

MILFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Monthly Update

December 2005

ACCE/NAMD Award for Excellence Finalist

Mark Your Calendar

December 14th

5:00—7:00 PM

☾ Business After Hours

The Milford Bank

33 Broad Street

January 13th

8:30—9:30 AM

☀ Good Morning Milford

Just For the Health of It

Chamber Board Room

January 18th

11:30 AM

51st Annual Meeting &
Awards of Distinction

Grassy Hill Country Club

441 Clark Lane, Orange

January 25th

5:00—7:00 PM

☾ Business After Hours

**Rotary Club of Milford at
Aldario's Restaurant**

240 Naugatuck Avenue

February 3rd

8:30—9:30 AM

☀ Good Morning Milford

Action International /

Bob Kademain

Chamber Board Room

February 9th

5:00—7:00 PM

☾ Business After Hours

Dakota Restaurant

1651 Boston Post Road

February 22nd

5:00—7:00 PM

☾ Business After Hours

Daniel Street

21 Daniel Street

Give the Gift of Choice



"Milford Money" Gift Certificates

Looking for the perfect gift for a favorite teacher, dedicated coach, business associates, family or that hard to buy for friend? "Milford Money" Gift Certificates in the amount you choose are available for gift giving.

Redeem at 90+ Milford area businesses!

You may purchase Milford Money Gift Certificates at:

Milford Chamber of Commerce, 878-0681 &
The Milford Bank (all 4 branches), 783-5700

www.milfordct.com

CONNECTICUT: RETAIL SKILLS CENTER OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR RETAILERS, EMPLOYEES

Finding a retail job in the Milford area just got a little easier, thanks to a new program created to help qualified candidates land jobs in the retail and service industries. The Milford Skills Center, a partnership with major support from Speaker of the House Jim Amann (D-Milford), the Connecticut Retail Merchants Association Charitable and Educational Foundation (CRMAF), the National Retail Federation Foundation (NRFF), Westfield Connecticut Post and the U.S. Department of Labor, is expected to open in the Spring of 2006.

"I could not be more pleased that this timely, and important, program is launching in my hometown," said Speaker Amann. "Connecticut lags the nation in job growth. If we are serious about economic development in this state – and it is my #1 pri-

ority – we must link workforce skills with the needs of business. The Skills Center is a great start."

The Milford Skills Center will be the first NRFF affiliated Skills Center in Connecticut. As part of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, it will focus on meeting the needs of retail and related industries and providing long-term career opportunities for job seekers. Since the first Retail Skills Center opened in June 1997 at the Mall & Court at King of Prussia, PA more than 25,000 people have been served and over 5,500 potential retail employees have found jobs through the NRFF Skills Center network.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to service the retail industry in this way," said Timothy Phelan, President, CRMA Foundation. "We

are dedicated to excellence in retailing, and we are honored to be the lead agency on this project."

Skills Centers are recruitment, training and placement facilities that operate as integrated components of the Workforce Investment System. Along with customer service and industry-specific training, centers offer computer and classroom instruction including English as a Second Language and career counseling.

Skills Centers build workforce and career development capacity through a unique partnership of employers, government, shopping center developers, schools and colleges and community associations. Nationally, more than 700 companies in the retail and service industries utilize and participate in retail skills center programs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS *(As of December 7th)*

Anderson Glass Company, Inc.

807 Campbell Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
934-7927

www.andersonglass.net

Glass-Auto, Plate, Window, Etc.

Artifax

17 River Street
Milford, CT 06460
878-2131

www.artifaxworld.com

Gift & Specialty Shops

The AuctionBlocks, LLC

1097 Bridgeport Avenue
Milford, CT 06460
874-6700

www.auctionblocks.com

Consignement Shops

The Body Shop at Home- Tammy Satterlee

31 Eddy Street
Milford, CT 06460
878-2303

www.thebodyshopathome.com/web/tammy

Cosmetics/Skin Care

Drs. C. Kramer & R. Lewis, Cardiovascular Physician

2080 Bridgeport Avenue
Milford, CT 06460
874-1512

Physicians/Surgeons/Chiropractors/
Physical Therapists

Caswell Cove Condo. Assoc., Inc.

600 Popes Island Road
Milford, CT 06460

www.caswellcove.org

CondominiumAssociations

Chuck's Steakhouse

1003 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
934-5300

Restaurants

Collected Stories

12 Daniel Street
Milford, CT 06460
874-0115
Book & Gift Shop

Cox Radio Milford/WPLR FM

440 Wheelers Farms Road
Milford, CT 06460
783-8200

www.star999.com

Radio Stations

Daniel Street

21 Daniel Street
Milford, CT 06460
877-4446

Restaurant/Banquet Facilities

Law Offices of David S. Feldman

112 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460
783-1190

Attorneys

H. Pearce Commercial Real Estate

393 State Street
North Haven, CT 06473
203-281-3400

www.hpearcecommercial.com

Real Estate/Commercial/Dev, Mgmt,
Investments & Leasing

HDTV WAREHOUSE

297 Boston Post Road
Orange, CT 06477
647-3113

www.thehdtvwarehouse.com

HD Television

Junior Achievement of S. W. NE

11 Asylum Street, Suite 601
Hartford, CT 06103
860-525-4510

www.connecticut.ja.org

Non-Profit

Lydian Mortgage

1465 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880
203-480-0013

www.lydianmortgage.com

Mortgage Loans

Frank J. Mascia, CPA

482 Howelton Road
Orange, CT 06477
671-7795

Accountants, Accounting & Tax Svcs.

Napoli Importing

982 Bridgeport Avenue
Milford, CT 06460
878-8689

Caterers/Deli

Kathleen Schock, MS, LPC, LADC

Milford Officer Suites
58 River Street
Milford, CT 06460

435-7401

Counseling

SearchRevenues.com

P.O. Box 466
Stratford, CT 06615-0466
394-2573

www.searchrevenues.com

Search Engine Marketing

E. Stiewing, Inc.

64 Raton Drive
Milford, CT 06460
878-8960

Moving Services & Storage

Member Milestones

Meredith Reuben, CEO

Eastern Bag & Paper Group has received the Meritorious Award from the National Distribution Organization Network Services Co. The award was presented in recognition of her contributions to the Network Association.

Maureen Carofano has

been appointed director of community relations at Laurel Gardens of Milford assisted living community. Carofano brings more than 20 years of healthcare experience to her new position.

Do You Have News to Share?

Submit your business announcements to Member News by emailing

lworobel@milfordct.com

MAKING CONNECTICUT COMPANIES MORE COMPETITIVE

By Marshall R. Collins, Esq., Chamber Counsel for Government Relations

When the Legislature convenes its next regular session, on February 3, 2006, job creation will be a priority. Connecticut has the fifth highest cost of doing business in the nation and not surprisingly the second worst rate of economic growth. Policy makers agree that something needs to be done. Unfortunately, there is little agreement regarding what steps should be taken to stimulate job creation? Too often we hear that business should pay their fair share, which always seems to mean paying more.

Although, Milford Chamber members recognize the importance of manufacturing, policy makers have largely ignored the rising cost of doing business in Connecticut, particularly regarding manufacturing. A direct result has been a steady erosion of manufacturing jobs, not just to foreign countries, but to other states as well. We need to make reversing that trend a priority.

One way to help our manufacturers to compete is to repeal the personal property tax on machinery and equipment. Manufacturing is technology driven. Companies that cannot afford the latest technology find it virtually impossible to compete. If Connecticut manufacturers are to remain competitive, they must be able to invest in the latest machinery and equipment. Quality and efficiency do not allow for the use of yesterday's technology.

Connecticut is one of only a few states that apply local personal property taxes to

manufacturing machinery and equipment. Consequently, the high cost of manufacturing is even higher in Connecticut. Even though there is a five year exemption for newly acquired machinery and equipment, ultimately, the equipment will be taxed here and not in many other states.

The State reimburses municipalities for 80% of the cost of the five year exemption, which amounts to more than \$55 million per year. The Milford Chamber played a key role in establishing that exemption and should lead the way in asking for repeal of the tax altogether.

Recent estimates from the Office of Fiscal Analysis and the Office of Policy and Management are that state revenues will exceed expenditures by more than \$500 million a year for the next two years. The surplus is largely due to higher receipts from taxes on capital gains.

At the same time, there are projections of recurring budget deficits for the years 2008 through 2010. Now is the time to consider investing that money in job creation and to repeal the tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment.

Connecticut's current obligations should not be ignored. The Rainy Day Fund needs to be restored, pension liabilities should be funded and Connecticut's level of indebtedness must be reduced. Stimulating our manufacturing sector through repeal of the machinery and equipment tax is a sound method for stimulating job creation and raising state revenues to meet our obligations.

Manufacturers that invest

in new technology in Connecticut are employers who have made a commitment to continue to do business here. Repeal of the tax also is far more valuable than a tax credit for job creation. Companies that are marginal or struggling gain little or no benefit from credits. They need to be profitable to have enough tax liability for a credit to be worthwhile.

Connecticut has many needs that will require more funding over time. Education, transportation infrastructure, care of our elderly and public safety are only a few areas that will demand more expenditures. If we are to break the cycle of surpluses and deficits, we must find ways to grow state revenues through economic expansion rather than merely increasing taxes and the cost of doing business.

In the next Legislative Session, the temptation will be great to spend projected surpluses on new programs. Milford Chamber members should ask their legislators to support repealing the personal property tax on machinery and equipment and holding the municipalities harmless from any resultant loss of revenue. Repeal is an investment in our future that will pay dividends several times over.

The Milford Chamber was a leader in the passage of the five year exemption. By making your voices heard once again, the Chamber can position Connecticut manufacturing to be more competitive and to create jobs.



Celebrating Excellence

51st Annual Meeting & 2005 Awards of Distinction

**January 18, 2006
11:30 AM**

Grassy Hill Country Club
441 Clark Lane, Orange

Cost \$45.00 per person
Tables of 8, \$345 / Tables of 10, \$405
RSVP by calling 878-0681 or
email chamber@milfordct.com
by January 11th

Sponsored by:

**Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.
Colonial Toyota
The Milford Bank
Westfield Connecticut Post**

Milford Chamber of Commerce

5 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460
Phone: 203-878-0681
Fax: 203-876-8517
chamber@milfordct.com
www.milfordct.com

SCRAPBOOK OF RECENT CHAMBER EVENTS



Business After Hours at People's Bank in October.

In November, Business After Hours was held at Grassy Hill Country Club.



Domino's Pizza celebrated their opening with a ribbon cutting in November.

A ribbon cutting at Sedona Daycare & Learning Center celebrated their opening in October.



Go Environmental celebrates their new location with a ribbon cutting in November.