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# Annual Sunset Dessert Cruise September 25



Another glorious and calorific evening with the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

September is a stunning month on the shore. As the spike in summer tourism slows slightly to a steady stream, the residents of eastern Connecticut get a chance to take a break and enjoy the beauty of life on the water.

On September 25, a sweet sunset is made sweeter at the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT's Annual Sunset Dessert Cruise aboard one of Cross Sound Ferry's luxurious high-speed ferries. Boarding begins at 5 p.m. for a 5:30 departure and 8 p.m. return.

Abundant displays of desserts and light bites are provided by restaurants and caterers, who are there to impress and delight. Dessert showcase participants for 2019 include Mohegan Sun, Ivy's Simply Homemade, Flanders Fish Market, Rebeka Fresh Pasta, and the Celiac Epicurean, specializing in gluten-free food, with more planned. Cross Sound Ferry provides wine, beer and soft drinks to accompany the delicious food.

The cruise leaves from New London on a scenic sail by lighthouses and historical

sites along the Thames River, Long Island Sound and Gardiners Bay.

Live entertainment is provided by Josi Davis. The award-winning singer-songwriter, who lends her captivating voice to soulful lyrics, provides the perfect soundtrack for the evening on the water.

The evening is the perfect midweek escape with your sweetie or a great chance to catch up with a group of friends who would love to sample some of the region's best desserts while sipping wine on the Sound. Community members from around the region will mingle on the decks and in the dining areas while taking in the sights along the shore.

Capacity is limited so early reservations are recommended. Reservations are \$35 per person which includes cruise, desserts and drinks. The storm date is September 26. To learn more or register for the Annual Sunset Dessert Cruise, call 860-701-9113 or visit [ChamberECT.com/dessert](http://ChamberECT.com/dessert).

## Small Business Resource Forum to be held in Montville September 24

Launching a new business or expanding an existing one is a tremendous enterprise. The enormity of the task prevents some would-be business owners from pursuing a dream. That dream, however, may be more accessible than they think with the right support.

A wide range of resources in eastern Connecticut are ready to help small businesses, from startup to stabilizing market share to gearing up for the next stage of growth.

Navigating available resources can be confusing, so Montville Economic Development Commission and the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT have teamed up to present a Small Business Resource Forum on September 24, 6-9 p.m., at the Montville High School Cafeteria. This regional event is free and open to all.

The Small Business Resource Forum will feature representatives from federal, state and local agencies, including the Small Business Administration (SBA), Montville Economic Development Commission (EDC); Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT; Small Business Development Center (SBDC); CT Economic Resource Center (CERC); Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer); SCORE; Foundry 66; and Signature Properties of New England.

The Montville EDC set the goal to have all the resources in one spot that are needed to start a business, grow a business, get financing, and learn what licenses or permits are needed. Businesses can learn how to

obtain towns' demographics related to target markets, mentoring/counseling assistance, and help with government contracts. They will also get information regarding business incubators, networking and economic development help, and lastly, how to work with and use realtors to find the best business locations.

"Our hope is that any small business that is considering starting, growing, moving, expanding, et cetera, will attend to get the information and data they need to make the best decisions," said Jim Toner, Montville EDC member and moderator for the evening.

The forum begins with a brief presentation by each agency, followed by an opportunity to visit table displays, make new business contacts, and ask questions. Designed to launch conversations, the event opens doors to connect with agencies that are a good fit for a business's goals or needs.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our community," said Tony Sheridan, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT. "In our region, small businesses provide about half of all jobs. It is essential that we connect them to the support they need to thrive."

Prospective entrepreneurs, small business owners and principals, and representatives from organizations that work with small businesses are encouraged to attend.

For more information on the event, a list of presenters, and registration, visit [ChamberECT.com/events](http://ChamberECT.com/events) or call 860-701-9113.

## An Economy That Serves All Americans: Business Roundtable Redefines the Purpose of a Corporation

Business Roundtable members took an important step to reframe how we, and they, think about their essential role in our country.

Last month, the chief executives of America's leading companies released a modern standard of corporate responsibility that commits to serving all stakeholders—customers, employees, suppliers, communities, and shareholders. The Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation replaces previously endorsed principles that corporations exist principally to serve shareholders, a tenet since 1997.

Signed by 181 CEOs—including leaders of Pfizer, General Dynamics, Comcast, Marriott, Bank of America, AT&T, Morgan Stanley, Freeport McMoRan, and Walmart—the statement specifically commits to protecting

the environment through sustainable practices; investing in employees by providing training, fair compensation, and important benefits; and supporting communities and other businesses.

Embracing a vision for long-term value over short-term gains for shareholders as a shared principle encourages corporations to invest in their communities and employees. Eastern Connecticut has been fortunate with this type of investment. Our benefactors support workforce development initiatives, small business growth, and community initiatives.

This statement offers a broader view of who corporations serve and how best to serve their business interests. It is a vision that can lead to sustainable, long-term prosperity across the economy.

### From the Business Roundtable: Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation

Americans deserve an economy that allows each person to succeed through hard work and creativity and to lead a life of meaning and dignity. We believe the free-market system is the best means of generating good jobs, a strong and sustainable economy, innovation, a healthy environment and economic opportunity for all.

Businesses play a vital role in the economy by creating jobs, fostering innovation and providing essential goods and services. Businesses make and sell consumer products; manufacture equipment and vehicles; support the national defense; grow and produce food; provide health care; generate and deliver energy; and offer financial, communications and other services that underpin economic growth.

While each of our individual companies serves its own corporate purpose, we share a fundamental commitment to all of our stakeholders. We commit to:

- Delivering value to our customers. We will further the tradition of American companies leading the way in meeting or exceeding customer expectations.
- Investing in our employees. This starts with compensating them fairly and providing important benefits. It also includes supporting them through training and education that help develop new skills for a rapidly changing world. We foster diversity and inclusion, dignity and respect.
- Dealing fairly and ethically with our suppliers. We are dedicated to serving as good partners to the other companies, large and small, that help us meet our missions.
- Supporting the communities in which we work. We respect the people in our communities and protect the environment by embracing sustainable practices across our businesses.
- Generating long-term value for shareholders, who provide the capital that allows companies to invest, grow and innovate. We are committed to transparency and effective engagement with shareholders.

Each of our stakeholders is essential. We commit to deliver value to all of them, for the future success of our companies, our communities and our country.

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## LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S UP IN THE REGION ON THE CHAMBER BLOG

### Laying Out the Welcome Mat for New Businesses

Economic development initiatives across the region are encouraging business and housing development. Stories from Windham, Town of Groton, North Stonington, and Waterford illustrate some of the ways businesses are being made to feel welcome.

### Shared Insights: Coffee, Comfort, and Camaraderie

Muddy Waters owners Barry Neistat and Susan Devlin share their experiences running the New London institution with fellow business owners as part of this Chamber series.

### Groton and New London Focus on Thames River for Development Opportunities

At our July State of the Thames River Region, the Chamber welcomed leaders from New London and the town and city of Groton to provide updates on initiatives, economic development and other areas.

### Thames River Innovation Place Welcomes New Executive Director

Liz Pasqualini brings her talents in nonprofit management to the Thames River Region after eight years leading the Jonnycake Center, marked by development of a sustainable business model and expansion of the organization.

### Opening a Window on the World

Chamber partner Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council announces their fall lineup of speakers who offer insights on foreign policy and international affairs.

### 7 Breakfast Spots for a Weekday Break

The Chamber highlights just a few of the fabulous restaurants in the region serving up hot and tasty meals that start the workday off well. Look for more blog listicles celebrating our members!

Visit the Chamber blog at [ChamberECT.com/blog](http://ChamberECT.com/blog).