



CT-RAIL HARTFORD LINE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES IN MERIDEN & WALLINGFORD

The 21,000 concrete railroad ties stockpiled in the Amtrak rail yard on State Street in Meriden make it easier to grasp the scope of construction along the CTrail Hartford Line corridor. The \$639 million project is updating the rail corridor to include double tracking and facilitate more frequent commuter trains between New Haven, Hartford and Springfield. The corridor crosses through many cities and towns, including Wallingford, Berlin and North Haven, as well as Meriden.

The concrete ties being stored at the rail yard in Meriden will be used to build a second track in the central Connecticut area, said John Bernick, assistant rail administrator for the state Department of Transportation. New wood ties on the existing track were installed in 2010, Bernick said.

Construction activity continues through June 2016 at various grade crossings in Wallingford. Work primarily includes new drainage, curbing, sidewalks and signage. Below is the revised construction schedule:

In This Issue:



****NEW: FLYERS NOW PART OF BODY OF NEWSLETTER****

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North Plains Highway

- April 25 – April 29: One-way alternating traffic from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- April 29 – May 2: Detour will be effect starting at 8:00pm through 4:00pm on May 2.

Pent Highway

- May 16 - May 20: One-way alternating traffic from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- May 20 – May 23: Detour will be effect starting at 8:00pm through 4:00pm on May 23.

Quinnipiac Street

- June 13 - June 17: One-way alternating traffic from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- June 17 – June 20: Detour will be effect starting at 8:00pm through 4:00pm on June 20.

Hall Avenue

- June 20 – June 24: One-way alternating traffic from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
- June 24 – June 27: Detour will be effect starting at 8:00pm through 4:00pm on June 27.

Detour signs will be in place along with traffic personnel and proper signage. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

For construction related questions, please contact Rob Canestra, Project Engineer, AECOM at (860) 924-8809 or Rich Angelicola, Resident Engineer, AECOM at (860) 867-6460.

This work is part of the overall upgrade of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail line – now branded as the CTrail Hartford Line – scheduled to begin expanded service in January 2018. Future updates on the status and location of construction activities will be provided on the NHHS Rail Program website at www.nhhsrail.com.

BIG CRANE = FIX TO PARKING PROBLEM

From the view from Colony Street, it is clear that the 24 Colony Street four story mixed-use project is coming along quite well and looking fabulous...but BEHIND THE SCENES, and literally behind the building, is the 270+ vehicle parking structure that is also moving along quite nicely. BOTH of these projects are on track to meet their construction deadlines of the end of this year! For all of you parkers who have remained flexible throughout the construction phase, thank you and please know that it will be well worth the wait! Photos courtesy of Edward Siebert, Jr.



LOTS OF WHAT WE DO FOR MEMBERS IS LINKING YOU

... to resources, services, support, and fellow members. Here are some EASY LINKS to the Midstate Chamber to "always keep you in the loop":

NEWS: <http://www.midstatechamber.com/News> CALENDAR: <http://www.midstatechamber.com/Calendar>
 RESOURCES: <http://www.midstatechamber.com/Resources> DIRECTORY: <http://www.midstatechamber.com/Directory>
 NEWSLETTERS: <http://www.thechambernewsletter.com> 2015-16 CHAMBER BOOK: <http://www.thechamberbook.com>



Thanks to Our Sponsors:

The Breakfast Club
Celebrates...

Senator Richard Blumenthal

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Four Points by Sheraton,
275 Research Parkway, Meriden



Program Format:

7:30—8:15 a.m. Arrival, Networking, & Great Breakfast Buffet

8:15—8:30 a.m. Announcements, Recognition 8:30—9:00 a.m. Presentation with Q & A

Company Name: _____

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Chamber Members: \$20 in advance; ____ check enclosed Chamber Members: \$25 at the door (without a reservation)
Members to be \$30. *Registration changes must be made 2 days prior to event to avoid charge*

Credit Card # (AX, Disc, VI, MC) _____

3 digit code: _____ Card Zip Code _____ Exp. _____

Sponsorships are available—call the chamber for details - options for every business and any budget are a GREAT way to
promote your business via The Breakfast Club!

THIS EVENT WILL BE TAPED AND AIRED on Midstate CHAMBER WEBSITE AND PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION!



Please RSVP by
May 2, 2016



3 Colony Street, Suite 301, Meriden, CT 06451 Ph: 203.235.7901
Fx: 203.686.0172 info@midstatechamber.com
www.midstatechamber.com

SPONSOR IT: rates for every budget starting at \$100! And
your company name/logo will be on the video. Click Here and/or Call
203.235.7901 for a great marketing opportunity for your biz/org!



480 Lewis Ave., Meriden

Thursday, May 5th, 2016

8:00 am to 9:30 am

Join us at Boscov's Westfield for a **Business Before Hours**. Attendees will need to enter at the Customer Pick-Up entrance (Kensington Ave.) and will be escorted upstairs to our Seasonal Department where we'll all enjoy a continental breakfast, networking, **and the chance to win a top designer men's suit, valued at up to \$500**. Designer suits carried by Boscov's include Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole New York, Nautica, Perry Ellis, and more. A register will be open for pre-store opening sales for those interested in purchasing something from our extensive Men's Department.



Please RSVP to this event by calling the Chamber:

203-235-7901, e-mailing: info@midstatechamber.com, or visit www.midstatechamber.com.

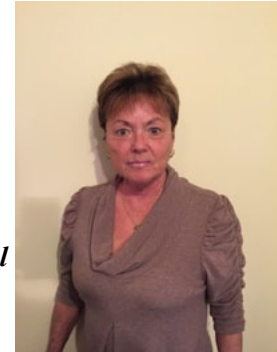
This Business Before Hours event is in association with the Midstate Chamber of Commerce to showcase the sponsoring member and to offer both members and members-to-be the opportunity to network and enjoy a wonderful evening.

**17th Annual
Strong, Smart, and Bold
Benefit Celebration**



*Come Celebrate our
2016 Strong, Smart,
and Bold Recipient*

*Eileen Bongiovanni
Partner Bongiovanni Insurance & Financial*



**Please Join us to Celebrate Girls Inc. and our Award Recipient!
Where we inspire all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold.**

WHEN: Wednesday, May 11, 2016

WHERE: Wallingford Country Club
195 Long Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

TIME: 5:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour/Cash Bar
6:00 p.m. Dinner and Presentation

COST: \$60.00 Per Person
Choice of Chicken Florentine, or Prime Rib.

RSVP: By May 9, 2016

Get involved and reserve your spot today by participating in this great community event.

CONTACT/BUSINESS NAME: _____

NAME(s) ATTENDING

DINNER CHOICE

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

*Payment must be made to reserve your spot for the benefit celebration.
Payment can be remitted to Girls Inc., 130 Lincoln Street, Meriden, CT 06451
Call 203-235-7146 or email mab_girlsinc@snet.net with any questions.*



Chamber 101: Tips to Get the MOST From Your Membership

Tue., May 17 ~ 2 sessions

“What is the Chamber?”

“How do I make the most of my membership?”

These questions we hear a lot so we would like to answer them. All Chamber members are invited to one of these FREE seminars to give you the facts about the Chamber.

Come out and meet the Staff and Board Members of the Chamber.

You will learn:

- What the Chamber is...and isn't!
- What the Chamber does for our members and community
- Additional Members Only Marketing options available
- How can you best utilize the Chamber and its resources to benefit your Business
- And More!!!

Company Name: _____

PICK A SESSION ☐ 8:00 am to 9:15 am ☐ 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm

Attendee(s): _____

Midstate Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
3 Colony St., Suite 301, Meriden, CT 06451
203-235-7901 ~ Fx. 203-686-0172
info@midstatechamber.com ~ www.midstatechamber.com

Business
After Hours



Masonicare



22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford

Thursday, May 19th, 2016

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



“Spring” over to Masonicare and see the new outdoor patio off the Acute Medical Hospital Unit at Masonicare Healthcare Center. Enjoy food and drink with Midstate and Quinnipiac Chamber members, and get a brief update on Masonicare services available to the community.

Enjoy Networking, refreshments from our award winning chefs, tours and more! Join us!

*Signage and security staff will help you find easy parking.
In case of inclement weather, the program will be held in the
Center’s Auditorium.*

Please RSVP to this event by calling the Chamber:

203-235-7901, e-mailing: info@midstatechamber.com, or visit www.midstatechamber.com.

This Business After Hours event is in association with the Midstate Chamber of Commerce to showcase the sponsoring member and to offer both members and members-to-be the opportunity to network and enjoy a wonderful evening.



Presents This Workshop Series Entitled

Building a World Class Sales Organization



Attendees will learn to determine if your existing sales people have what it takes to sell in highly competitive markets and get you to your next goals; whether your sales people have the crucial elements necessary for sales success; how to determine the health and viability of your sales opportunity pipeline, and more.

May 25th—Hire Winners Only July 27th—What Plan?

September 28th—Sales Road Blocks

November 30th—On To Success!

For more information on program content, please contact Ron Taylor at 203-549-1943 or ront@tem-sandler.com

Workshop will be held from **7:30 AM to 9:15 am**
at the Midstate Chamber, 3 Colony St., Suite 301, Meriden
Cost is \$7.00 or \$20 for all sessions

☐ All ☐ 5-25 ☐ 7-27 ☐ 9-28 ☐ 11-30

Space is Limited. Please register with the Chamber:

3 Colony St., Suite 301, Meriden, CT 06451 ~ 203-235-7901 ~ Fax: 203-686-0172 ~ info@midstatechamber.com

Company Name: _____

Attendees: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

☐ Bill me ☐ Credit Card (Amer. Exp, VISA, M/C, Discover)
Please Make Checks Payable to Midstate Chamber of Commerce

Card # _____

Card Expiration: _____ Card Ver. # _____ Card Zip Code _____

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: UPDATE ON NAPIER INNOVATION GRANT



Séan W. Moore

As previously announced in March, the Midstate Chamber recently received a James H. Napier Foundation innovation award in celebration of the Foundation's 60 years of serving the Meriden and Wallingford communities. Our project is to take a holistic look at all types of housing in Meriden and to understand how changes in the housing markets will change our communities. In addition to understanding affordable housing, we also want to know that there is an abundant supply of quality inventory for the downsizing "empty nesters", the millennial "early renters" and that all of the amenities will exist for all of these residents. We are especially interested in this work because it is what our members will be building, what our realtors will be selling and it is where our families and employees will be living.

We anticipate a community-wide housing forum in the early fall. Stay tuned in for details and feel free to call the chamber for details.

We'd like to thank the Napier Foundation Board and staff for supporting the project and we look forward to updating our members on the project!

177 STATE STREET GETS APPROVAL OF 9% LIHTC

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) Executive Director Karl Kilduff and CHFA Board Chairwoman and Department of Housing (DOH) Commissioner Evonne M. Klein, announced that CHFA's Board of Directors has approved \$7.1 million in Federal 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) to six proposed affordable multifamily housing developments including the Meriden project with developers Penrose Properties, LLC and the Meriden Housing Authority.

This recent award of tax credits "is the final piece where that swap happens, and Mills residents get relocated in their entirety, and the Mills megablock gets redeveloped," said city Economic Development Director Juliet Burdelski.

The 177 State Street proposed project will have 75-units of mixed-income family housing, with ground level retail space and a preschool. The property will include 8 supportive units and 60 units targeted for households with incomes of 60% or less of Area Median Income (AMI). In addition, 26 of the 60 units will be supported by project based Section 8. The new building will be within walking distance of Meriden's new Transit center.

**HERE is your 2016-17
Planning / Budgeting
Guide**



WE REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR MEMBERS IN



Many of our Chamber members appreciate our high level of activity and our diversification of programming. We feature members and guest speakers and always provide ample time before and after the programs to connect with your business leaders and peers. And we also like to promote the activities of our members as well. Many of these flyers are enclosed, but here's a quick sampling:

- We are hosting [Senator Blumenthal](#) for Breakfast on May 3 at the Four Points by Sheraton with the Cheshire Chamber
- Our next Business BEFORE Hours will be on May 5 at [Bosco's](#): 8-9:30 am.
- May 3 begins the evening [QuickBooks](#) Classes
- Wed, May 4, 4:00PM opens [Wallingford Restaurant HOP](#)
- Fri, May 6, 11:30AM is the [Women and Families Center Women in Leadership](#) program
- Wed, May 11, 5:00PM starts the [Girls Inc. Strong, Smart and Bold](#) dinner
- Thu, May 12, 9:00AM for [SCORE](#) Confidential Counseling Sessions
- [CHAMBER 101](#) - 2 sessions on May 17 - OPEN to ALL
- May 18 - mid day (12:30-1:30 pm) [Ribbon Cutting: Pediatric & Family Center for Natural Medicine](#)
- Thu, May 19, 5:00PM is an AM [Constant Contact](#) Workshop **AND** our [Business After Hours](#) at [Masonicare](#) with the Q Chamber
- May 25 - [Sandler Training SALES Workshop](#) Series Starts

And looking ahead to early June...

- [Chamber Magazine](#) production starts soon! This is the last chance to reserve your ad space before we go to production.
- Our [29th Annual Golf Tournament](#) is scheduled for [June 8, 2016](#). Call the chamber today to play, to sponsor or to sponsor a veteran!

Questions? Here's How to Reach Us...

This issue of Chamber News is a member service of the Midstate Chamber of Commerce, Inc. with offices located at 3 Colony St., Suite 301, Meriden, CT 06451. You can also visit us on line at www.midstatechamber.com. Ph: 203.235.7901 Fx: 203.686.0172 info@midstatechamber.com. We welcome Chamber member and community news, events and other articles of interest from our diverse membership base. The Midstate Chamber of Commerce serves its member businesses in Meriden, Wallingford, Southington, Berlin, Cheshire and Middletown, Connecticut. We invite all businesses to join with us and become members of our chamber.



For all of your needs visit our members at www.midstatechamber.com

UPCOMING MAY EVENTS:

Mark your calendars, iPhones, Droids, etc. with these event dates. **M** = Chamber or Business event; **C** = Community event. More details and RSVP information for these events may be found on www.midstatechamber.com! Chamber event RSVP line: 203.235.7901



*This QR code in the upper right corner also brings you right out to our business and community calendars. Just SCAN and CLICK! **RSVP NOW** for the highlighted chamber events below - just click and enter your info!*

- M** Tue, May 3 - 7:30 am: **Chamber Breakfast Club Celebrates with Senator Richard Blumenthal** at Four Points by Sheraton. *Flyer enclosed.*
- C** Wed, May 4 - 4:00 pm: **Wallingford 4th Annual Restaurant Hop** in Downtown Wallingford. \$25 gets you into 14 great downtown restaurants for samplings. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 203.284.1807.
- M** Thu, May 5 - 8:00 am: **Business Before Hours at Boscov's held at Boscov's** Westfield. See enclosed flyer.
- C** Sat, May 7 - 7:45 am: **CHC Meriden 5 and 10K Race For Mental Health** at Hubbard Park Meriden, CT. E-mail racehubbard@ark.org for info.
- M** Thu, May 12 - 9:00 am: **SCORE - Counseling Sessions for Businesses** held at Chamber of Commerce
- C** Fri, May 13 - "The Wizard of Oz" Production at The Almira F. Stephan Memorial Playhouse. Visit www.castlecraig.org for information & tickets.
- M** Tue, May 17 - 2 sessions: **Chamber 101 – How to...Use Your Chamber Membership Effectively** – See enclosed flyer. 203.235.7901.
- M** Wed, May 18 - 12:30 pm: **Ribbon Cutting at the Pediatric & Family Center for Natural Medicine**, 850 N. Main St., Ext. #2, Wallingford.
- C** Wed, May 18 - 5:00 pm: Out for Health Event at Stone Academy of Waterbury showcasing the school and current programs. For more information, call Judy at 475-235-2006.
- M** Thu, May 19 - 8:00 am: **Constant Contact Workshop - Social Media Marketing** at the Midstate Chamber.
- M** Thu, May 19 - 5:00 pm: **Business After Hours Featuring Masonicare**. See enclosed flyer.
- M** Wed, May 25 - 7:30 am: **Sandler Training SALES Workshop – Hire Winners Only!** See enclosed flyer.
- C** Mon, May 30 - 9:00 am: Memorial Day One Mile Walk/Run runs from Israel Putnam Elementary School to the Veteran's Monuments on Broad St. Proceeds to benefit Veterans who want to attend Middlesex Community College.
- C** Mon, May 30 - 10:00 am: Meriden Memorial Day Parade marches from Curtis St. to City Hall.

This is a SHORT LIST of some of our KEY events – for even MORE business and community events - including Chamber Committee meetings - along with details and updates visit...<http://www.midstatechamber.com/Calendar>

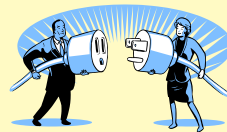
And, LIKE us on FACEBOOK and FOLLOW us on TWITTER: @MidstateCoC

COMMITTEE CONNECTION

A LOT of work happens at the committee level here at the Midstate Chamber. We do encourage your involvement and that of your employees on any committee! ALL committee meeting dates and times are listed on the Midstate Chamber's website. Come on out and sit in on a meeting to try it - you will like it: the experience, sharing, connections and more!

**Your participation helps YOU, helps YOUR
BUSINESS and helps
OUR CHAMBER!**

Questions? Call us at: 203.235.7901



BREAKFAST CLUB TV

The Chamber's Breakfast program is NOW AIRING on Cox Public Access #15 - Frontier: #99 on **Mondays at 9:00 p.m.** Check the chamber website for details and get your popcorn ready!

Find event photos at: www.midstatechamber.com



Golf Player Registration

Team Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Players:

1.) Name: _____

Company: _____

Handicap: _____ Email: _____

2.) Name: _____

Company: _____

Handicap: _____ Email: _____

3.) Name: _____

Company: _____

Handicap: _____ Email: _____

4.) Name: _____

Company: _____

Handicap: _____ Email: _____

Please see reverse side for more information.
Please return both sides to us for processing.
Please return to:

Midstate Chamber of Commerce
3 Colony St., Suite 301, Meriden, CT 06451

Phone: 203-235-7901 / Fax: 203-686-0172
E-Mail: info@midstatechamber.com

This tournament benefits Chamber activities including the Sanford S. Shorr Education Awards. To date, over \$100,000 has been awarded to deserving area students!

Tournament Schedule

10:00 a.m. - Registration, Free Range Balls & Putting Contest
10:30 a.m. - Barbecue Lunch
Noon - Shotgun Start, Scramble Format
5:00 p.m. - Cocktail Reception, Cash Bar
6:00 p.m. - Awards, Dinner & Prizes

**Spectacular Prizes:
Putting Contest Cash Prize
Over \$5,000 in Raffle Prizes!**

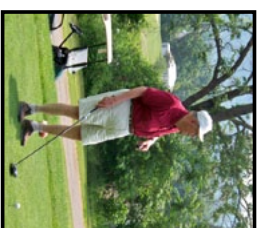


www.midstatechamber.com



**Wednesday
June 8, 2016**

The Ray Parmentier Classic



Presenting Sponsor:



Hunter Golf Club
and
Violi's Restaurant
Westfield Road, Meriden, CT

Golf Registration Fee Includes:

- **TWO flights = more chances to WIN! EIGHT TEAM Prizes are awarded!**
- Eighteen holes of golf
- Golf cart
- Registration goody bag
- FREE Range Balls on Driving Range (10 - 11:45am)
- Barbecue lunch, buffet dinner
- Fantastic raffle prizes & awards
- Many opportunities for prizes!

Foursome Only: \$775

Individual Players: \$195 per player

Dinner Only / Awards Ceremony: \$60

Program Book Print Ads:

Full Page (10" x 7.5" wide): \$175

Half Page (5" x 7.5" wide): \$125

Quarter Page (5" x 3.75" wide): \$75

Business Card Size: \$50

Inside Front & Back Covers: \$250



Team Cox Business 2015 Boardman Cup Champs

Sponsorship Opportunities

Diamond Sponsors: \$1,350

Includes foursome, special gift for golfers, tee sign, pin flag, full page ad in the program book & recognition at dinner.

Gold Sponsors: \$950

Includes foursome, tee sign, half page ad in the program book & recognition at dinner. Add a Pin Flag for just \$75.

Silver Sponsors: \$575

Includes twosome, tee sign, quarter page ad in the program book.

Veteran's Sponsorship: Cannot participate? But want valuable exposure and promotion for your business? Sponsor a single Veteran or team as listed, receive that package's perks plus special recognition in the program and during dinner and we find veterans to fill your player slots! A win-win for ALL.

Hole-in-One Sponsor -

Golf Ball Sponsor -

Carts Sponsor -

Exclusive Putting Contest -

Winner wins 50/50 Cash Prize!

Lunch Sponsor – 3 Available:

Your banner (provided by sponsor) displayed in lunch area and quarter page ad in program book.

Cocktail Hour:

Sponsors receive a quarter page ad in program book and your banner in dinner tent. Several available.

***NEW* On-Course Experience: \$250**

Sponsors may set up a table and/or tent on course with your company's give-aways for the golfers.

Pin Flag:

Eighteen flags available with business name embroidered on flag. Sponsor keeps flag!

Tee Sign:

Full color name or logo on canvas sign.

Longest Drive: Name or logo on sign

Closest to the Line: Name or logo on sign

Closest to the Pin:

Four holes available with name or logo on a sign.

Golf Sponsor Registration

Company Name: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____

☐ Sponsor a Veteran (sponsorship or single player)

☐ Program Ad: (Size?) _____

☐ Putting Contest - Exclusive _____

☐ Lunch Sponsor - Exclusive _____

☐ Cocktail Hour _____

☐ On-Course Experience _____

☐ Pin Flag _____

☐ Tee Sign _____

☐ Longest Drive _____

☐ Closest to the Line _____

☐ Closest to the Pin _____

☐ Dinner Only _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

☐ Bill Us

☐ Charge (VISA, MC, Disc., American Express)

CC# _____

Expiration Date: _____

Verification # _____

Zip Code associated with card: _____

Signature: _____

Please return to:



**3 Colony St., Suite 301,
Meriden, CT 06451**

Phone: 203-235-7901 / Fax: 203-686-0172

E-Mail: info@midstatechamber.com

MEMBER RENEWALS...

We *recognize and thank* our members who have joined or renewed their investment in the Midstate Chamber within the last month. Visit www.midstatechamber.com for the most up-to-date membership listing!

290 Pratt St. LLC

Bevmax Meriden

Comcast Spotlight Guilford

East Ridge Manor, Inc.

Eversource

Fairfield Inn by Marriott

Fresenius Medical Care

GRB Tree Cutters

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites

James T. Kay Co., Inc.

Marketing Graphics & Promotional Advertising

Meriden Housing Authority

Petruselo Insurance Agency, Inc.

Protein Sciences Corporation

Shield Driving School

Villa Capri

Wallingford Tree Service, Inc.

Westfield Property Group

Our most up-to-date member listing can be found at www.midstatechamber.com

Members Use Members!



NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to introduce our new members - the lifeblood of our organization and the reason we exist. We continually strive to connect you to one another and to our communities. Please welcome them by visiting their website, sending them an email or stopping by to introduce yourself. The personal touch will help our chamber continue to grow and thrive as we continue on our goal to reach 650 members in the coming months!

Connecticut Panthers Football Club: 114 Lincoln Way, Windsor, CT 06095. The phone number is 203.850.9096 and the fax number is 860.402.0749. Vincent Apicella is the primary contact. Thank you to Richard Pendred of A & A Office Systems, Inc. for inviting Vincent to join the Chamber!

GUS Robotics Team 228, Inc.: 121 Gravel St., Meriden, CT 06450. The phone number is 203.213.4542. Deborah Lint is the primary contact. GUS Robotic Team 228, Inc. is the 1st robotics team for the 3 Meriden CT high schools who since 1999 have been inspiring students into the world of STEM to not only build robots but also to build futures. Thank you to Yvonne de Angeli-Fontanez of the Four Points by Sheraton for inviting the Team to join the Chamber!!

Gutter Guard Authority LLC: 83 Second Ave., Paterson, NJ 07514. The phone number is 201-882-2123 and the fax number is 201-882-0339. Frank Bocian is the primary contact. Gutter Guard Authority, LLC sells and installs the premier and most advanced gutter cover system available - Master Shield Gutter Protection, manufactured in the USA and we offer a money back warranty if your gutter ever clogs.

Merrill Lynch: 185 Asylum St., Hartford, CT 03103. The phone number is 860-728-3673 and the fax number is 860-967-0148. Justin R Martella is the primary contact. Merrill Lynch assists high-net-worth individuals, families, retirees, and small-business owners in the creation of financial strategies using a goals-based approach to wealth management.

Outfront Media: 355 Washington Ave., North Haven, CT 06473. The phone number is 203.985.0430. Amy Poling is the primary contact. Outfront Media is the largest provider of out of home advertising in the Americas with a large CT presence.

People's United Insurance Agency: One Financial Plaza, 755 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103. The phone number is 860-524-7618. Louis Gold is the primary contact. People's United Insurance Agency provides high quality consultative brokerage and risk management services for all of your business insurance and bonding needs.

Taylor Made Communications: 138 Plain Dr., E. Hartford, CT 06118. The phone number is 860-818-6572. Mike Taylor is the primary contact. Taylor Made Communications is a direct sales and marketing company involved with various products and services in the telecommunications industry.

Wyndham Vacation Ownership: 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821. The phone number is 407-626-5200. Brad Kennedy is the primary contact. Wyndham Vacation Ownership is the world's largest flexible points-based vacation ownership company.

Join us in welcoming these new members.

ZOEL'S BODY & AUTO CENTER
"Collision Specialists & Full Auto Service"

19 Hall Ave.
Meriden, CT 06451

DAVE SIROIS
President
CT Licensed Appraiser



Approved
Auto Repair

203-237-6464

Fax: 203-634-4541

www.zoelsauto.com



Find business resources at: www.midstatechamber.com

MEMBER UPDATES

This QR code in the upper right corner also brings you right out to our member news section of the website where you can view FULL news articles by submission date OR by member. Just SCAN and CLICK!



Find ALL of our members' news online:

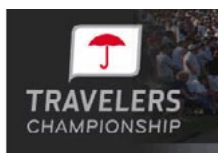
<http://www.midstatechamber.com/News>

A & A Office Systems, Inc.

New England's largest family owned independent office technology dealer, is proud to announce the acquisition of RECOL, a Connecticut based data center that specializes in providing high performance Internet solutions to the region's leading business, municipalities, and other organizations. Following the announcement, A&A Office Systems Vice President Barry Sullivan stated, "We couldn't be more proud of this union of two leading Connecticut technology companies. With this acquisition, A&A Office Systems will be able to offer unparalleled solutions to businesses and organizations across New England." In the coming months, A&A Office Systems will be pleased to provide a variety of new cloud services including: Hosting, Colocation, Disaster Recovery, Software as a Service (SaaS), Remote Enterprise, Content Management. Visit www.aaoonline.com



Ion Bank - Five Star Professional is pleased to announce **Marco Cabral** of Ion Bank has been named as a Five Star Mortgage Professional for 2015. The Five Star Mortgage Professional award winners represent an exclusive group of mortgage professionals who have demonstrated excellence in their field by satisfying ten objective selection criteria that are associated with providing quality service to their clients. In other news, **Ion Financial, MHC** is pleased to announce the election of three individuals to join the Board of Corporators; they were voted in at the annual Corporator meeting that took place on Tuesday, March 15 at the Country Club of Waterbury. The individuals named are **Robert Cappelletti, Executive Director, Meriden Housing Authority**; James McCowan, Owner, J&M Automotive; and **Elizabeth Verna, Owner, Verna Builders** - Developers. (bold signifies member of the Midstate Chamber of Commerce). The Board of Directors contribute to the direction and strategy of the organization and the Board of Corporators serve as ambassadors and advocates for Ion Financial, MHC and its subsidiaries Ion Bank, Ion Insurance, and Ion Investments. "We are proud to have all of these business professionals help us preserve and promote our philosophy of building lifetime customer relationships" said Charles J. Boulier III, President & CEO,



The 2016 Travelers Championship will be held August 1 - 7 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT. BE A PART of the ACTION and volunteer with the Midstate Chamber! Call Rosanne 203.235.7901 for details on this amazing opportunity!

HR

Tip of the Month



An **employee handbook** is a vital part of organizational success to any business large or small. Employee handbooks set forth expectations between the employer and employee and clear policies and procedures can protect your company from unfair employment practice claims. Your industry and size of your business will mandate some of your handbook's content but they generally contain information on pay, benefits, attendance, dress code, conduct, discipline, and safety. Employee handbooks should be reviewed and updated at least on an annual basis. The best practice for an employer is to frequently review regulations and trends in the workplace and ensure that the employee handbook is up to date with current law.

For information on how EANE supports organizations, please contact Rick Caneschi, Member Relations at rcaneschi@eane.org or at 877-662-6444.

Health Reform: 2017 CMS Provider Network Update



Recently, CMS, the agency overseeing Health Reform, released a number of updates that were not good news for Consumers or small businesses buying insurance on the marketplaces. The new regulations allow insurance companies to offer smaller networks of providers, meaning fewer options for Consumers. In CT, our marketplace, Access Health CT, has good options today; so consumers are better protected than in most States. The concern is that these new rules will allow insurance companies to claim they comply with regulations, while they shrink their provider networks. As a result of Consumer complaints following the initial announcement, a "new" provider network rating system was announced to help Consumers. However, if Consumers cannot get the providers they need, the network Rating does not matter; and Consumers may choose to go without insurance.

For more information on this topic contact Antonio Pinto, toll free: 855-483-8888

Find community resources at: www.midstatechamber.com





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Ion Bank.

ISG - Integrated Security Group - In addition to website hosting, hosting for Zimbra Collaboration Suite email, various CRM applications, and xTuple/Postbooks accounting and manufacturing

ERP, Owncloud file sharing is part of ISG's suite of hosting services. ISG is a full service software, website, and hosting company, specializing in Open Source business solutions since 1998. They are a local hosting provider with local support, not a reseller: ISG is the cloud that you can visit! Their data center is located at their owner occupied facility in Wallingford. If you have an application you'd like to move into the cloud, chances are ISG can provide a secure, robust and cost-effective hosting plan. ISG helps companies save money and improve performance by utilizing technology efficiently - offering smart, cost-effective solutions to critical business problems. From basic informational websites, to complex web applications, we handle all projects in-house with our local full-time staff. Their project management process helps keep your project on track and on schedule. For details & exclusive Chamber discounts call 203.774.0512 or email gary@isgsoftware.net today. www.isgsoftware.net

The Meriden Historical Society announced that the Andrews Homestead has been renovated. The upstairs rooms have been converted to depict life in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Thank you goes out to the City of Meriden. *The Meriden Historical Society invites you to this series of presentations. Every Sunday in May from 11:00 am to 3:00pm*, you will learn about the unique and unusual items "Made In Meriden", Free Admission, Donations are appreciated. Don't miss these educational events for all ages showcasing everyday and specialty items. Learn about Parker, Miller, Napier, Manning Bowman, and many more. The Andrews Homestead has recently been revamped. The lower floor is dedicated to the manufactures who made Meriden unique. The upper floor has been arranged to show life in the Colonial and Victorian eras. These presentations will take place at the Andrews Homestead, 424 W. Main St., Meriden. Come with your stories of life in Meriden, we love to hear them! The Andrews Homestead is located at 424 W. Main st., Meriden. For more information, call the Meriden Historical Society at 203.639.1913 or send an e-mail to meridenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Protein Sciences Corporation (headquarters: Meriden, CT, USA), manufacturer of Flublok® influenza vaccine, Sinergium Biotech (headquarters: Buenos Aires, Argentina) and Mundo Sano, a private foundation with activities in Argentina, Spain and Africa, announced recently that they have entered into an agreement to become members of a consortium that will jointly develop a Zika virus vaccine to combat the recent outbreak of Zika that is wreaking havoc in Latin America and spreading to other continents. ALSO...

Protein Sciences Corporation and Orygen Biotecnologia SA, a joint venture between the Brazilian pharmaceutical companies Eurofarma Laboratórios SA and Biolab Sanus Farmaceutica Ltda, announced recently that they have agreed on the terms of a licensing partnership that grants Orygen an exclusive license to Flublok® influenza vaccine for the Brazilian market. Brazil is experiencing a severe outbreak of H1N1 swine flu that has killed almost twice as many people over the past three months as it did in all of 2015, according to Brazil's Health Ministry, evidencing the need for effective influenza prevention. Flublok is the world's first recombinant influenza vaccine that has been shown in a recent large field trial to provide significantly better protection against the flu than a traditional, egg-based influenza vaccine. Under the terms of the agreement, Orygen will seek regulatory approval for and will market Flublok in Brazil. Protein Sciences will manufacture Flublok and will receive significant license and commercial milestone payments.

Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club - Interested in giving back to the youth in our community? Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club invites you to consider volunteering on their Board of Directors. The mission of the club is: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. If you are interested in learning more, contact Meghan Lennzo at 203.269.7535. or visit www.bgcwallingford.org. Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club is located at 72 Grand St., Wallingford.



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Find it all at: www.midstatechamber.com