



News & Views Highlights

The Monthly Newsletter of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

Serving the Business Community Since 1901

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May, 2011

Kathy Kamerer, Katherine's Hair Design, is New Chairperson

Nine years ago I joined the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. It sounded like the right thing to do for my business. I had recently moved to my downtown Main Street location, and I felt the Chamber could help the business grow and get me involved in my community.

I started slowly, first attending Coffee Connections, a few grand openings, seminars, and after hours events. I found them beneficial and enjoyable as well. I met new people, made new business contacts, and acquired new clients.

Volunteering to serve on the Golf and Dinner Dance Committees came next, followed by becoming an Ambassador for the Chamber. Later, I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors, and then the Executive Committee. Never, in my wildest dreams did I think that nine short years later I would be accepting the Chairmanship of the Manchester Chamber. I am truly honored.

Thank you to Mike Downs for his time and hard work during his tenure. It's been a tough two years, but Mike kept a steady hand at the Chamber's helm. Thank you also to the Chairmen who have gone before me, and to our Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Their careful eye, guidance, and wisdom is instrumental to our success.

Sue O'Connor and her team, April DiFalco, Amy Belske, and Lisa Lamb, can always be counted on to do whatever is necessary for the benefit of our members and our organization.

We will miss Bob Pagani and Linda Wieleba as they retire from our Board, but know that your willing participation is much

appreciated, and we hope to work with you through the Chamber in the future.

Welcome to our new Board Members; Ryan Gripp, Stan Kontogiannis, Tom Ostergren, and Steve Pedneault. Thank you for accepting your new role as Board Members.

And to this year's Community Achievement Award Recipient, Molly Devanney, our heartfelt congratulations and thanks for all you do for our Town. You are a shining example of community involvement for us all.

I plan to be a very active Chairperson, getting to know as many member businesses as possible over the next two years. I hope you will join me as we work together to convey the benefits of membership to the many businesses who are not yet members.

Please feel free to contact me or Sue O'Connor, Chamber President, to discuss any ideas, suggestions, or concerns you may have about the Chamber.

I am excited and proud to serve as the Chamber's Chairperson for the next two years. Thank you.



*Kathy Kamerer,
Katherine's Hair Design*

110th GMCC Annual Meeting Sponsored by First Niagara

Photos Courtesy of John Garaventa Photography





GMCC Board of Directors

Officers

- Kathy Kamerer, Chairperson
Katherine's Hair Design
Mike Downs, Past Chairman,
Brescome Barton
Rich Cohen, ShopRite of
Manchester & East Hartford
Ed Epstein, Financial Benefits
Marty Fins,
Silk City Print Shoppe
Abby Jewett, at&t
Tom Machuga, Treasurer
Machuga Financial Services
Sue O'Connor, President

Directors

- Peg Aldrich, New York Life
William Broneill,
Law Offices of William Broneill
Laurie Brooks, Rockville Bank
Dotti Cannon,
Brown Sugar Catering
Bruce Chamberlin, Flo-Tech
Cliff Ferguson, American
Business Telephone
Gena Glickman, MCC
Ryan Gripp,
Carrabba's Italian Grill
Harold Harris,
Plastics & Concepts of CT
Joan Hunt, Reminder News
Stan Kontogiannis, ECHN
Anne Miller,
Anne Miller Real Estate
Nancy Murray,
The Shoppes at Buckland Hills
Tom Ostergren, Webster Bank
Renee Pasay, Cox Media
Steve Pedneault,
Forensic Accounting
Mary Rossettie, Attorney at Law

Ex Officio

- Marc Montminy, Police Chief
Kathleen Oullette,
Superintendent of Schools
Scott Shanley, Town Manager

What's Happening in Our Members' Businesses

William H. W. Crawford, IV, officially became President and CEO of Rockville Bank at the company's Annual Shareholders' Meeting on April 26, 2011.

Manchester Board of Education is pleased to announce that it will be operating Adult and Continuing Education programs through the Manchester Adult and Continuing Education Program.

Kristine & John Lajeunesse of Always Best Care Senior Services of Central CT, have just attended their 2011 National Conference in Delray, FL and are pleased to announce that they were awarded Franchise Owners of the Year! Kudos to you!

Rockville Bank is providing essential funding for Enfield's Felician Adult Care Center to update their phone and computer systems. Rockville Bank is challenging the community to help.

Comprehensive Business Solutions has hired two full-time accounting associates and are forming a QuickBooks Pro (computer software training course). You can call Comprehensive Business Solutions at 860-645-0273 for more information.

Sign up for Manchester Matters Email! Stay informed about events happening in the Town of Manchester, by receiving periodic emails with news about voting, taxes, leaf collection, committee meetings, road construction, fire safety, Town jobs, dog licensing, special events, and programs offered by the libraries, schools, health and recreation departments. Residents and those who work in Town are invited to sign up online at www.townofmanchester.org or call 860-647-5235.

Tell us what's happening in your business. Add "News & Views Highlights" to your media list. Send announcements to Amy Belske, Editorial Assistant, News & Views Highlights, GMCC, 20 Hartford Rd., Manchester, CT 06040, or via e-mail, amy@manchesterchamber.com.

May Events



The Chamber's Business Referral Group 2 is looking to grow. We are currently accepting applications for representatives in the professions of Trust/Estate Attorney, Auto Repairs, Restaurant Management, and Contractor/General Handyman. Please call April or Amy at 860-646-2223 for more information.