



8 Week Entrepreneur Academy Begins July 14th

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT will launch an 8-week Entrepreneur Academy for applicants who are exploring launching a business.

The Academy will feature a 90-minute course one evening a week beginning July 14th and ending with a final demo day event on Friday, September 9th where participants can share their business ideas with the community. Each class will be presented by business experts. Sessions will include topics such as: creating a minimum viable product, pitching your idea, basic marketing, product branding, access to capital, basic accounting/bookkeeping, basic legal requirements, state resources, market research, leadership, goal setting and more.

Tony Sheridan, President, and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT said, "This opportunity will introduce applicants to the tools needed to launch or expand a business. Candidates who complete

the program will receive a one-year complimentary Chamber membership and a personal introduction to a likeminded business or a business of their choice as well as follow up mentoring for a year."

The Entrepreneur Academy is made possible by a grant provided by the Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP) and CTNext. Courses are free of charge. Eligible applicants must be willing to commit to at least 8 classes. Although Zoom presentations will be available, participants are encouraged to attend the in-person sessions.

This program is one of several initiatives of the Innovation Center, currently being developed by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT, all of which will be housed at 92 Eugene O'Neill Drive in New London.

Upcoming Events

JULY 7 Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening Candy's Chapina Restaurant

2:00 - 3:00 pm | 181 Bank Street,
New London

Celebrate the grand opening of this authentic Guatemalan restaurant in downtown New London!



The Chamber's scissors have been getting a workout lately, read more on page 3!

JULY 13 Business After Hours The Spa at Norwich Inn

5:00 - 7:00 pm | 607 West Thames Street, Norwich

Early Bird Member: \$15/Non-member: \$25

After July 10: Member: \$20/Non-member: \$30

Join Chamber members and guests to mingle, eat, and network for Christmas in July!

AUG 4 Let's Go Local CT Sun Basketball Game

6:00 - 8:30 pm | Mohegan Sun

\$50 per person

Watch the CT Sun take on the Phoenix Mercury from our VIP box seats! Enjoy hors'doeuvres and one drink ticket per person.



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



Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT officially Owns Innovation Hub

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT now officially owns 92 Eugene O'Neill Drive in downtown New London, where it will begin to create a regional Innovation Center which includes a start-up incubator and co-working space.

On May 6, the Chamber closed on the building and on May 31, held a formal signing for the Department of Economic and Community Development grant of \$1.386 million that will allow renovations to begin. By closing on the grant the Chamber is formally agreeing to all the provisions the state laid out as part of the grant.

"This is a historic moment for the Chamber and for Eastern Connecticut," said Chamber of Commerce CEO and President, Tony Sheridan. The Innovation Center will serve as a coworking location as well as supporting the development of startup businesses. Additionally, when renovated, the building will have space to provide training and other related services to support the creation of new jobs and businesses in New London and the region. Its focus will be on training, including an 8-week curriculum-based program to help budding entrepreneurs. The curriculum was developed with financial support from Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP) and CTNext.

The Chamber staff, now located in Waterford, will move to the space and serve as an anchor tenant. The venue previously housed Merrill



Chamber President and CEO Tony Sheridan signs paperwork for a DECD grant with Chamber Board Chair Mary Ellen Jukoski of Three Rivers Community College and Jeff Godley of Brown Jacobson.

Lynch, which moved out in 2018 and the building has remained vacant since.

When Gov. Ned Lamont recently toured the building, he said: "The needs of businesses and our economy are constantly evolving, and having a business incubator like the one being proposed in New London will provide workers throughout the region with a resource to

build their skill sets and become matched with prospective employers. By partnering with the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut and its many members, we can help ensure that the region continues to grow with the needs of the business community."

To learn more, email info@ChamberECT.com or call 860-701-9113.



Leadership Eastern CT Celebrates Class of 2022

For over 30 years, Leadership Eastern CT has prepared future community leaders to assume positions of responsibility and take on challenges in the region. Class of 2022 demonstrated a keen sense of adaptability, determination, and resilience as the program was led in a hybrid format.

The class celebrated graduation on June 22 at The Spa at Norwich Inn, featuring keynote speaker Marguerite Driscoll, Director of Safety Council Operations at Pfizer.

In her remarks, Driscoll led the class through her professional journey, emphasizing the importance of opportunity.

The Chamber is now accepting applications for Leadership Class of 2024. For more information or to apply visit ChamberECT.com



Ribbon Cuttings on the Rise and Local Business Thrives

Over the past weeks, the Chamber's giant scissors have been getting a workout. With seven ribbon cuttings in the last few months, and many more on the calendar, we are seeing the economic health of Eastern Connecticut reflected in the growth of local businesses.

Cycle Bar Waterford kicked off our ribbon cutting celebrations with their grand opening in late March. **The Light House Homestead and Stables** celebrated the opening of a 32-acre facility home to their Therapeutic Equine Services in late April. **T-Shirt World** held a ribbon cutting in mid-May celebrating their brand new store front in the Crystal Mall. **South East CT Community Center of the Blind** welcomed people on tours of their new facility at 75 R. Granite Street in New London. **Keith's Appliances** celebrated the opening of their Mystic location in early June with giveaways and cooking demos. On June 10, **Groton Utilities** celebrated the completion of the Water Treatment Plant that began

construction in late 2017, cutting the ribbon on the new filtration plant that can process 12 million gallons of water per day. Most recently, we celebrated the opening of **Portofood** in downtown New London offering authentic Ecuadorian Cuisine on June 21.

"There is an excitement in the air as businesses and other entities open after a few very difficult years during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Tony Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut CEO and President. "This is a win-win for everyone, not only for the businesses but for the economic development of our region as well as the benefit of all residents."

The region's businesses are well prepared for continued growth in Eastern Connecticut with the investments they are making now, building new businesses, new services and new relationships through these wonderful events. We look forward to unfurling yards and yards more red ribbon as we welcome this continued growth.

For more information on how the Chamber can help you host a ribbon cutting or grand opening celebration visit ChamberECT.com

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breakwaterstonington.com

Candy's Chapina Restaurant

Delicious authentic Guatemalan food in downtown New London.
181 Bank Street, New London | (860) 908-2154

Crystal Mall

Shopping center in Waterford hosting various retailers.
850 Hartford Turnpike, Mall Management Office, Waterford
(860) 442-8501 | crystalmall.com

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(860) 536-2662 | gofishct.com

Helping Hands Moving Labor & Services LLC

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1066 Norwich-New London Turnpike, Uncasville | (860) 200-0660
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mackinconsultancy.com

New London Lions Club

New London Community Service Club Established in 1922.
P.O. Box 41, New London | (860) 861-3321
e-clubhouse.org/sites/newlondonct

Old Lyme Hardware

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Pinspiration.com/eastlyme

PortoFood Latin Cuisine

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357 Bank Street, New London | (959) 213-6863
sites.google.com/view/portofood

Steak Loft

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Olde Mistick Village, 27 Coogan Boulevard, Building 24, Mystic
(860) 536-2661 | steakloftct.com

Thames Landing Oyster House

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2 State Street, New London | (860) 574-9232
thameslandingoysterhouse.com

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I am a massage therapist and licensed lash artist specializing in multiple massage modalities and lash techniques.

Crystal Mall 2nd Floor Suite P222, 850 Hartford Turnpike, Waterford
(860) 705-2138 | Treatyourselfct.com

Tumolo Financial

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339 Flanders Road, Suite 102, East Lyme | (860) 650-3005
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United States Coast Guard Academy Athletics

USCGA cadet-athletes compete on 23 NCAA, D3, intercollegiate teams within the NEWMAC Conference. CGA Athletics supports the Academy's mission through the physical domain of cadet development.

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MEMBER NEWS

Tickets on Sale for Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's 58th Summer Season

Tickets are now on sale for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's 2022 summer season, which features the return of some beloved in-person public events put on pause during the virtual and hybrid seasons of 2020 and 2021.

Patrons can purchase tickets by visiting <https://theoneill.secure.force.com/ticket/#/> or by contacting the box office at 860-443-5378 x 244 or boxoffice@theoneill.org.

Between the O'Neill's four performance-producing conferences—the National Puppetry Conference, the National Playwrights Conference, the National Music Theater Conference, and the Cabaret & Performance Conference—there will be more than 30 public events for audiences to attend where they can discover new work and new voices. The O'Neill is also pleased to welcome arts journalists back to campus for the National Critics Institute and to continue the National Theater Institute Theatermakers Summer Intensive, which will once again feature performances devised by students and presented to the public for free each week.

Mitchell College Partners with University of Saint Joseph to Offer Master of Social Work

Soon area residents interested in pursuing a Master of Social Work won't have to travel far to do so. The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn., is signing an agreement with Mitchell College to use its New London campus as a satellite campus for the master's program. Classes taught by USJ faculty will be offered in the evenings and on weekends, and local agencies will serve as partner sites for student clinical training.

Mitchell College President Tracy Espy said, "Expanded behavioral health access is one of the areas cited by Gov. Ned Lamont and his Workforce Council. Mitchell College very much looks forward to working in partnership with the University of Saint Joseph, sharing our resources to fill today's abundant need for social work professionals. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, particularly in our psychology and criminal justice programs, and for others in the greater Southeastern Connecticut community."

Breeze To Launch 6 New Nonstops This Summer

As part of its expansion at Bradley International Airport, Breeze Airways will begin nonstop service to six destinations this June.

The new destinations include Nashville, TN; Akron/Canton, OH; Savannah, GA; Richmond, VA; Jacksonville, FL; and Sarasota/Bradenton, FL.

"As both a Board Member and Connecticut resident, I'm doubly happy to be at Bradley International to announce six new nonstops from Hartford, bringing Breeze's total destinations served from here to ten," said Trey Urbahn, Breeze Airways Board Member. "The expansion is a result of the warm welcome we've received in Connecticut. Keep flying us and we'll keep adding more and more flights."

The new routes will commence operations in June 2022, with the inaugural flights to Nashville, TN; Akron/Canton, OH; Savannah, GA; Richmond, VA and Jacksonville, FL.

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BENEFACITOR NEWS



Comcast Expands Network to Jewett City, CT

Comcast today announced the expansion of its smart, fast and reliable fiber-rich network to Jewett City, delivering its full suite of Xfinity and Comcast Business services to nearly 2,500 residents and businesses, including Internet speeds of up to 3 gigabits per second (Gbps) for residences and up to 100 Gbps for businesses. The process to extend Comcast's fiber-rich network throughout Jewett City is underway and will continue through the summer.

"The Eastern Connecticut Chamber is thrilled to welcome Comcast to even more communities in our region, providing residents and businesses with another option when selecting their Internet provider," said Tony Sheridan, President of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. "This expansion, combined with their recent expansions to East Lyme, New London and Waterford, make the Eastern Connecticut region an even more attractive place to live and work, especially meeting the needs of our members for a fast and reliable broadband network, which is more important than ever."

"We have committed to investing in and expanding our network to ensure that more residents and businesses in Connecticut have the connectivity they need to succeed," said Carolyne Hannan, Senior Vice President of Comcast's Western New England Region, which is based in Connecticut. "We are proud to connect Jewett City with fast, secure, and reliable Internet service that is built to meet their needs today and into the future."

Residents and businesses can check here to see if their address is eligible for service. Prospective customers can also call 1-800-XFINITY to inquire about service, or ask about the federal government's Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides eligible households with up to \$30/month toward their Internet and mobile service.



Chelsea Groton Bank to Kickoff Construction of Updated Headquarters-Company

A part of the Groton community since 1854, Chelsea Groton Bank is preparing to embark on a complete renovation of its Groton headquarters and bank branch on Poquonnock Road, with construction set to begin this spring.

The bank's new headquarters will feature a complete, inside-and-out rethinking of the workplace, as well as a reinvented branch designed around delivering an extraordinary customer experience in an environment conducive to learning and collaboration.

Chelsea Groton strives to be an innovative financial services company that inspires its employees, customers and communities to achieve their full potential," President and CEO Michael Rauh said. "And our headquarters will reflect that, inside and out – not to mention being an exciting and inspiring place for our more than 200 employees to learn, collaborate and go the extra mile for our customers every day."

"Our headquarters will remain right here in the middle of Groton – as it should," Rauh continued. "We're thrilled to be a part of the revitalization of our town center and to make this very important investment in the place where we live and work. We've learned that when we put our time, money and passion into all of our local communities, everyone succeeds."

The project falls under the leadership and watchful eye of Tony Joyce, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. strengthen personal relationships."

To learn more about the project and see a time-lapse video of construction progress, visit chelseagroton.com/HQ.



Yoga In Our City Launches 10th Season in Parks Across Connecticut

Yoga In Our City, presented by ConnectiCare, recently announced the launch of its 10th season in parks across Connecticut. The popular summertime program allows Connecticut residents to boost their mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing with free yoga classes in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Waterbury, and Willimantic.

"With increased burnout, financial burdens due to inflation, and ongoing challenges related to the pandemic, Connecticut residents are searching for affordable wellness resources that boost their physical and mental health," said Kimberly Kann, AVP, Public Relations and Corporate Communications at ConnectiCare. "We're proud to support Yoga In Our City and its mission of providing free yoga classes to communities across our home state."

Physical benefits of yoga include improved strength, balance, flexibility, heart health, sleep quality, and energy. Mental and emotional benefits of yoga include stress relief, improved cognitive skills such as learning and memory, improved mood, decreased anxiety, and reduced feelings of loneliness.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Yoga In Our City in Connecticut parks," said Thomas Clynch, Founder of Yoga In Our City. "Thanks to continued support from ConnectiCare, Yoga In Our City has developed and grown in many ways since its inception in 2012. Our partnership with the company allows us to offer this essential resource to all residents, regardless of their experience with the practice."

Yoga In Our City offers more than 600 free yoga classes throughout the season, including five bilingual classes per week at parks in Hartford, New Haven, and Willimantic. The 2022 program will run from now through October 9. The entire class schedule can be found at yogainourcity.com.

We want your news.

Share your press releases, flyers, and announcements with eastern CT's business community. Get started by logging onto ChamberECT.com under 'member login.'

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



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