamber, 59 Field St., Suite 120, Torrington, CT 06790

Lunch to be provided courtesy of AEI Staffing

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

SERVICEMASTER ALBINO'S ANNUAL

BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Join us in our mission to collect backpacks and school supplies for teachers and students



STUDENT ITEMS NEEDED

Backpacks, Pencils, Notebooks, Crayons, Erasers, Binders, Markers, Pens, Rulers Colored Pencils, Scissors, Glue Sticks, K-2 journal (draw & write)

TEACHER ITEMS NEEDED

Color Copy Paper, Card Stock, Folders, Dry Erase Markers, Sticky Notes, Highlighters,

DROP OFF LOCATION

ServiceMaster Albino: 579 S Leonard St ~ Waterbury, CT 06720 Please call first to be sure someone can greet you: 203-753-0666 Can't get to us? Contact amanda@smalbino.com

ONLINE SHOPPING OPTION

https://bit.ly/albinoschoolsupply

DEADLINE: August 2nd 2022

Need More Info, please contact Amanda: 203-894-6482(c) amanda@smalbino.com https://www.facebook.com/servicemasteralbino

Thank You to Our Sponsors



ServiceMASTER









Northwest Community Bank







Chamber NEWS

Business with Breakfast at Coach Mel's

Co-Sponsored by Jade Athas, Berkshire Hathaway 161 Litchfield Road, Harwinton



Cathy Coyle, Melanie Knox, Kaitlyn Graboski, Marisa Kulesza, Amy DiPippo, Lauren Zordan, Jade Athas, Amanda Tortora

Coach Melanie Knox, JoAnn Ryan, Jade

Rep. John Piscopo, John Morris, Jordan Richards

Business After Hours at 422 Main St. Airbnb

Co-Sponsored by Jade Athas, Berkshire Hathaway 422 Main St, Torrington



Front: Pat Warner, Amanda Tortora, Monica Diulio, Lisa Ferris Back: John Seagrave, Jacque Williams, Lance Leifert

A lovely time was had by all who attended the Business After Hours at 422 Main St. Airbnb. Tours were given of the beautiful grounds which include a water fall fountain and koi pond that empties into the east branch of the Naugatuck river. Such a gem to be found in the downtown Torrington area! The weather cooperated with a light breeze to bring relief from the humidity as attendees enjoyed food, beverage, and networking.



Chamber NEWS

The Great Giveaway Business Showcase





Tuesday
August 23rd
5:30 to 8:30 pm

NW CT Chamber, 59 Field Street, Torrington, CT

For more information and to register **nwcc.edu/sbs**

TO REGISTER, VISIT www.nwcc.edu/sbs 🌣

MAX 15 PARTICIPANTS 🌣

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT 🌣

® NWCT Chamber, 59 Field St., Torrington CT

event in partnership with







During the Pandemic, our Chamber offered FREE advertising to help support our members.

July 1st, we reinstated our reduced ad pricing structure to enable us to better serve you.

PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY WITH THE



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

CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

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

Full page $(7^{1/2}"w \times 9^{-1/2}"h)$ - \$250 \$125 $^{1/2}$ page horizontal $(7^{1/2}"w \times 4^{-1/2}"h)$ - \$150 \$75 $^{1/2}$ page vertical $(3^{1/2}"w \times 9^{-1/2}"h)$ - \$150 \$75 $^{1/4}$ page $(3^{1/2}"w \times 4^{-1/2}"h)$ - \$75 \$50 Business card $(3^{1/2}"w \times 2^{-1/4}"h)$ - \$50 \$25

Member News and Member in the Spotlights

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

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

CHAMBER EXCHANGE – MEMBER TO MEMBER E-MAIL BLAST ADS

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

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Cost: \$300 \$250

Present a **Member to Member Workshop** to fellow members and highlight the products and services of your business. Utilize the Chamber's conference room, obtain a set of mailing labels, receive a ½ page advertisement in the newsletter and an email to the membership promoting the workshop. Contact Lauren Zordan to schedule at lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.



Northwestern Professor Added to Fulbright Specialist Roster

Northwestern CT Community College Professor of Biology,



Sharon Gusky, been approved by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) for placement on the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a tenure of four vears.

The Fulbright Specialist Program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions. As a candidate on the Fulbright Specialist Roster, Professor Gusky is now eligible to be matched with projects designed by host institutions in over 150 countries globally. She will have the opportunity to work with two international institutions over her four-year tenure.

Gusky was competitively selected by a Peer Review Panel to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster based on her significant experience in the field of biology and biology education. In addition to teaching biology at Northwestern, Gusky is the chair of the Center for Teaching for all twelve CT Community Colleges. She was the 2020 President of the National Association of Biology Teachers and served on their board for three years. She has received numerous recognitions for her work in biology education including the ASM Indo-US Professorship Award which sent her to Kolkata, India to teach a short course in Microbiology. She has also received the Connecticut STEM Achievement Award from the Connecticut Science Center, and Connecticut's Professor of the Year award by the Carnegie Foundation and C.A.S.E Foundation. Professor Gusky is a Founding Fellow of the Partnership of Undergraduate Life Science Education (PULSE) program and a founding member and former president of Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers.

"I am very excited to share my knowledge and experience in student-centered learning and undergraduate biology education with science departments abroad," said Gusky. "And I look forward to learning new and exciting things from the institutions that I visit."

Northwestern Student Travels to Paris for Science & Technologies Bootcamp

Northwestern Connecticut Community College student



Morgan Yelsits was one of 16 students from several countries chosen spend 10 days in Paris as part of the French Bootcamp: Science and Technologies for Sports and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Yelsits joined students from France, Germany, Mexico, and Spain to learn about the science and technology that

France is using to prepare for the 2024 Olympics. Funding for Yelsits' participation was provided by a National Science Foundation grant.

While in Paris, Yelsits and the other students met with government officials, engineers, scientists, and various manufacturing companies to learn how they are all working together to keep the Olympic preparations as sustainable and green as possible.

"This program allowed me to immerse myself in French culture as well as learn about sustainability," said Yelsits. "Everything from the heating and cooling systems to the seats used for bleachers will be as sustainable as they can be. They plan to use geo-thermic heating and cooling which is sustainable and clean. The bleachers at the new arena being built are made from 100 percent recycled plastic that has been collected from the Paris area. As a biology student, it was great to see this commitment to sustainability."

Yelsits will be a second-year student this Fall. She said she is grateful to Northwestern and the National Science Foundation for providing her with this opportunity.

Five Points Gallery Presents Three New Exhibitions

Exhibition: August 5 - September 10, 2022

Opening Reception: Friday, August 5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Artist Talk: Friday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.

- O "Glasshouse of immigrants": Jill Enfield
- O "Six Paintings": John Keefer
- O "The Botanical Tyranny Dollhouse": Jane Rainwater

Jill Enfield's exhibition in the East Gallery, *Glasshouse of immi-grants*, features a powerful photo installation using traditional and contemporary techniques.

The TDP Gallery showcases Jane Rainwater's installation, *The Botanical Tyranny Dollhouse*, where appearances can be deceiving.

The West Gallery features *Six Paintings*, by John Keefer, that demonstrate power and emotion.

Gallery hours: Saturday - Wednesday, 1 - 5 p.m. (CLOSED MONDAY), Thursday - Friday, 1 - 8 p.m., and by appointment (860-618-7222).

There is no admission charge. All artwork is for sale. Five Points exhibitions and educational events are free and open to the public. Five Points Respects your masking preferences per CDC guidelines.

Five Points is supported in part by the **Connecticut Office of the Arts.**

About the Gallery: Located in a historic downtown building, Five Points Gallery (FPG), is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit contemporary art gallery showcasing professional regional, national, and international visual artists. FPG presents exhibitions in three beautifully renovated exhibition spaces and has earned a reputation as one of Connecticut's outstanding contemporary art venues. For more information about Five Points Gallery, please visit www.fivepointsarts.org

Contact: Judith McElhone, (860) 618-2167 jmcelhone@fivepointsarts.org



Five Points Gallery 33 Main Street, Torrington, CT

Premier MEMBERS

Brandywine Living at Litchfield
Commercial Sewing, Inc.
Cook Funeral Home
Eversource Energy
Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
Seitz, LLC

Systems Support Group

T&M Building Company, Inc. and Torrington Downtown Partners

UCE Fine Builders

Webster Bank

Litchfield Community Center

Enjoy a movie every Monday at The Litchfield Community Center at 1:00pm. (subject to change)

Aug. 1: Love & Gelato Aug. 8 – Georgetown Aug. 15: Persuasion

Aug. 22: The Love Punch

Chamber Member IN THE SPOTLIGHT



422 Main St. Airbnb

422 Main St. Airbnb is an Airbnb and short term rental located right on Main St. in downtown Torrington. It is a 3 unit house consisting of a large one bedroom, a studio apartment and an old Greenhouse converted into a one bedroom/event space. It also has a large garden that is perfect for small weddings and events.

This Airbnb is run by couple Molly Hogan, originally from Torrington, and Victor Guerrero, originally from Mexico City. In March of 2020 when the pandemic hit, Molly and Victor were living and working in New York City. Both of them able to work from home, they started spending weeks on end up in Torrington. They immediately saw the need for good short term housing in the area and started looking to purchase their own place. In May of 2021 they purchased 422 Main St. and immediately listed it on Airbnb. Since then, they have had well over 100 guests stay at the house from all over the world. Everyone from guests visiting family members, visitors coming up to view the fall foliage, couples looking for a mini getaway, to traveling nurses working locally. They have also had guests use the space to host a writing workshop, a company retreat, a family thanksgiving and a couple weddings.

One of their favorite things about running the Airbnb is to be part of the community and to share with guests how much Torrington and the Northwest Corner has to offer by giving them local recommendations. See some of their guests' reviews below after their stays.

"We loved coffee and breakfast sandwiches at Brinx and the chicken parm is a 10 at Sassos. We will be back. " - Gabby

"Unique space with loads of room, clean, comfortable, and easy walk to theater and good pizza." - T

"This is such a lovely location about a 10 minute walk to downtown restaurants and only a short drive from hiking locations and vineyards. Our favorite was Haight-Brown after we hiked at Burr pond." - Caitlyn

"There's lots of great food options within walking distance which was a huge plus. We enjoyed visiting the Torrington historical society house during our stay which is a must see!" - Rachel

"It's an easy 10-minute walk to downtown where there's an historical theatre, a few restaurants, a cool used book store and even a fabulous art gallery space run by a non-profit. In the other direction on Main Street there are a handful of Latin American grocers and shops." - Sarah

If interested in more information please follow them on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/422mainst and Instagram @422mainst







The NW Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Insurance Trust invite you to learn about CIT's new Chamber Benefits for Independent Contractors!

Allstate® Benefits has created a program with the Chamber Insurance Trust to offer the Chambers of Commerce's 1099 worker members healthcare benefits.

1 out of 10 workers are independent contractors.

Valuable key points include:

- Cost savings over the individual market
- Options- individual coverage isn't the only option
- Better benefits and plan designs
- Refund potential with a level funded plan
- In a competitive job market, gives employers the ability to attract better employees

The Allstate program's difference is we can quote product with integration with full-time employee groups and provide a total solution for a company. Pricing should be better by including all employees and 1099 workers of a group access to coverage, instead of forcing 1099 employees to buy substandard healthcare. The key is more choices and flexibility at lower costs.

We can write any industry for small to midsize groups of 2 enrolled and up, so we have solutions for all groups and now that includes independent contractors!

Please join us!

When: August 22, 2022 at 9am

Where: NW Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, 59 Field Street, Suite 120

Torrington, CT 06790 Telephone: (860) 482-6586

RSVP: JoAnn Ryan joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org or wpicagli@cfr-cit.com (event will also be

avaiilable via Zoom details are below)

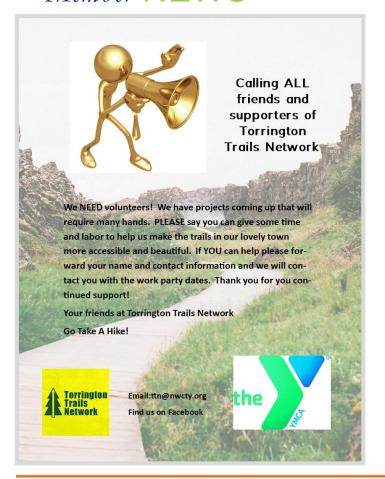
If you are unable to attend, please consider joining the simultaneous Zoom meeting on August 22 at 9am hosted by CIT. (Please see details on how to join virtual meeting):

https://us02web.zoom.us/i/85171463896?pwd=NHVoemkxbEFuVUw2eVZnbnNnUFpwZz09

Meeting ID: 851 7146 3896

Passcode: 382318







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www.sba.gov



Upcoming CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Aug. 3 - WOW Advisory Committee - 9 AM

Aug. 8 - Leads I - 12 PM

Aug. 10 - Leads II - 8:30 AM

Aug. 10 - Learn at Lunch: Is Business Back to Normal?! @ NW CT Chamber, 59 Field St, Suite 120, Torrington 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Aug. 11 - Government Relations Committee

Aug. 11 - Leads III - 12 PM

Aug. 22 - Leads I - 12 PM

Aug. 22 - Chamber Health Care Coalition—CIT Presents: 1099 Independent Healthcare Benefits @ NW CT Chamber, 59 Field St, Suite 120, Torrington, 9 - 10 AM

Aug. 23 - Business with Breakfast @ TBD, 8 AM

Aug. 23 - Small Business Seminar – How To Hire Great People

@ NW CT Chamber, 59 Field St, Suite 120, Torrington,
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Aug. 31 - Business After Hours @ Brooker Memorial, 157 Litchfield Street, Torrington, 5 - 7 PM

Save the Date

September 8 - Legislative Reception @ NCCC, Park Place, Winsted, 7:30 AM

September 14 - Chamber Open House, @ 59 Field Street, Suite 120, Torrington, 5 - 7 PM

September 22 - Joint Business After Hours with Avon/Canton Chamber, Co-Sponsored by Barron Financial @ Ski Sundown, 126 Ratlum Rd, New Htfd, 5 - 7 PM

October 7 - 18th Annual WOW! Forum @ The Warner Theatre, 68 Main Street, Torrington

November 10 - Economic Summit, Keynote Speaker: Chris DiPentima, President of CBIA,

@ Torrington Country Club, 8 AM