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## NEW CHAMBER STAFF

**Kathryn Flannigan** joins the team, contact her for all things database - including your exclusive access to the Member Portal!

## What's New in 2022

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut is committed to enhancing member value and connecting people and businesses throughout the eastern CT region. As we continue to work toward these goals, there are new and upcoming changes happening to help you better engage with the business community.

### 1. Membership Drive '22

Beginning in February, the Chamber began its [limited-time only benefit program](#). Become a member before March 31 and enjoy some special promotional perks that will help set you up for success! In addition to our standard New Member Benefits, you also receive:

- Inclusion in "Meet our new members" eBlast
- Business category website banner ad
- Invitation to exclusive new member gathering
- Two Young Professionals of Eastern CT memberships
- Social media shout-outs
- Two tickets to an upcoming Business Breakfast

### 2. VOICE is now Virtual

The Chamber's VOICE newsletter is mailed every other month to our robust membership. Inside you'll find Chamber, Member, and Regional Benefactor news! With a concerted effort to move towards more sustainable practices, VOICE will be reintroduced this spring in a hybrid format.

Our bi-monthly newsletter will now be housed on our website for online readership. We will also have available print copies at our many local events and programs for pickup.

If you are interested in continuing to receive a print copy, please contact [admin@chamberect.com](mailto:admin@chamberect.com) to update your contact and mailing information!

### 3. In-person and Hybrid Events Return

By attending Chamber events, you gain access to the larger, regional business community. These valuable connections with clients, customers, and partners can become major opportunities for you and your organization.

- On January 19, the Chamber held its first YPSocial of 2022 with a roaring success! In partnership with United Way of Southeastern CT's Young Leaders United, the YPs had a chance to network and take a swing at The Axe Lounge at SuperCharged. Keep a look out for more Young Professional opportunities in the future!
- This winter, the Chamber introduced two **new special-interest councils**, in the areas of Human Resources and Energy.
- On March 25, the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Breakfast** returns to an in-person event! This important breakfast gives the business community an opportunity to show their support and connect with service members in eastern Connecticut.
- Our annual Regional Chamber Awards, known as The ECTys, honor excellence in community engagement, innovation, customer service, and business best practices. Join the Chamber in honoring your peers on March 31 at our **Annual Meeting and ECTy Celebration!**

**Refer a new member** to the Chamber by March 31st and receive a FREE eNews ad, in addition to being automatically entered into a raffle for exclusive prizes!



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.







# Eastern CT Business Leaders discuss Diversity in Leadership

Business leaders from across Eastern Connecticut spoke on Diversity in Leadership at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, this event is one in a series of monthly business breakfasts that feature a topical speaking program within the regional business community.

In-person guests were welcome to enjoy breakfast and networking, before a panel discussion featuring:

- Chairman Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council
- Attorney General William Tong
- Dr. Elsa Núñez, President, Eastern CT State University
- Dr. Tracy Espy, President, Mitchell College
- Moderator: Ulysses Hammond, former Vice President of Connecticut College

The Chamber of Commerce also offered a livestream for remote attendees, which gave members the opportunity to engage in the discussion while remaining socially distanced.

This event could not have taken place without the generous sponsorship of Chamber members: The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Robinson + Cole, and Comcast Business. To view a recording of the event visit [ChamberECT.com/events](https://ChamberECT.com/events) and select the "Webinar Recordings" category.



In conjunction with United Way's Young Leaders United program, young professionals across eastern Connecticut stopped by The Axe Lounge at Supercharged for the first YPSocial of 2022!



## Upcoming Events



**11th Annual Military Appreciation Breakfast**  
Mystic Marriot  
Friday, March 25 | 7:45-9:15 am  
Sponsored by General Dynamics Electric Boat



**Annual Meeting and ECTy Award Celebration**  
Mystic Marriot  
Thursday, March 31 | 5:00-9:30 pm  
Sponsored by Pat Munger Construction



**Business Breakfast Pfizer Update**  
Mystic Marriott  
Wednesday, April 27 | 8:00-10:00 am  
Sponsored by Scient Federal Credit Union

Pre-registration is suggested for most events. Call (860) 701-9113 or visit [ChamberECT.com](https://ChamberECT.com) to learn more about any event. Cancellation Policy: Notice must be given at least three business days prior to event. No-shows or those unable to cancel in time will be billed.

## BENEFACITOR NEWS

### Foxwoods Resort Casino celebrates its 30th Anniversary



The largest premiere resort casino in the Northeast –Foxwoods Resort Casino – kicks off their 30th anniversary with an impressive line-up of announcements including a new partnership, property expansion plans, and many exciting initiatives happening on property for guests.

Whether joining Foxwoods for a night out with friends, a family get-away, or a romantic weekend, today's 30th anniversary announcements will give guests even more reasons to stay as the resort continues to get better every year.

Foxwoods' 30th Anniversary announcements include:

- The addition of Great Wolf Lodge at Mashantucket: Industry leading family indoor water park resort
- A new High Stakes Bingo Hall opening this spring
- A new 75,000 square foot Rainmaker Expo Center
- A renovation of the resort's main entrance
- Giving away \$30,000 a day to guests for anniversary week
- \$30,000 monthly donations to local charities

"This year marks an incredible milestone for Foxwoods and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. Not only is it our 30th anniversary, but it is our most significant year of evolution, innovation, and development for the property to date, and we're just getting started," said Jason Guyot, Foxwoods' President and CEO. "Since opening our doors three decades ago, we have aimed to exceed our guests' expectations, and the future will see Foxwoods continue to trailblaze the integrated resort casino concept."

### Women-owned businesses eligible for 'Comcast RISE' program

Comcast RISE helps people move their businesses forward with either a tech makeover or an ad campaign to increase awareness in local markets. Notably, this support has added up: \$60 million in grants, marketing and technology services to thousands of small businesses owned by people of color – including Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and Asian Americans since November 2020. And, as we expand their efforts, Comcast RISE will support 13,000 small businesses across the country by the end of 2022.

Eligible independent small businesses can apply for the following Comcast RISE awards:

- Marketing services: The following services from Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable, and its creative agency, Mnemonic, are designed to help recipients with their marketing and media campaigns, including a linear TV campaign and a 30-second TV commercial production.
- Technology makeovers: The state-of-the-art equipment and technology upgrade from Comcast Business includes computer equipment as well as internet, voice, and cybersecurity services for up to a 12-month period. (Taxes and other fees may still apply for tech makeover services.)

A key part of Comcast RISE is ensuring business sustainability. Comcast has already invested more than \$2 million in more than 20 community-based organizations and diverse chambers of commerce to provide additional support to small businesses owned by people of color.

All Comcast RISE recipients will also have a specialized online networking community within Ureeka with access to educational resources, sources of capital, and vetted experts such as U.S. Black Chambers, National Asian Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, Walker's Legacy and Operation Hope.

Comcast RISE is part of Project UP, Comcast's comprehensive initiative to advance digital equity and help provide underrepresented small business owners with access to the digital tools and funding they need to thrive. Over the next 10 years, Comcast has committed \$1 billion to programs like Comcast RISE and partnerships that will reach an estimated 50 million people with the skills, opportunities and resources they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

### Hartford HealthCare Opens Waterford HealthCenter



Hartford HealthCare opened its Waterford HealthCenter on Dayton Road Monday, Jan. 24. The 70,000-square-foot building off Route 85 will eventually be home to more than nine specialties in addition to primary care providers.

"Hartford HealthCare is thrilled to be combining two primary care offices into this beautiful new practice in Waterford," said Cynthia Heller, MD, Vice President and Physician In Chief of Hartford HealthCare Medical Group. "It will provide the community greater access to our exceptional physicians, giving them the opportunity to focus on living their healthiest lives. Patients can see behavioral health, multiple specialties and have their imaging completed all in the same building."

Erin Healer, Vice President of Operations for the Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network, said "We are thrilled to be opening a rehab site in our new HHC location in Waterford. This talented physical therapy team has built a state-of-the-art clinic to meet the needs for general rehabilitation and specialties like lymphedema, sports, and vestibular. We look forward to providing an improved experience for our patients in this new space."



# ARE YOU READY?

## NOMINATIONS FOR BEST OF THE BEST 2022 OPEN ON MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>!



Nominate your favorite local people, places,  
and businesses in 200 categories!

Nominations will be accepted March 13 - April 3 (at 11:59 pm)  
at [www.theday.com/bestof](http://www.theday.com/bestof)

Brought to you by **The Day**

For full contest details, visit [www.theday.com/bestof](http://www.theday.com/bestof)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### [ACE Handyman Service of Hartford & New London](#)

We provide handyman services to residential and commercial customers in New London, Windham and Hartford Counties. Our employees are skilled craftsmen and craftswomen, and are not sub-contractors.

100 Linwood Ave, Suite 200, Colchester | (860) 603-0000  
[acehandymanservices.com](http://acehandymanservices.com)

#### [Coastline Cleaning & Restoration, LLC](#)

With more than 15 years of experience in the cleaning and restoration industry, we are ready to handle whatever may come your way. We are trained and experienced in mitigating damage caused by water, mold, or fire, or just cleaning your carpet and upholstery.

77 Broad Street, Groton | (860) 464-4922 | [choosecoastline.com](http://choosecoastline.com)

#### [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund](#)

Since its inception, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund has extended its reach to hundreds of scholars thanks in large part to its dedicated group of volunteer Board Members

New London | (860) 446-7189 | [mlktrustfund.org](http://mlktrustfund.org)

#### [Great Neck Country Club](#)

Great Neck Country Club, a private, challenging, 18-hole golf course, features immaculately-groomed fairways and greens enveloped by ocean breezes and a mild climate.

28 Lamphere Road, Waterford | (860) 443-6864  
[greatneckgolf.com](http://greatneckgolf.com)

#### [Hartford Business Journal](#)

Hartford Business Journal is a media organization providing business news, information and analysis for business owners and decision makers.

100 Allyn St Suite 3, Hartford | (860) 236-9998  
[hartfordbusiness.com](http://hartfordbusiness.com)

#### NEW MEMBER PERK

Members can subscribe to Hartford Business Journal for free! Login to the Member Portal to get access.

#### [High Tide Capital](#)

High Tide Capital LLC is a real estate company with a focus on historic redevelopment. Our approach combines a passion for preservation and parks while simultaneously installing modern, efficient building systems to ensure that our properties are active contributors to the community for decades to come.

760 Fell Street, San Francisco | (847) 207-1462

#### [Just Dump It](#)

Just Dump It, LLC provides quality junk removal and dumpster services.

72 Corsino Avenue, Old Lyme | (860) 989-4902 | [just-dumpit.com](http://just-dumpit.com)

#### [Krave Wellness LLC.](#)

I am a certified Nutritional Therapy Practitioner. I work one on one with clients to address health concerns and bring their body back into balance by supporting foundational imbalances.

250 South Broad St, Pawcatuck | (860) 227-0833 | [kravect.com](http://kravect.com)

#### [Little Pub](#)

Great Food, Generous Drinks, and a Lively Pub atmosphere where you'll feel right at home.

1231 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook | (860) 339-5591  
[littlepub.com](http://littlepub.com)

#### [Mohegan Trading Post](#)

The store features 1,000 square feet of selling space, and is one of the largest solely Native American owned and operated retail stores in southeastern Connecticut.

340 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard | (860) 381-5540  
[mohegantradingpost.com](http://mohegantradingpost.com)

#### [New London Cultural District](#)

The City of New London in partnership with Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition is excited to announce the formation of a Cultural District in New London.

181 State Street, New London | (860) 857-6337  
[visitnewlondon.org](http://visitnewlondon.org)

#### [Northeastern CT Council of Governments](#)

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG), a state leader in the innovation, development, advocacy and application of regionalism, is a 16-town regional council of governments founded in 1987.

125 Putnam Pike, Dayville | (860) 774-1253 | [necceg.org](http://necceg.org)

#### [Southeastern Mental Health Authority](#)

A community mental health agency operated by the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services providing behavioral health services to those with mental health and substance use disorders.

401 West Thames Street Building 301, Norwich | (860) 859-4500  
[ct.gov/dmhas](http://ct.gov/dmhas)

#### [Swad Tandoori Restaurant](#)

Enjoy the traditional culinary extravaganza of Indian cooking featuring quality food with warm and genuine service that will exceed all of your expectations.

150 State Street, New London | (860) 439-1809  
[swadtandoorinewlondon.com](http://swadtandoorinewlondon.com)

#### [Tamarack Lodge & Glamping Resort](#)

A 28-acre destination in the middle of Pachaug Forest abutting Beach Pond Lake, ideal for intimate and large gatherings.

21 Ten Rod Road, Voluntown | (860) 376-0224  
[tamaracklodgect.com](http://tamaracklodgect.com)

#### [The Lefty Cycles Project](#)

Our mission is to perpetuate, manifest, deliver and apply Goodness to our Recovering community by delivering bicycles for transportation, exercise, hobby, or sport.

South Windsor | (860) 300-6908 | [theleftycyclesproject.org](http://theleftycyclesproject.org)

#### [The Telegraph](#)

An independent record and book store located in downtown New London selling new releases, reissues and vintage vinyl along with tapes, CDs, vinyl supplies, and record players.

19 Golden Street, New London | (860) 701-0506 | [telegraphnl.com](http://telegraphnl.com)



## MEMBER NEWS



## NASA Selects Mystic Seaport Museum for a Community Anchor Award

NASA has selected Mystic Seaport Museum as one of a diverse group of Museums, science centers, libraries, and other informal education organizations from around the country designated as a NASA Informal Education Community Anchor.

The designation recognizes the Museum and its Treworgy Planetarium as a community resource and provides a \$24,266 grant to bring space exploration to traditionally underserved areas and broaden student participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The Museum will address the local needs of middle school students in Eastern and Southern Connecticut by using and sharing NASA STEM engagement learning resources and opportunities.

"We are grateful to NASA for selecting our museum to participate in this program, which will enable us to further our institutional goal of increasing outreach to underserved communities and diverse audiences," said Brian Koehler, supervisor of the Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport Museum. "We are excited to create new opportunities where students can experience the feelings of discovery and confidence that space exploration and STEM engagement is all about."

Mystic Seaport Museum is one of only 21 recipients selected from across the United States. It is one of only two Community Anchors in New England.

The new programs will be rolled out in fall 2022.

## Nancy D. Butler, CFP®, CDFA®, CLTC® presented the 2021 'Woman of The Year' by The Southeastern Connecticut Women's Network



The Woman of the Year must be active in her community and within professional organizations. She also must express an interest in helping other women

and men achieve professional status and public exposure through networking in the community.

Nancy has been a member of SECT Women's Network for over twenty-five years, giving her time well under the radar simply because she does good to do good, not for the credit. She has offered her time and energy to lead in person and virtual luncheons, offering valuable information about personal finance, retirement planning and her fascinating work and experiences.

## "Nancy Butler has been a beacon of light and hope this past year..."

She has flexed and pivoted during COVID, taking her in-person international speaker, author and coaching businesses to the virtual world, and has succeeded. But not only has she continued to make money during these challenging times, she has also made and donated 1,500 face masks early on in the pandemic.

A note that perfectly describes this Woman of the Year from Susan Dombrowski reads, "Nancy Butler has been a beacon of light and hope this past year, one I didn't know I needed to see, and I sure didn't expect my comfort to come from a retired financial counselor." But once again, the Network proves we, as women, are way more than just what our business card says.



## Tamarack Lodge's new owners and new vision for the future

The rustic resort Tamarack Lodge has been sold to Pamela and Joseph Potemri, veteran teachers and school principals who also own and run Connecticut Coastal Academy (CTCA) in Essex. The academy provides educational, vocational, therapeutic, and transition services to students in Grade 6 through age 22.

Tamarack Lodge will continue to serve as an event venue and career training center for students enrolled at (CTCA and neighboring districts. The center will provide vocational opportunities and instruction in carpentry through the Home Builders Institute program, landscaping, hospitality, culinary arts including ServSafe certification, and other occupations and workplace-related skills.

Tamarack Lodge will continue to host dinners and pub nights, weddings, retreats, concerts, festivals, camping, and summer camps. Multiple safari tents have been purchased for guests to enjoy glamping, and the existing cabins are being completely renovated. The main guest house is getting a makeover as well. Ultimately, the Potemris said they see Tamarack as not just a warmer-weather destination but a spot where people come year-round.

"There's a great need for vocational training especially in the trades. We feel very fortunate to provide opportunities to students and continue the great tradition that is Tamarack Lodge. The history of Tamarack reflects the epitome of hard work and industrial technology, and we are happy to be part of such a great town that supports this vision."

Accommodations are available for large and small weddings and private events indoors and outdoors, as well as throughout all four seasons.



## Connecticut Sun: Play Big, Shop Small!

With the change in the calendar year, we are now eagerly looking forward to the 2022 season and making a strong run to bring a WNBA Championship home to our state. As the one of the major professional sports teams in Connecticut, we want to be sure that we support and collaborate with the people and businesses that make our state so tremendous. To do this, we have created a campaign to promote local Connecticut-based small businesses: Play Big. Shop Small.

The goal of this initiative is two-fold yet simple:

- To partner with as many local businesses as possible, with the intent of highlighting the diverse range of high quality products and services that are offered right in our community, while promoting them to our very dedicated fan base.
- To provide access to the fun and excitement of live WNBA games and our talented athletes to your customers!

We would then ask that you support the team in the following ways:

- Ask friends, family, and customers to follow and engage on our social media platforms
- Have your business share exciting news and updates about the team on your social media channels
- Display our pocket schedules or window cling at you point-of-sale locations

Perhaps the most exciting part of being on the Play Big. Shop Small. squad will be when we can all get together during the 2022 season with a networking event, where we hope to share our resources while connecting with each of you! Also, please note that there is NO COST to participate in this program!

If you would like to participate, scan the QR code below and follow the steps to submit your information, and then we will reach out with the next steps to be able to promote your business during the 2022 season!



## We want your news.

Share your press releases, flyers, and announcements with eastern CT's business community. Get started by logging onto [ChamberECT.com](https://ChamberECT.com) under 'member login.'

Call (860) 701-9113 or email [communications@ChamberECT.com](mailto:communications@ChamberECT.com) for help.

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