

March 2007

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The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce

As we pull together, we will accomplish great things for our members and for our community. Be part of the future; join the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce today!

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Chamber News from Chairman, Andy Messier

March is a busy time for the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce. Typically, our spring and summer events keep our committees active and this year is no exception. With the **4th Annual Golf Tournament** scheduled for May 21st at the Norwich Golf Course and the increasingly popular **Black Tie Harbor Ball** on June 23rd your Chamber continues to lead the way providing enjoyable activities to enhance the Norwich region. In addition, we are planning a new event which will highlight the Nor-

wich Harbor, and provide an opportunity to taste food offerings from some of the area's finest restaurants and caterers. We are excited to announce the debut of the **"River Fest"** at the Norwich Harbor on June 2nd which will have family entertainment and activities to compliment the food offerings.

If you'd like to participate on one of our committees to make the region *"a better place to live and work"* give us a call. And if you're not currently a Chamber member isn't it time to become one?

NEW—Enter a Coupon

The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce offers another *new website feature* for its members. If your business would like to offer a special savings to your fellow chamber members you may do so with an **Coupon**. Located in the Member's Area on the website—www.norwichchamber.com—is an area called **Add A Coupon**. To view the available coupons offered by other members click on the word **Coupon**. If you need assistance please call Kim for further instruction at 887-1647.



Business After Hours - April 18th

Our next **Business After Hours** will be held on Wednesday, April 18th, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at **Harts Greenhouse & Florist** located at 43 Clinton Avenue in Norwich. Join us for an evening of networking amongst the blooming spring flowers.

Floral arranging demonstrations will be available. Call to make your reservation at 887-1647 or sign-up on the website: www.norwichchamber.com in the Members Area or the Members Calendar. Credit cards are now accepted.

Highlights of Legislative Breakfast Meeting

Our Annual Legislative Breakfast was held March 13th at New London County Mutual Insurance Company. CBIA (Connecticut Business and Industry Association) assisted the Chamber in hosting the event. Legislators Jack Malone, Edith Prague, Steve Mikutel, Tom Reynolds and Kevin Ryan attended. Also in attendance was Jenny Contois, District Director from Congressman Joseph Courtney's office and Jeff Nelson, Director of the Eastern Office for Governor Jodi Rell. The focus of the forum was on the topics of Workers Compensation, Energy, Healthcare, and Workplace costs. Todd Postler, as a member of the Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee, served as moderator.

CBIA opened the forum with discussing their positions on each topic and then asked each Legislator to discuss their stance on these areas. Senator Prague supported changes to the current legislation on Worker's Comp. Chamber members Ted Phillips, Jonathan Gillman, Todd Postler, and Gary Young voiced strong oppositions to most changes. Most concern surrounded the increased costs to business owners already burden by some of the high Worker Compensation costs in the country. Jack Malone mentioned several public safety matters including medical and insurance costs. Tom Reynolds spoke about education costs and assisting towns

through ECS (Education Cost Sharing) funds. Steve Mikutel spoke about Property Tax and the need for an overhaul in the system.

The forum gave members and their guests the opportunity to interact with Legislator in a public forum. Legislators Malone, Reynolds, and Mikutel stayed after the forum to discuss and interact with the audience.

The Legislative Affairs Committee will continue to follow-up with Legislators during the Session. Additionally, meetings will be set up with Congressman Courtney to discuss current projects and assistance in development of the Route 82 corridor.

March's Featured Member



Matthew J. Lambert started **Lambert Furniture Works** in December 2004. He previously worked with

Dave Meiklem for over ten years in the woodworking business. Once Dave retired, Matt decided to open his own business. He works out of his house in Voluntown, but travels to customer's homes and businesses to pick-up and deliver work or to install products. Matt repairs and refinishes all types of furniture, but his specialty is building custom furniture. If you attend a meeting at the New London County Mutual building in Norwich, be sure to check out the custom built buffet Matt constructed which is located in front of the

main conference room. Matt has fulfilled numerous requests for custom built furniture. In addition to furniture, he has satisfied requests for a custom built gate, trophy cases, eye glass stands, book stands and even a doll cradle. "Matt is amazing at what he does" says his wife Stacie. "He is truly gifted". Matt loves the woodworking business, and it shows.



**Lambert
Furniture Works**
622 Pendleton Hill Road
Voluntown, CT 06384
(860) 376-4297



Upcoming Events—Extra Hands Always Needed!

Calendar Highlights

- April 18 BAH—Harts Greenhouse
- May 9 BAH—Slater Mall Members
- May 21 Golf Tournament
- May 31 BAH—CT Defenders
- June 2 River Food Fest
- June 17 BAH—Camaro Signs
- June 23 Harbor Ball
- July 25 BAH—CT Pardon Team
- Sept. 5 BAH—Spirit of Broadway
- Sept. 20 Wine & Roses
- Oct. 17 Holiday Inn Norwich
- Nov. 8 AmericInn Lodge & Suites
- Dec. Surplus Unlimited

The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce's **4th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held Monday, May 21st returning to the Norwich Golf Course. While golf may not be your cup of "tee", many sponsorship levels are available. Another option: gift certificates make wonderful raffle prizes for tournaments, and draws another customer into your business.

Registration forms for players and details for sponsorship opportunities have been mailed to each member. Questions regarding sponsorships or the

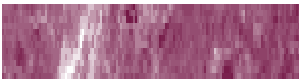
tournament can be directed to Kim at 887-1647.

The chamber is hosting an *exciting new event* on June 2nd...The **River Fest at the Norwich Harbor**. The planning is still underway, but a sneak peek at the details assures the event will be very yummy and will provide entertainment for all!

Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. If you are able to donate your services on June 2nd please contact the office at 887-1647.



A few perpetual plaques are still remaining at the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce office. If you haven't received your plaque, please contact Kim to make arrangements for yours.



The Mission of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated is to take a leadership role to support, promote, enhance and advance the general welfare and prosperity of the greater Norwich area so that its citizens, and its business and professional community, shall prosper. The organization shall give emphasis to the economic, civic, commercial, cultural and educational interests of the greater Norwich area to insure that the area is a desirable place in which to work, live, or visit.

Welcome to the Newest Members of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce

New England Retina Associates, PC

Donna Connerton – 113 Salem Tnpk., Norwich – 203-288-2020

Group of five vitreoretinal physicians, Drs. Peter Liggett, David Tom, Nauman Chaudhry, Greg Haffner & Jasmine Elison treating macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other diseases of the retina. We are located next to the Backus Outpatient Diabetes Center in Norwich.

Eastern Energy Solutions

Doug Moss – 7 McKinley Ave, Norwich – 887-7676

Wal-Mart 2170, Norwich

Kathleen Smith – 220 Salem Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360 – 319-7672

Shopping center, pharmacy, automotive

N.E.H. Trophies, LLC

Paul Hinton – 32 Yantic Flats Rd, Yantic – 889-7121

General Awards, Corporate Awards, Trophies, Plaques, Medals, Pins, Ribbons. Over 1/2 Million Ad Specialty & Promotional Items. Police, Fire, EMS Badges & Insignia. Commercial Engraving, Sublimation Printing, Plastic Signs, Printed Ceramic Products, Giftware, Name Badges, Cast Bronze Plaques, Self Inking Rubber Stamps. "We make the Thrill of Recognition Permanent"

Lathrop Manor Bed & Breakfast, LLC

Marco & Sheryl Middleton – 380 Washington Street, Norwich – 961-9911

Providing rooms and breakfast to overnight visitors in an antique home in the historic district of Norwichtown Connecticut.

Hedden Insurance Agency

James Pike – 65 Boston Post Rd, Waterford & 108 Main Street, Jewett City – 447-3111

Independent Insurance Agency contracted directly with over 15 insurance companies to serve our clients.

Don't Forget Support Your Fellow Chamber Members!

Until Next Month...

For more information on the many happenings here at The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, check us out at www.norwichchamber.com

We always welcome your involvement and suggestions, so please let me know if there is anything that we can do to help you. Call the Chamber at 887-1647. If you aren't yet a member, please consider joining our growing ranks. Dues are reasonable, and as our logo says:

Pulling together we can accomplish great things!

Andy Messier, Chairman