

# Business Quarterly

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## Chamber offers helpful panel discussions

The Chamber of Commerce was pleased last year to introduce a new benefit to our members and the community.

We hosted two panel discussions during 2013.

Our first was held in May focusing on the topic "Taking Your Business To The Next Level."

Our panel comprised experts in the fields of accounting, banking, economic development, insurance, law and marketing.

Our second panel discussion, "Navigating The New Health Insurance Environment," was held in November.

Experts from Access Health, New Milford Hospital, and financial industry were on hand to educate audience members about the new health insurance environment as well as answer questions and address concerns.

Since the panel discussions proved to be a welcome and valuable benefit to our members and the community, we are

happy to announce we will continue offering these discussions in 2014.

Our third panel discussion, "Solving The Puzzle: Answers For You And Your Aging Parents," will be held March 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the railroad station on Railroad Street.

The panel will consist of experts in elder law, Veterans Affairs benefits, assisted living facilities, housing options, insurance, home care needs and hospital and hospice services.

The Senior Care Resources Group presented this information as a Chamber Lunch & Learn Seminar in November.

The timeliness of the seminar and information I took away was truly a blessing as my mother's brother was declining in health and I was able to offer some specific, concrete

guidance to my parents to help them deal with my uncle's situation.

In addition, I learned a number of things that would not only help me better manage family members when the time comes, but would also help me make the process easier for my children when it's my time to be managed.

I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about a topic that will affect us all at some point in our lives.

Below is specific information about the discussion put together by professionals who have joined forces to create the Senior Care Resources Group:

If you are dealing with an elderly parent or wanting to put plans in place for yourself as you age, before a major event or

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**DENISE DEL MASTRO**

crisis occurs, the Senior Care Resources Group can help.

The group of area professionals focuses on helping the senior population and offers solutions, such as living options, health insurance programs, area medical services, opportunities at the senior center and information on probate needs.

For example, an elder law attorney will help you develop a blueprint or "planning strategy" and make sure you have the right tools in place for carrying out the plan or choosing someone else to carry it out for you.

The group's members will explain housing options available for those aged over 55 and help you understand the differences among active 55 communities, congregate housing, subsidized senior housing, assisted living

communities and skilled nursing facilities.

The group will also provide answers on Medicare, supplemental insurance, long-term care insurance, Medicaid/Title 19 benefits and the Connecticut Home Care programs.

Participants in the group include an expert on VA benefits for people at home and in assisted living facilities and another expert on reverse mortgages.

Professionals with information regarding dementias, meeting home-care needs, and hospital and hospice services are involved in the group as well.

To sign up, contact the chamber office at 860-354-6080 or email nmcc@newmilford-chamber.com by March 24.

## Liguori named Distinguished Chamber Member of the Year

Continued from S1

Outside of Scouting, Liguori has also played an active role with the Village Fair Days Committee since he joined it in 2003.

His primary duties have been trash collection and clean-up, and helping the fair's youth volunteers.

Outside of town, he has spoken to the freshman class at Empire Beauty School in New York City, sharing his personal story.

In addition, he is known for quietly providing help to those in need around New Milford.

Over the years, Liguori has worked at various companies. In his early years in town, he worked

as a "grease monkey" at Jiffy Lube, a position that helped land him a job running his own store while he lived in Indiana from 1993 to 1995.

Upon his return to Connecticut in 1995, after suffering a tragic motor vehicle accident that claimed the life of his fiancée, he assumed a job on the manufacturing floor of Wentworth Laboratories in Brookfield.

Liguori's interest and involvement in a particular engineering project for IBM eventually moved him to the engineering department, where he worked as an engineer technician.

In 2003, after losing his job at Memry Corp., he followed the sugges-

tion of a friend, who at one point had recommended he look into hair-dressing, and he became a hair stylist.

Today, Liguori is part of a landscaping crew and is a hair stylist.

Liguori and his family were sponsored by his aunt to come to the U.S. from San Paulo when he was almost 17.

Upon arrival, he had to re-educate himself, which included learning English.

"I didn't say 'hello,' let alone know how to spell it," Liguori said of the language barrier.

Liguori and his wife, Kristin, were married in 2000 and have two children, Dominic, 17, and Luka, 11.

## Nordica Toys honored by chamber

Continued from S1

Village Green Association. Nordica has participated in the chamber's Fall Harvest Festival, promoted the NewMilfordopoly game as part of the town's tricentennial celebration and has long sponsored fundraising efforts for the town's Fourth of July fireworks display.

Nordica recently collected fireworks fund donations and presented the check to the chamber, matching the donations received.

The business donates

to at least 35 causes annually, and participates in the Parks & Recreation Department's Trunk or Treat, handing out about 500 toys to children.

McCarthy is a familiar face around town. As an active member of the chamber, she attends many of the organization's Business Scenes, and she takes to the sidewalk from Bank Street to Bridge Street to sweep it of debris as a committed businessperson and supporter of the Keep New Milford Beautiful campaign.

When it comes to inventory, McCarthy said she keeps up with the latest toy trends and also offers "old school" toys, like Slinky, Lincoln Logs, coloring books, toy dinosaurs and more.

To be current in today's digital world, she keeps up with the latest in technology, too, since many of the toys come with apps.

For more information, visit the 7 Main St. store or www.nordicatoys.com, or find the store on Facebook.

## Elder Law to be discussed at Kent Library

The Kent Memorial Library will present "Elder Law: Protecting Your

Assets & Ensuring a Smooth Transition to the Next Generation," the last part in a series, March 26.

A snow date of April 2 is set.

Kent Attorney Metta

Rehnberg will facilitate the program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Main Street library.

For more information and to register, call 860-927-3761.

### How to get involved, what's coming

Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce members and businesses interested in placing a display ad in the Business Quarterly should contact Steve Spinosa at 203-731-3427 or James Nabozna at 203-731-3424.

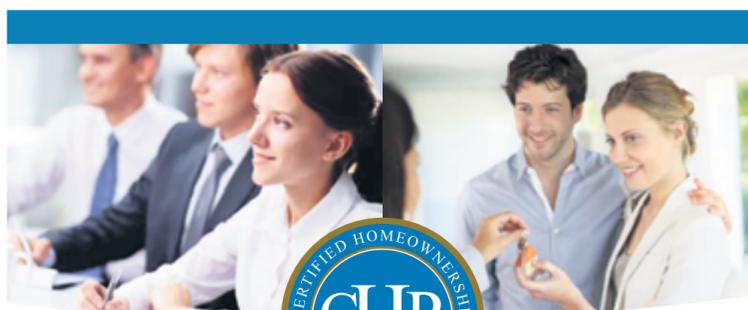
See next week's Spectrum for a story about the Reis Learning Center and news about other Chamber happenings.

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