



MILFORD

. . . on the Move

April 2006

ACCE/NAMD Award for Excellence Finalist

Mark Your Calendar

April 25th

4:00 PM

Ribbon Cutting

Dr. Victoria Rothenhausen
67 Turnpike Square, Milford

April 26th

5:00—7:00 PM

Business After Hours

Ethan Allen Home Interiors
1620 Boston Post Rd., Milford

May 3rd

3:00 PM

Ribbon Cutting

Marble & Granite, Inc.
125 Old Gate Lane, Milford

May 5th

8:30—9:30 AM

**Business Before Hours &
New Members Reception**

Residence Inn by Marriott
62 Rowe Avenue, Milford

May 11th

5:00—7:00 PM

Business After Hours

Carriage Green at Milford
77 Plains Road, Milford

May 17th

9:00 AM—6:00 PM

Business Showcase

Sacred Heart University, Ffld.

May 24th

5:00—7:00 PM

Business After Hours

**Al Dente Brickoven Pizza &
Italian Restaurant**

128 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford

May 25th

12:00 Noon

State of the City Luncheon

Costa-Azzurra Restaurant
72 Broadway, Milford

LEGISLATURE HAS MANY ISSUES AND LITTLE TIME

By Marshall R. Collins, Esq., Counsel for Governmental Affairs

The Connecticut General Assembly's constitutional adjournment date of May 3, 2006 is fast approaching and several major issues that are important to Milford Chamber of Commerce members remain to be resolved. Adjustments to the budget and taxes, a plan to improve transportation infrastructure, and various labor related issues are only some of the issues awaiting action.

The Chamber asked Governor Rell, Speaker Amann, Senate President Williams, and Minority Leaders Ward and DeLuca to make job creation a priority. The Chamber urged leaders to reduce or eliminate the property tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment, while holding municipalities harmless from any loss of tax revenue. At present both Democratic and Republican budget proposals include a phase out of this tax.

The Chamber also testified before the Legislature's Transportation Committee and supported House Bill 5715 which involves a comprehensive plan to improve Connecticut's transportation infrastructure. Both Speaker Amann and Governor Rell have taken the lead on eliminating the transportation crisis that costs all state residents time and money.

HB 5715 has been approved by both the Transportation Committee and the Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee and is the subject

of further negotiation. Issues to be resolved are how much of the Transportation Strategy Board's master plan will be implemented and how to pay for it.

The Governor's plan calls for partial implementation and would cost approximately \$800 million over two years. Her plan would be paid for by a combination of surplus funds and bonding. Speaker Amann's plan calls for full implementation and would cost some \$6.5 billion over nearly ten years. It would largely be funded by an increase in the gross earnings tax on the oil companies.

While there is bipartisan support for job creation, numerous anti-business proposals also have been debated.

House Bill 5030, known as "captive audience" would have prevented employers from discussing "politics" and "religion" at mandatory staff meetings. Politics and religion were broadly defined and the measure was strongly opposed by a coalition of for profit and not for profit employers. HB 5030 was defeated in the Judiciary Committee on an 18-22 vote.

House Bill 5032 would have required strict neutrality of employers in labor organizing matters if the company received virtually any state funding, including tax credits, abatements, exemptions and more. The neutrality could have even prohibited the hiring of labor counsel for advice during union organizing campaigns. HB 5032 was de-

feated in the Commerce Committee on a 5-18 vote.

Additional anti-employer proposals remain on the legislative calendar:

SB 217 allows the awarding of additional discretionary workers' compensation benefits, and would rocket workers' compensation costs.

SB 221 greatly restricts the type of light duty that an employer would be able to assign to a returning injured worker.

SB 25 would eliminate the requirement that Social Security benefits offset workers' compensation benefits in cases of incapacity. The proposal would increase workers' compensation insurance costs by 1.3%.

SB 462 is known as "play or pay" legislation. It imposes a surcharge on certain employers to provide employees health insurance benefits.

All of these proposals would significantly increase the cost of doing business in Connecticut at the same time that both parties are calling for job creation measures.

There are numerous other issues that affect employers. Milford Chamber members have been very active this Session and your legislators are willing to listen. However, there is still work to be done and time is of the essence. Call your legislators today and ask for their help on these and other issues that are of concern to you and your company. Your voice needs to be heard.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (As of March 24th)**Cingular Wireless**

1201 Boston Post Road
Milford, CT 06460
874-3000

Cellular Telephone / Wireless
Communications

Cingular Wireless

1328 Boston Post Road
Milford, CT 06460
301-6360

Cellular Telephone / Wireless
Communications

Connecticut Brakettes

335 Madison Avenue
16th Floor, Suite 1602
New York, NY 10017-4691
212-230-1880

ctbrakettes.com

Sports Teams/Professional

National Scouting Report of Connecticut

223 Broadway, Suite #3
Milford, CT 06460
283-4323

www.nsr-inc.com

College Recruiting

**Super Suppers**

108 B Boston Post Road
Orange, CT 06477
795-8804

www.supersuppers.com

Meal Assembly

Waste Management of CT, Inc.

495 Blake Street
New Haven, CT 06515
389-3668

www.wm.com

Trash Hauling/Commercial

Webster Bank-Mortgage

100 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460
882-4408

Mortgage Loans

\$\$\$ DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS \$\$\$

Do you or your employees have a child entering college, trade or vocational school in the fall?

If you do, the Scholarship Committee of the Milford Chamber of Commerce wants you to know we are awarding **25** scholarships totaling **\$23,500**. Scholarships range from **\$500** to **\$2,500**.

To obtain a copy of a scholarship application you can:

- Visit **www.milfordct.com**
- Go to your high school guidance office.
- Call the Milford Chamber at 878-0681.

Applications must be received by April 17, 2006 for consideration. Scholarships have different criteria so be sure to read the qualifications page closely.

Questions may be directed to 878-0681 or www.milfordct.com

MEMBER MILESTONES

Congratulations go out to **Mary Neschke** of Mary Hegarty Neschke Photography. Mary was the Grand Marshall of Milford's St. Patrick's Parade. Mary takes time out before the parade to pose with Mayor James Richetelli, Jr.

OSHA has recently awarded Milford's **Schick** plant it's "prestigious" Voluntary Protection Program, or VPP with "Merit" status. Companies OSHA accepts into the VPP are recognized as only those "committed to effective employee protection beyond the requirements of OSHA standards."

Chuck's Steak House of West Haven celebrated their 42nd Anniversary March 27-30.

A new look has emerged on the Post Road in Orange with the addition of the **Lillian August** name on the **Drexel Heritage** sign. The store has been owned by the Lillian August family for over a year and will now offer a broad assortment of products carried by other Lillian August Stores.

Nell Moll, Milford Chamber of Commerce was recently selected by the New England Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives to receive a professional development scholarship. Nell will attend

the US Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management in August at Villa Nova.

Thomas Cody, Sr. has been named the 2006 recipient of the Junior Woman's Club of Milford Living Treasures Award. Recipients of this award must be residents of Milford for at least ten years and whose contributions and actions have enriched the community. Cody will receive his award on May 25th at City Hall.

Dr. Timothy Sharpe, Milford OB-GYN, was recently recognized by Connecticut Magazine as one of the "Top Docs for Women". He is the only Milford Physician to be recognized by the magazine.

WESTFIELD CONNECTICUT POST OPENS NEW EXPANSION WING



Westfield Connecticut Post opened their new expansion wing on Friday, March 10th. The new retail wing is anchored by Connecticut Post Cinema de Lux 14, Borders Books & Music, Dick's Sporting Goods and Target as well as Milford Chamber Member, Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar. The \$118+ million reinvestment which began in October 2004, also includes 50 new specialty shops, a new 12-unit food court, an expanded and renovated Filene's, a renovated JCPenney, and new Bank of America, an adjacent retail

pavilion and two new parking structures.

"I am pleased to welcome Cinema de Lux 14, Borders, Dick's and Target to Westfield Connecticut Post. These new arrivals feature some unique new concepts that enhance the shopping experience and successfully position Milford as a regional retail and entertainment destination," said Mayor James Richetelli, Jr.

"Our customers and community have a lot to be excited about. The new center offers a more diverse retail mix set within a bright and

beautiful new backdrop that makes shopping more inviting for both existing and new customers." said Thomas Tierney, Sr. General Manager, Westfield Connecticut Post.

Westfield Connecticut Post opened in 1960 and was one of the first suburban shopping malls in Connecticut. The center's expansion will earn Westfield Connecticut Post the distinction as Connecticut's second largest shopping center at approximately 1.4 million square feet, creating an estimated 1,500 new jobs for the surrounding community.

**BUSINESS
SHOWCASE
2006**

RESERVE YOUR BOOTH NOW!

**Be a part of BUSINESS SHOWCASE 2006
Wednesday, May 17, 2006, Sacred Heart University**

This showcase is the region's largest, continually run, collaborative "Business to Business" EXPO in Fairfield County! Showcasing 180+ of the best of Connecticut's Business Community for the past 13 years.

Sponsored by the collaborative strength and power of these Chambers of Commerce: Greater Valley Chamber, Bridgeport Regional Business Council, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, Trumbull and the Milford Chamber of Commerce

Reserve your space today by calling: Nell Moll, 878-0681

CHAMBERS: GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH?

Why Joining & Participating is Good for Your Health and Happiness

Most 2006 resolutions have an element of 'wearing of a hair shirt'—uncomfortable and self-imposed punishment. Resolutions usually involve getting healthier and losing weight. Fortunately there might just be a magic pill to improve health and well-being, and it involves gaining, not losing. Gain a network, add on a few friends and pack on more social activities. Research shows that if we do this we will be healthier, happier and live longer.

Harvard professor Robert Putnam, in his book, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Simon & Schuster, 2000), cites many studies which show that social networks help you stay healthy, "if you belong to no groups but decide to join

one, you cut your risk of dying over the next year in half it's a toss-up statistically whether you should stop smoking or start joining." The findings are compelling. "What these studies tell us is that social engagement actually has an independent influence on how long we live."

As we look to improving our personal lives and ponder traditional resolutions to lose weight, eat right and exercise, we would be well advised to put in place an insurance policy—one that will have the same positive effect on our health and well-being. Pick a cause of our own, join a new group, and become actively engaged. This year go out and GAIN a network. The bonus is we also improve our business lives!

The challenge for most people joining the 'gaining revolution' is that joining groups, building a strong network, and getting involved, means learning how to network. Chamber of commerce members have a huge advantage. They are members of 'silver platter organizations.' Silver platter organizations do all the work, create the networking opportunities. All you, as members, have to do is show up — with business cards!

©2006 Darcy Rezac
Darcy Rezac is Managing Director and Chief Engagement Officer of the Vancouver Board of Trade and the author (with co-authors Judy Thomson and Gayle Hallgren-Rezac) of *Work The Pond! Use the Power of Positive Networking to Leap Forward in Work and Life* (Prentice Hall, 2005).

SCRAPBOOK OF RECENT CHAMBER EVENTS



*Business After Hours at
Dakota Restaurant.
Photo by S.M. Cooper*

***A Special Thanks to our
Hosts & Sponsors!***



*Daniel Street hosted a Business
After Hours in February.
Photo by S.M. Cooper*



*Bob Kademian, Action International
presenting at Good Morning Milford
in February.*



*In January BJ Frazier, Just for the
Health of It, hosted a
Good Morning Milford.*



*Business After Hours at
ERA Property World in February
Photo by S.M. Cooper*

The Perfect Way to say Thanks!

April 26th is Administrative Professional day!

Recognize the hard work of the professionals
in your office with Milford Chamber of
Commerce gift certificates.

Available in several denominations and
redeemable at a variety of local merchants!



Milford Money gift certificates are available in \$5, \$10
and \$25 denominations and may be purchased at:

- Milford Chamber of Commerce - 878-0681
- The Milford Bank (all 4 branches) - 783-5700
- Online at www.certifichecks.com

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

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 10th



MILL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB
Stratford



MILFORD'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

100 Best Communities

Milford has been named as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People in America" in a contest sponsored by America's Promise, a National Youth Alliance in Washington DC. Over 1200 communities applied and only 100 were chosen, Milford being among them so this is a very prestigious honor for Milford.

To help celebrate this award, we have created a banner congratulating Milford on this honor. The banner was hanging at City Hall and is now being circulated around area businesses in town. If you are interested in displaying this banner at your business, please contact: Danielle Dumont, Executive Director, Milford's Promise 203-640-0936, cmdumont@sbcglobal.net