



CHAMBER of COMMERCE
EASTERN CONNECTICUT

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www.chamberect.com

Business Center

Need help for your business? Visit the Chamber! **SCORE, a free, confidential organization supported by the Small Business Administration**, is available at the Chamber office every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at Dime Bank in Norwich every second and fourth Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Insurance Resource Center representatives are available every day.

An advisor from the **Small Business Development Center** will be available the first and third Thursday of each month to provide free one-on-one counseling at the Chamber offices by appointment only. For more information, call the Chamber at 860-464-7373.

Special Thanks to Our Regional Benefactors



Wintry Weather Policy

Please be advised that the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT office follows the state schedule for inclement weather. If the state is delayed or closed, the Chamber of Commerce offices will be as well.

Events:

Cancellations and delays of events will be posted on www.chamberect.com as well as on WBMW106.5 FM, JAMMIN' 107.7 FM, Radio 104.1 FM, WICH-1310 AM, WCTY 97.7 FM, WNLC 98.7 FM, Kool 101 – 100.9 FM, NBC 30, and News Channel 8.

Save The Date

22nd Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, June 7, 2010

Mohegan Sun Country Club at Pautipaug

www.chamberect.com

Economic Forecast Breakfast



Economic Forecast Breakfast, Friday, January 15 7:45 a.m. Radisson Hotel, New London.

This year, local businesses gave their opinions on the recession, the recovery and the region via the Survey of Eastern Connecticut

Businesses, conducted by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), and the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by Citizens Bank. The results of this survey will be the focus of our January Business Breakfast.

Jeffrey Blodgett, vice president of research at CERC and Jason J. Giulietti, research economist with the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), and State Comptroller Nancy Wyman will also speak.

The results of this survey are critical for businesses as we enter the next phase of economic recovery. Please join us as we present this event in partnership with the Greater Mystic Chamber.

Groton Utilities will sponsor the event. The cost to attend is \$17 for members and \$25 for non-members. To register, visit www.chamberect.com/chamber-activities or call 860-701-9113.

Don't forget to check our flyers inside this edition of *Voice* for information on a special January breakfast, as well as details on our February breakfast.

Upcoming Council Events

Annual State of Waterford
Wednesday, January 20
7:45 - 9 a.m.
Waterford Town Hall
\$5/\$10

B2B on the Road with the Groton-Ledyard Council
Thursday, January 21
4-5 p.m.
Hard Rock Cafe,
Foxwoods Resort Casino

Lyme-Old Lyme Council Meeting
Thursday, January 21
6:15-9 p.m.
Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme
\$24

State of New London
Wednesday, January 27
7:45 - 9 a.m.
Radisson, New London
\$5/\$10

Roundtable Discussion on the City of Norwich
Friday, January 29
7:30 a.m.
Norwich City Hall,
Room 335
\$5/\$10



New Members

Apples 2 Apples
 Beecher Carlson Insurance Services, Inc.
 Eastern Connecticut Dermatology
 Ed's Mistick Village Cleaners
 Edward Jones Investments - Old Saybrook
 Five Guys Burgers and Fries - East Lyme
 Five Guys Burgers and Fries - Mystic
 Grand Victorian Guesthouse with Beach and Cabana
 La Grua Center
 Les Bray, William Pitt Sotheby's
 Matthew's Catering Co.
 Mystic Arts Center
 Mystic Health and Rehabilitation Center
 Mystic Innovations Group, Inc
 Payson, LLC.
 Photo Connection of Colchester
 Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de New London (First Hispanic Baptist Church)
 State Farm Insurance - Curtis Boyd, Agent - Groton
 Steamboat Inn
 Whaler's Inn
 White Eagle Computer Solutions, LLC

Your employees need
insurance.



We can help you get it.

Call the Insurance Resource
 Center today at
 860-701-9113 or
 visit www.chamberect.com

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Regional Chamber Awards

Each year at our Annual Meeting, the Chamber honors those who have made a difference in our community with the following awards:

**Community Revitalization
 Leader of the Year Award**
 and
**Small Business of the Year
 Award**

We're looking to our members to nominate those they feel are best suited to receive these awards.

Please log on to our website, www.chamberect.com, and click on the Featured Page button for award criteria and send us your nominations today.

**Download the PDF form
 and mail to the Chamber of
 Commerce of Eastern CT, 914
 Hartford Turnpike, Waterford,
 CT 06385
 or fax to 860-701-9902.**

News and Editorial

Insurance Resource Center

The Eastern Connecticut Benefit Center will be starting the new year with a new name: The Insurance Resource Center.

Due to the Chamber's move to our new regional headquarters in Waterford, the Insurance Resource Center will also be moving to our new offices, located at 914 Hartford Turnpike.

The Center is staffed Monday through Friday by local Chamber member agents. These agents are available by phone, email or in person during certain hours to answer questions, offer information and assist members with their insurance and benefit needs. For more information on the Center and its agents, visit www.chamberect.com/resource-center.

We've Moved!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be busy settling into our new offices, located in the Waterford Group Building, 914 Hartford Turnpike in Waterford.

This move is a positive one for the Chamber, placing our new regional headquarters in a central location easily accessible to both our members and the public.

"We have experienced significant growth during our five years based in Gales Ferry, most notably, our partnerships with the Lyme-Old Lyme and Fishers Island Chamber Councils," said Tony Sheridan, president and CEO. "The move supports our ongoing policy to be centrally located for the majority of our membership. We're very excited about this new location. It's ideal for the Chamber's future growth."

The addition of the Lyme-Old Lyme Council expanded the Chamber's footprint. Combined with the expiring lease on the Gales Ferry building, the Chamber felt it was the right time to move to a new location that would place us back in the center of our membership base.

Board policy dictates a central location for convenience of members, and the confluence of I-95 and I-395 makes the Hartford Turnpike facility an ideal location, Sheridan said.

"Our Chamber is growing, and our new office will provide a highly visible, convenient location for our members and the community," said Keith Fontaine, chairman of the board.

The new offices will include 10 incubator spaces for small business start-ups, in accordance with federal funding the Chamber received to promote the growth of the business community in the region.

We will be holding an open house for our members on January 28 from 4-7 p.m. Please stop by and see our new home! If you plan on attending, please RSVP at www.chamberect.com/chamber-activities.

Also, please update your records with our new phone number: **860-701-9113**.



Interested in **Starting your own business?**
The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT can help.

Office services and more will be available in the local area for small business start-ups.

Office space

Computer and internet access

Networking opportunities

Telephone

Advice from SCORE and other partners

Contact Denny Hicks for more information.
Phone: (860) 701-9113 **Email:** dhicks@chamberect.com

Coming soon - expected availability, January 2010

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.



Home to the Chamber's new Waterford headquarters.