

71st Citizen of the Year

Dr. John Burkhardt

Friday May 6 | **Mohegan Sun**
5:30 - 9:00 pm | **Earth Ballroom**

For registrations and sponsorship information visit **ChamberECT.com/coy**

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut is pleased to announce the 71st Citizen of the Year as Dr. John Burkhardt, former Senior Vice President, Head of Global Drug Safety Research and Development (DSRD), Head of Comparative Medicine and Groton Site Head for Pfizer Laboratories.

The Citizen of the Year Award is presented annually to a special individual who has gone above and beyond in making outstanding contributions to the region's civic and business community

"It is an ideal time for John to join this illustrious group of Citizens throughout history who, through hard work and passion for our community, have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Eastern Connecticut," says Tony Sheridan, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut. "Under his leadership, Pfizer's Groton colleagues have made strides that impact the world, while continuing to support the local community through charitable giving, grants, volunteerism, and community events."

At Pfizer, John was responsible for all aspects of non-clinical safety for small molecules, large molecules, vaccines and animal care and welfare across all therapeutic areas and global sites. In addition, John was responsible for all activities at the Pfizer Groton site, including public relations, site facilities, and much more. Prior to this role, John had led AbbVie Preclinical Safety in North Chicago, IL, where



he oversaw globally all aspects of toxicology, pathology, and comparative medicine in Research & Development. Burkhardt retired in February of 2022 after years of dedicated service.

"Over the past 5 years John has led the Groton site of Pfizer with courage, innovation, determination and humility. He applied cutting edge technology, financial resources, and unwavering strategic direction to make a positive impact in this community and across the world," says Marguerite Driscoll, Director of Pfizer's Safety and Advisory Councils. "With John's leadership, the Groton site delivered breakthrough science to create life-saving medicines that are supporting our quest for a return to normalcy."

In 1992, John earned his Doctor of Philosophy and completed his Residency in Anatomic Pathology at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in West Lafayette, Indiana. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University in 1988.

The Chamber will present the 71st Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. John Burkhardt on May 6, 2022, with a night of celebration in his honor.

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



Shoreline Menus: “When one small business succeeds, it benefits us all.”

Born out of frustration with large food delivery companies, cofounder Alex Foulkes set out to create Shoreline Menus in 2018; a local restaurant-owned delivery service with an important mission.

“Building up local businesses and creating strong community partnerships is essential to what we are trying to do,” says Lauren Ashe, the Director of Partnership Management. “Shoreline Menus began purely as a mode to support our local business community while simultaneously offering an innovative and exciting service to customers across the shoreline. When one small business succeeds, it benefits us all.”

The company operates as its own community, with each restaurant owner given the option

to become a business partner. They currently have 14 partners that represent and service locals along the Connecticut shoreline, from

Guilford to Groton. With firsthand experience in the food service industry, the partners of Shoreline Menus aim to give power back to local restaurants that are often at the mercy of impersonal, national delivery services.

“It has been really nice to be able to have instant access to the owners of the business and not a person who doesn’t have a vested interest in the success of the operation

to talk to,” says Robert Bernardo, owner and chef of New London’s Right Path Organic Café. “They are responsive to any questions or concerns and are willing to customize your platform to fit exactly what you need. Lauren

has been in our café several times and it’s as much of a friendship relationship as a business one!”

Control comes back to the restaurant owner in all aspects of the delivery process; pricing, menus, and hours. These points were important to Foulkes, as issues with prices and customer service began to weigh on local food service businesses long before the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Shoreline Menus plans to continue expanding into new areas along the CT coast. Despite this growth, their mission remains the same.

“At Shoreline Menus, we really try to give all the tools necessary to the restaurants so they can operate their delivery business as they would their in-house business,” adds Foulkes.



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Menus**

shorelinemenus.com

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Chamber Honors Excellence at 'ECTys' Celebration



Chamber Volunteer of the Year Ornet Hines (right) with fellow Liberty Bank employee Kim Binaco-Sylvia (left).

Approximately 250 members of the community turned out for the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's Annual Meeting & ECTy Celebration on March 31, where 14 special awards were presented to area businesses and individuals.

"We are extremely grateful to these winners who have made significant contributions to the success and well-being of our community," said Tony Sheridan, the President and CEO, of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

The 2021 Regional Chamber Award Winners are:

- Small Business of the Year: Aces High RV Park
- Business of the Year Award: Antonino Auto Group
- Volunteer of the Year Award: Ornet Hines
- New Business Award: The Tin Peddler
- Industry Innovator: Healthy PlanEat
- Community Revitalization Leader: Spark Makerspace
- Non-Profit of the Year: UCFS Healthcare
- Best Place to Work: Reliance Health
- Tourism Leader of the Year: Mystic Aquarium
- Dominion Clean Energy Award: Bell Power Systems
- Young Professionals of the Year: Wilmer Lambert and Kaiser Leuze
- Board of Directors Special Award: General Dynamics Electric Boat

There are two 2021 Cultural Coalition Award Winners. The Outstanding Arts & Cultural Organization winner went to ARTREACH and the Outstanding Business Supporter of Arts & Culture award was given to Cumulus Media,

presented by Wendy Bury, Executive Director of the Cultural Coalition.

Before the awards celebration and plated three-course meal with a champagne toast and live music, the Chamber's annual meeting was held, with a review of the Chamber budget and Chamber Foundation, and the election of the new Chamber Board of Directors.

"As we look back on 2021, our Annual Report tells a story of cautious optimism in the face of uncertainty due to the pandemic. However, thanks to board leadership we were able to ensure the smoothest possible recovery, and we are also pleased to bring back in-person events after a mandatory hiatus," Sheridan said.

The 2021 Finance Report was discussed, which revealed there was a decline in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Pfizer grant assisted the Chamber financially as well as helped members in need. Thankfully, the Chamber ended the year with a positive outcome.

The Chamber Foundation Report indicated that in March 2021, there were 29 non-profits that were awarded grants totaling \$87,700, and six high school students were given scholarships. In lieu of hosting their in-person annual fundraiser for two years in a row, The Chamber Foundation featured a marketing campaign "Every Month is a Holiday," featuring different sponsors to raise money for specific causes each month, and a virtual auction in December.

The 2022 Board of Directors was also elected with Mary Ellen Jukoski, President of Three Rivers Community College, elected as Board Chair, replacing Dr. Stephen Coan, President of Mystic Aquarium.

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To take advantage of these and even more discounts visit ChamberECT.com/discounts.

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**Voting will be open May 15 - June 5 (at 11:59 pm)
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Members of the Mind Matters team include a combination of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Recreational Aids. All members of our team work together to provide the best social experience for your loved one with dementia in a safe environment.
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MEMBER NEWS



Sail Away on a Day or Sunset Sail aboard ARGIA

Sail away on the Schooner ARGIA, departing from the quaint maritime village of Mystic CT. Enjoy the elegance of sailing aboard a tall ship as you relax and take in views of islands and lighthouses, along with tales of nautical lore and history. Join us for a dazzling Day Sail or relaxing Sunset Sail. BYO picnic/wine/beer or order snacks through us. ARGIA is US Coast Guard inspected and certified. Sailing begins April 30!



Centennial Celebration: 100 Years of Waterford Country School

Waterford Country School is celebrating their 100th Anniversary on June 3 at the main campus in Quaker Hill. Come meet the adorable animals that provide so much therapeutic interaction for our students. A gourmet dinner and dining experience will be provided in the amazingly transformed Otto Graham Gymnasium. The students, staff and Board of Waterford Country School cannot wait to celebrate the momentous anniversary of the agency with their community of friends and supporters.

Two local Businessmen Donate Storefront to Safe Futures

The owners of a commercial storefront in downtown Willimantic are donating the property to Safe Futures, a nonprofit that serves victims of domestic violence, in a bid to help the organization develop The Center for Safe Futures. The brick building at 757 Main Street in Willimantic has long served as the office of Sumner & Sumner, Inc., a local independent insurance agency. Brendan Quinn and Victor Ebersole, Jr., the president and vice president of the company, said they are happy to hand the single-story building over to Safe Futures.

"We could not be prouder to partner with this wonderful organization and be part of the work they are doing," Quinn and Ebersole said in a joint statement. "We hope this helps Safe Futures in their development of The Center for Safe Futures which offers assistance to families subjected to domestic violence in Southeastern Connecticut."

For Safe Futures, the acquisition comes as the organization is planning the development of a 23,000-square-foot family justice center on a parcel in Waterford that will house a plethora of related services and agencies.



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BENEFACITOR NEWS

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital buries time capsule to be opened in 2070

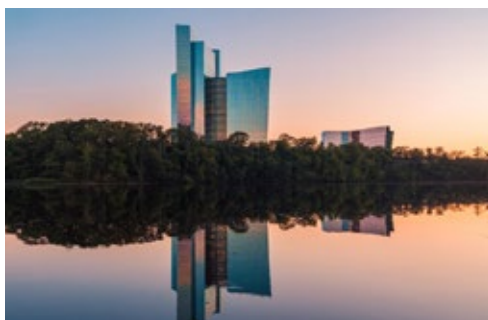
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital (L+M) today buried a three-foot-long time capsule in the wall of the Emergency Department's renovated waiting area which is currently under construction and expected to open later this year.

The capsule is designed with a plastic screw-top lid so the vessel can be opened easily in the future. Inside, the capsule includes a selection of items reflective of the past three years (the start of the construction project and the COVID pandemic). L+M launched the ED project in late 2019 – just months before the hospital admitted its first COVID-19 patient. The pandemic forced the project to scale back due to state mandates around social distancing and other pandemic measures aimed at keeping workers and patients safe.

The capsule contains a box of surgical masks, an N95 mask (coveted and hard to find in the early days of the pandemic), an empty vial of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, an empty vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, hand sanitizer, a COVID-19 swab kit and PCR test used in the testing tent to determine COVID infection, as well as a lab coat and plastic gloves. A USB flash drive includes press releases, employee newsletters, annual reports, photos, videos and other items from the past three years. The time capsule, created by employees of Ducci Electric of Farmington, is made from the same metal piping being used to house the construction project's electrical conduit.

The tube also includes a special message to those opening the time capsule on March 18, 2070 – 50 years from the date the first COVID positive patient was admitted at L+M.

Opening of the ED waiting room this summer will be the first publicly accessible area of the three-year-long project to expand the ED and upgrade the hospital's power capabilities. The power project will provide redundancy in back-up power for the entire hospital that does not exist today, paving the way for future expansion capabilities at the hospital to provide additional state-of-the-art medical care as the hospital continues to grow its services providing the greatest of care close to home. While the waiting area will open this year, the \$84 million project is slated to be completed in 2024.



Mohegan Sun Invests \$15 Million on new VIP Lounge, Upgrades to High-End Suites and the Mohegan Sun Golf Club

\$15 million will be invested on various projects that are now underway and planned at Mohegan Sun and Mohegan Sun Golf Club. By the end of this year, a new 6,500 square-foot VIP Lounge & Bar in Casino of the Earth will open and major renovations to Mohegan Sun's two most luxurious suites (The Royal Suites) will be completed. Over the stretch of 3-years, significant course improvements will also take place at the award-winning Mohegan Sun Golf Club. Additionally, key updates to Sachem Lounge and the outdoor patio at Summer Entrance will soon begin.

With the aim of launching by late fall of this year, Mohegan Sun has started work on a new VIP Lounge & Bar to be located in Casino of the Earth. World-class architects and longtime Mohegan Sun partners, Rockwell Group, are contracted for this new venue that will stretch 6,500 square-feet and feature dining, a full bar and an alluring fireplace at the center of the venue. Rockwell Group is also working with the Mohegan Tribal cultural department to incorporate Mohegan influenced designs and elements through this new space, located next to BALLO Italian Kitchen & Bar. When complete, the VIP Lounge & Bar will offer a dramatic and elegant atmosphere, creating the backdrop for the perfect night out for Mohegan Sun's Momentum VIP members. An additional food & beverage offering in Casino of the Earth will also be developed, with more information to be announced soon.

Mohegan Sun will also soon announce exciting new additions to its lineup of restaurants, which currently consists of more than 40 offerings, including the popular TAO Asian Bistro & Lounge which opened last year.

M&T Bank Corporation Completes Acquisition of People's United Financial, Inc.

M&T Bank Corporation announced the successful completion of M&T's acquisition of People's United Financial, Inc. valued at \$8.3 billion. The combined company employs more than 22,000 people and has a network of over 1,000 branches and 2,200 ATMs that span 12 states from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. People's United common stock no longer trades on the NASDAQ after Friday, April 1, 2022.

"Today marks an important day in M&T's history as we welcome People's United to our family," said René Jones, chairman and chief executive officer of M&T, who will lead the combined company in the same capacity. "People's United is a strong strategic and cultural fit and I am truly excited about the positive impact our combined company will have in the communities we serve. Together, we have the capabilities and scale of a regional bank with the engagement model of a community-based organization to help us better serve new and existing customers, businesses and communities."

The acquisition accelerates M&T's growth trajectory and strengthens the company's financial profile for continued success. M&T will build on People's United's complementary footprint to reach a broad range of customers and expand into new regions. The franchise will operate across some of the most populated and attractive banking markets in the U.S. As part of this effort, People's United's headquarters in Bridgeport, Connecticut, is now M&T's New England regional headquarters.

The combined company will continue to focus on delivering superior customer service and strong engagement in the communities it serves. Clients of People's United will continue to be served through its current branches, websites, mobile apps, financial advisors and relationship managers until its brand and systems are fully converted to M&T's, which is expected to occur in the third quarter of 2022. However, customers from both M&T and People's United can now use any M&T Bank or People's United Bank ATM to withdraw cash.

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