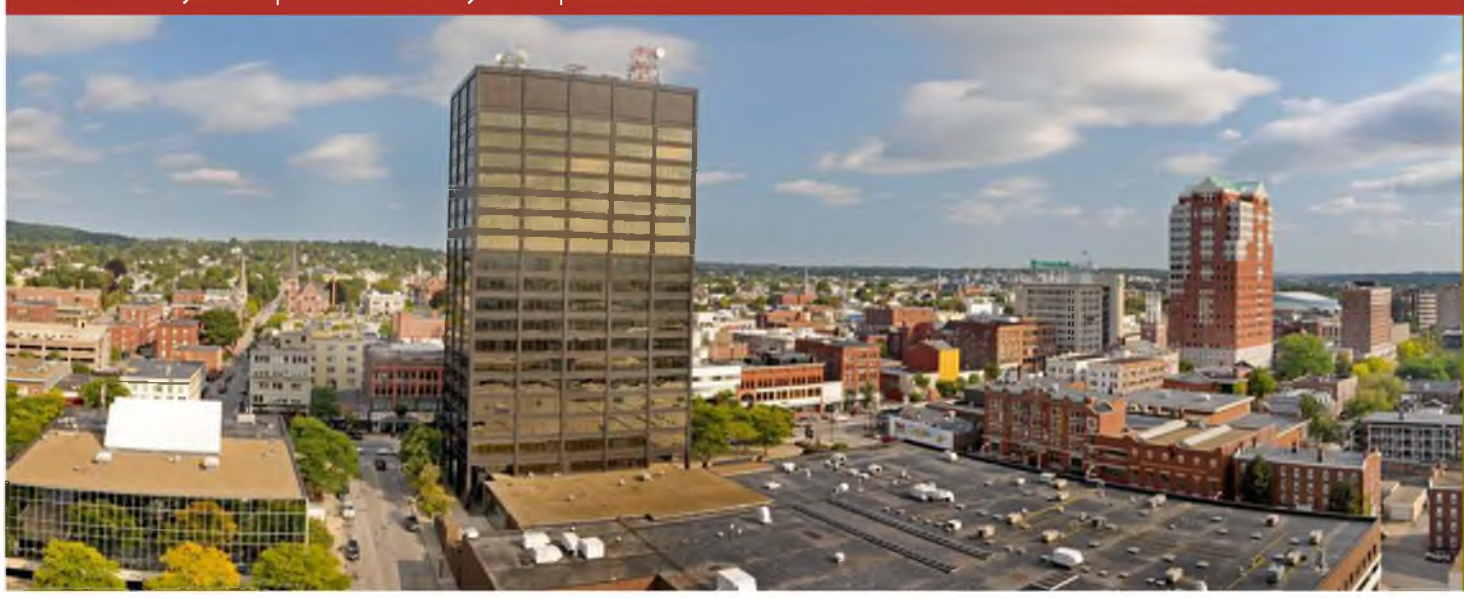
Chamber Report

BUILD YOUR BRAND | EXPAND YOUR NETWORK | SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

January 2012 | Volume Twenty-Four | Issue One

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce



GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It is the mission of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce to be a member-focused organization that drives the greater Manchester business environment and the economic health and vitality of the region by supporting business growth, professional development, and networking opportunities, while advocating for our membership.

A Ticket For You, A Ticket For Them

Chamber Launches Member Referral Program

If you've always wanted to attend the Chamber's Annual Citizen of the Year Dinner and just didn't, now's your chance to attend the event and get in for free! Beginning January 1 until April 15, the the Chamber is offering a reward to any Chamber member that refers another business that joins at the Chamber Associate Level ($350) or higher. Both the business that joins, and the referring member will each receive a ticket to the 2012 Citizen of the Year Celebration.

The Chamber's Citizen of the Year Celebration will be held on Thursday, April 19, at the Radisson, Manchester from 6-9 p.m. Preparations are already underway for a spectacular celebration with a *Cheers* pub-style theme, where everybody knows your name! Tickets to the event are $100 per person or $900 for a group of ten. As always, the Chamber anticipates this will be the networking event of the year with more than 1,000 people in attendance! So don't miss your chance for you and a friend to attend for free! For more information contact Membership Director Shawnda Misina at 792-4105 or via email at: membership@manchester-chamber.org.

PechaKucha Breakfasts Continue in 2012

"Chit-Chat" Format a Hit With Chamber Members

In 2011 the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce adopted a new format for its breakfast forums called PechaKucha. The response from our members, event attendees and presenters has been overwhelmingly positive and the Chamber plans to continue with the PechaKucha format in 2012.

If you haven't yet attended one of these events, you might be wondering what is PechaKucha? PechaKucha (pronounced: pe-cha-ku-cha) is the Japanese term for the sound of "chit chat." PechaKucha was devised in Tokyo in February 2003 as an event for young designers to meet, network, and show their work in public.

PechaKucha rests on a presentation format that is based on a simple idea: 20 images x 20 seconds. It's a PowerPoint format that makes presentations concise and keeps things moving at a rapid pace. Also, the slides move on their own, so the person presenting must keep up with their slides and stay extremely focused. The presentations are also focused primarily on images, not text, so for the audience it is like listening to a story. Each presenter has only six minutes and 40 seconds to tell their story and then they are done. At the end the audience has a chance to interact and ask questions.

PechaKucha panelists at the arts, culture, tourism breakfast forum.

PechaKucha has turned into a massive celebration, with events happening in hundreds of cities around the globe, inspiring creatives worldwide. There are already events being held in Portsmouth, Boston, Portland, ME and Providence, RI. The Chamber had to apply for the licensing from Tokyo to host PechaKucha events in Manchester.

The way the Chamber uses this format is somewhat adapted from traditional PechaKucha Nights. The Chamber picks an overarching topic or theme and then selects presenters that can each present an aspect or piece of the chosen theme. Typically the events begin at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and networking. There are six presenters who begin at 8 a.m. and go until 8:45 and then there is 15 minutes left at the end for questions and interaction with the audience.

In 2012, the Chamber will hold six of these events. Topics will include higher education, social media, healthcare, non-profits, small business tool-kit, and green issues. We hope to see you at the first PechaKucha in March. If you are interested in presenting at a PechaKucha event please contact programs@manchester-chamber.org.

Crews to Chair Chamber Board

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Andy Crews will lead the Chamber's Board of Directors in 2012.

Crews is President & CEO of AutoFair, a New Hampshire-based dealer group which currently consists of Honda, Hyundai and Ford franchises in Manchester.

With more than 20 years of experience in the automotive industry, Crews, who is originally from Georgia, moved to New Hampshire to join AutoFair in 2006. He sits on the board of several non-profit groups: CareGivers, Easter Seals Veteran's Count Club, and Manchester Dealers Charitable Foundation.

In addition to his charitable work, Andy serves on several business associated boards including the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the New Hampshire Automotive Dealers Association and is the Chairman of the New Hampshire Dealer Election Action Committee. Andy was honored as one of the Union Leader's 2009 "40 Under Forty."

Crews will serve a one year term as Board Chairman.

Visit us on the web at www.manchester-chamber.org or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/grtrmanchester or Twitter @grtrmanchester

This publication is underwritten by:

PRINTERS SQUARE INC. and St. Mary's Bank

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is a non-partisan business advocacy organization. The Chamber is not a division or department of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the opinions and views of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are not necessarily reflective of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

GREATER MANCHESTER
Chamber of Commerce

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2012 Board of Directors

Officers

Chairman
Andy Crews, President & CEO
AutoFair Automotive Corporation

Chair-elect
Dianne Mercier
People's United Bank

Secretary
Beth Roberts, V.P. of NNE Operations
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of NE

Treasurer
Paul Ramsey, VP Energy Delivery
Public Service of New Hampshire

Past Chairman
Alexander Walker, President
Devine, Millimet & Branch, P.A.

Legal Counsel
Tom Donovan
McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton

At-Large
Richard Brenner
New Hampshire Fisher Cats

At-Large
Russ Ouellette, Managing Partner
Sojourn Partners

Directors

Matt Albuquerque, Next Step O & P, Inc.
Maureen Beauregard, Families in Transition
Tom Boucher, Great NH Restaurants
Mark Brewer, Manchester-Boston Regional Airport
Ronald Covey, St. Mary's Bank
Robert Duval, TFMoran Inc.
Joe Graham, WGIR Radio AM/610 FM/101.1
David Mara, Manchester Police Department
Marie McKay, Bigelow & Company, CPA/PC
Dr. Steven Paris, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Manchester
Tom Puskarich, Z food & drink
Michael Reed, Stebbins Commercial Properties LLC
Frederick Urtz, Lavallee/Brensinger Architects
Frank Wells, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc.
Judi Window, Granite State Ambassadors

Staff

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Ann Makowski, Chief Financial Officer
Gemma French, VP of Marketing & Public Relations
Will Stewart, VP of Economic Development & Advocacy
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Julie Picard, Program Director
Charlene Courtemanche, Sr. Executive Assistant/Office Mgr.
Alex Amadeo, Customer Relations Specialist
Tammy Boucher, Leadership Greater Manchester

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GREATER MANCHESTER
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
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GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ESTABLISHED 1911.

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

New year, new goals...

Happy New Year! As we begin the new year, we are in the final phase of developing our 2012 strategic plan that will outline our internal and external goals for the year. Writing the plan is the last piece of an extensive process that enables us to understand the members' and community's priorities. You have already been a critical piece of that process. More than 150 Chamber members completed a survey and responded thoughtfully to the questions. I've combed over the surveys many times, and am thankful to have such an engaged membership. The survey results were taken to the Board of Directors in November for a half-day retreat. The conversation at the retreat was animated and dynamic and consistent with members opinions and reflections. Our retreat session was facilitated by Deb Titus of Human Capitol Solutions. She did a remarkable job keeping an energized group of business leaders on track. Deb successfully captured our thoughts, hopes, visions, obstacles, challenges and opportunities.

The overwhelming opinion of those with whom I have had a conversation is that the Chamber should point itself in more substantive ways to the overall area of economic development. Many have suggested our work in the area of government affairs should be more focused at the local level. The opinions of many is that the Chamber should use our legislative work at a state level to first and foremost advance the local and regional agenda. All have agreed that the success of our Metro Center regional economic development is critical, and should be advanced in calculated and prudent ways that serve the region and therefore Manchester and the state too. I'd also like you to know that all goals that are established in the final draft of our strategic plan are from a revised awareness that this planning process highlighted, that the Chamber must be a strong advocate for a favorable business environment and climate so business can be sustained and grow to provide competitive jobs to build desirable communities.

The goals articulated by combining the surveys and retreat dialogs are that the Chamber should advocate for the following:

Sound Infrastructure
Aging infrastructure and dated systems need to be maintained and or new contemporary systems developed, to support business needs and interests and to ensure our communities are desirable locations to establish and sustain businesses and provide jobs.

Expanded Transportation Options
Specific transportation elements and systems will be supported by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce such as (but not limited to): air, rail, bus, bike, walking paths and sidewalks.

Regional Economic Development
Through the Metro Center initiative, the Chamber will continue to develop and nurture productive and cooperative regional relationships while promoting a regional brand and identity through cooperative endeavors like regular meetings. Then development of a regional website and co-op ad campaigns, and other relevant selective, regional economic development programming including sustainable practices.

Destination Manchester
The Chamber will be a tireless advocate for a beautiful, thriving and vital downtown. Riverfront development, a convention center, art and culture, and other relevant and related tourism initiatives will be the focus. We will embark on endeavors that promote Manchester and its people as a desirable place to live, work, and play.

Improved Workforce Development
A skilled and well-prepared workforce is critical to a successful business environment and vital community. The Chamber will advocate for excellence in education and education systems.

In closing, with this article I am giving a glimpse of a draft and a strategic direction versus the end result. I hope you will reach out to me if you have thoughts you would like to share, and please let me know if you do or do not believe the direction I have outlined above is consistent with your priorities and expectations for YOUR Chamber of Commerce. I'll keep in touch with you as we move into fine-tuning the final document. Thank you so much for your support; 2012 will be a great year!

Robin Comstock
President and CEO
GMCC

Member Briefing

Are you new to the Chamber of Commerce? Or are you a longtime member feeling a little disconnected? Come to Member Briefing and learn about all of the ways you can get involved. At this orientation we'll not only serve a continental breakfast and introduce you to at least a dozen new friends, we'll also explain all of our committees and programs and tell you a little about the organization. Plus you can meet our friendly and fun staff and ask as many questions as you'd like!

Wednesday, February 1
7:45 to 9:30 a.m.
Northeast Delta Dental
Conference Room
54 Hanover Street
Manchester
Please reserve your place by calling (603) 792-4122
or visit
www.manchester-chamber.org

Presented By:

NHBR
NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS REVIEW

Breakfast Provided By:

Sweet Retreat

Member News & Updates

CRDC Names Mary Jane Ricker of LSB as "2011 Commercial Lender of the Year"
Laconia Savings Bank is proud to announce that The Capital Regional Development Council (CRDC) has named Mary Jane Ricker, Senior Vice President of Commercial Services for Laconia Savings Bank the "2011 Commercial Lender of the Year." The Capital Regional Development Council is a non-profit development corporation that provides a variety of economic development services to businesses and local governments throughout New Hampshire.

Legacy Park Manchester Begins Leasing Efforts
Legacy Park Manchester, a new residential community in Manchester is now leasing one and two-bedroom apartment homes. The community is situated on 12.6 acres in a superior location at the corner of Bradley and Gold Streets. Minutes from Manchester's South Willow Street retail corridor and The Mall of New Hampshire, Legacy Park Manchester provides excellent access to downtown, Manchester Boston Regional Airport, and Routes 3, 93 and 293.

Granite State Credit Union Proud to Support Veterans Through Honor Flight Star Sales
Granite State Credit Union recently raised more than $1,300 through the sale of stars in support of Honor Flight New England. The NH-based, non-profit organization was founded by Joe Byron in 2008 to thank American Veterans for their service and dedication to our country. The organization's sole purpose is to take as many New England World War II or terminally ill veterans from any war, to the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. Since its inception, 51 veterans have participated in the Honor Flight Program.

Arcadya Salon & Spa Adds New Esthetician
Arcadya Salon & Spa is pleased to announce the addition of esthetician Laurel Guertin. Guertin comes to Arcadya with 10 years of experience in the industry, and she was most recently employed at Not So Plain Jane's Salon and Spa. She was trained at the Catherine Hinds School of Esthetics. At Arcadya, Guertin provides a number of services: waxing, lash extensions, facials, body wraps, advanced skin care, microdermabrasion, spray tanning and bridal makeup artistry.

St. Mary's Bank Donates $15,000 to YMCA of Greater Londonderry
St. Mary's Bank recently donated $15,000 to the YMCA of Greater Londonderry in support of the Y's capital campaign to build the town's first outdoor community swimming pool and state-of-the-art recreation facility. The total capital campaign project, which also includes a ball field complex, ropes course, covered outdoor activities pavilion and basketball court, is expected to be completed by the spring or summer of 2012.

Two Foreclosed and Dilapidated Homes Gone; Now, One New Building Provides a Home to 12 Formerly Homeless Individuals And Their Families
Families in Transition (FIT), a Manchester- and Concord-based homeless services provider, and Housing BeneFITs, a nonprofit started by FIT to improve the supply and quality of affordable housing in New Hampshire, hosted an open house on December 8, to celebrate the opening of their newest housing development on

Continued on page 4

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FREE PROGRAMS
For Members Only

VALUE-ADDED PROGRAMMING
Brought to you by

On the 1st Tuesday Of Every Month

Business Book Club

The Business Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We choose a book the month prior and then get together with a facilitator to engage in a discussion over lunch catered by the Chateau Pizza Company. This is a members-only program and is limited to the first 30 people to sign up. The book club is held in Northeast Delta Dental Conference Room at 54 Hanover Street, Manchester. Lunch provided by:

Books provided by:

Tuesday, February 7
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Principle Centered Leadership by Stephen R. Covey. How do we as individuals and organizations survive and thrive amid tremendous change?

Tuesday, March 6
12:30-1:30 p.m.
The Tipping Point by Malcom Gladwell
The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.

Call 603.792.4122 to register or visit www.manchester-chamber.org

On the 2nd Tuesday Of Every Month

Spotlight On Business

Spotlight on Business is held on the second Tuesday of every month at a different location. Members may sign up to host the event, or simply attend. The goal of this program is to bring people to your business and see your products and services. Lunch is provided.

Tuesday, January 10
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Manchester Community Health Center
145 Hollis Street, Manchester
The Manchester Community Health Center serves 8,500 patients through a premier family practice. It is a place where the area's most vulnerable populations are able to obtain high-quality healthcare in a comfortable setting. Join us for this Spotlight On Business and see why more and more insured patients are choosing MCHC.

Tuesday, February 14
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Eastpoint Executive Center
195 McGregor St., Manchester
Eastpoint Executive Center's Bedford location offers what you would expect of an Executive Level Office with 60 All inclusive suites, conference rooms, virtual identity programs and a location that can't be beat! Enjoy a delicious lunch with a Mardi Gras theme and an hour of networking while experiencing this incredible facility.

Call 603.792.4122 to register or visit www.manchester-chamber.org

On the 3rd Tuesday Of Every Month

Member-led Workshop

Member-led Workshops are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Chamber office at 54 Hanover Street. Each month a Chamber member is invited to host a workshop that may be of value to other Chamber members. Every month it's something different. Lunch is provided by:

Tuesday, January 17
12:30-1:30 p.m.
"7 Keys to Managing IT Every Manager Should Know" Presented by Ryan Barton, Mainstay Technologies
The seminar will teach the key principles any manager, regardless of their technical savvy, needs to know in order to effectively manage technology to keep costs low and leverage it to increase efficiency and productivity.

Tuesday, February 21
12:30-1:30 p.m.
"Profit with Online Business Networking Social Media Marketing" Presented by Chuck Sink, ChuckSink Link
This presentation will introduce you to the fundamentals of using social media platforms to network online and market your organization. A major focus is on using LinkedIn with live demonstrations. Facebook and Twitter will also be covered.

Call 603.792.4122 to register or visit www.manchester-chamber.org

On the 4th Tuesday Of Every Month

Lunchtime Connections

Lunchtime Connections is an intense networking program held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This event is held at the Chamber office at 54 Hanover Street. This program is a sit-down, facilitated networking program around a lunch table. Bring your elevator speech and be prepared to make referrals. Lunch is provided by:

Tuesday, January 24
12:00-1:30 p.m.
Northeast Delta Dental Conference Room
54 Hanover Street, Manchester
Facilitated by Paul Donehue of Paul Charles & Associates and Armand Hebert III of the Referral Institute

Tuesday, February 28
12:00-1:30 p.m.
Northeast Delta Dental Conference Room
54 Hanover Street, Manchester
Facilitated by Deb Titus of Human Capital Solutions and Armand Hebert III of the Referral Institute

Call 603.792.4122 to register or visit www.manchester-chamber.org

Expand Your Network In 2012
Networking events every 2nd and 4th Thursday!

Network PM
TOMORROW'S WORK STARTS TONIGHT.

Thursday, January 12
5-7 pm
Sparetime Bowling
216 Maple Street, Manchester

Spare Time Manchester is one of New Hampshire's premier bowling centers. The center features a state of the art scoring system complete with LCD screens and TVs, an incredible light and sound system that will blow you away, and much more! Join us for Network PM in Spare Time's recently renovated sports bar, City Sports Grille.

Thursday, February 9
5-7 pm
People's United Bank
1750 Elm Street, Manchester

People's United Bank, founded in 1842, is the largest independent bank headquartered in New England. A diversified financial services company, People's United Bank provides consumer, commercial, insurance, retail investment and wealth management and trust services to personal and business customers. Join us at the Manchester location for a night of networking and fun! Catering will be provided by Tidewater catering.

Network AM
DOING BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST.

Thursday, January 26
7:30 -9 am
Blended Solutions
1000 Elm Street, Manchester

Blended Solutions Technical Institute is excited to host Network AM. Enjoy a continental breakfast, raffles and an opportunity to give back to the community. Charlie Sherman of New Horizons will be on hand to collect winter outer wear or canned food items to support the New Horizons Soup Kitchen.

Thursday, February 23
7:30-9 am
Cyr Kitchen & Bath
545 Hooksett Rd., Manchester

Join us for Network AM and see all we have to offer you!

Let Cyr Kitchen and Bath provide you with a free design and estimate. We can handle your project from concept to completion. We have been providing customer satisfaction for over 25 years.

Cost is $5 for Chamber Members • $10 for not-yet-members • Payable at the door • Call 603.792.4122 to register or visit www.manchester-chamber.org

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Chamber Report

Share this newsletter with the rest of your staff...
Route to:

HELP US REACH YOU IN A TIMELY MANNER...
If your name or address is wrong in any respect, please correct directly on label and return to the Chamber.

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Dentist
311 West River Road, Suite 2
Hooksett, NH 03106
Mr. Rick Vega, DDS
(603) 485-7600
www.wecater2cowards.com

Be Day Spa & Image Studio
Salons / Spas
Langer Place, East Entrance Ste. 1.5
55 South Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
Ms. Susan Osborne
(603) 624-2511
www.bedayspa.com

Bugaboo Creek Steak House
Restaurant
216 South River Road
Bedford, NH 03110
Mr. Steve Cataldo
(603) 625-2975
www.bugaboocreek.com

DParker Strategy
Business Coaching/Training & Development
12 Pippen Lane
Pittsfield, NH 03263
Mr. David L. Parker
(603) 321-9743
www.dparkerstrategy.com

Everyday Assistant
Concierge/Personal Assistant
PO Box 3546
Manchester, NH 03105
Ms. Nicole Coderre
(603) 957-0751
www.everyday-assistant.com

GFS Building Maintenance
20 Blaine Street
Manchester, NH 03102
Mr. David Simpson
(603) 668-6612
www.gfsservices.com

Great NH Restaurants, Inc.
Copper Door LLC
Restaurant
15 Leavy Drive
Bedford, NH 03110
Mr. Thomas Boucher
(603) 606-4455
www.copperdoorrestaurant.com

J. Dubs Coffee
Restaurant
1000 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03101
Mr. Jim Whitney
(603) 622-7944
www.jdubscoffee.com

Jazzercise Fitness Center Manchester
Fitness
32 Hayward Street
Manchester, NH 03103
Ms. Susanne Larkham
(603) 624-9122
www.manchjazz.com

McIntyre Ski Area
Attraction
50 Chalet Ct.
Manchester, NH 03104
Mr. Ross Boisvert
(603) 622-6159
www.mcintyreskiarea.com

New York Life
Financial/Investment Services
544 Spruce Street
Manchester, NH 03103
Mr. Jonas Brier, CFP(r)
(603) 361-5981

Roxo Realty LLC
Real Estate/Residential/Relocation
259 Hanover St.
Manchester, NH 03104
Mr. Nate Roxo
(603) 645-4324
www.roxore.com

Thank You to Renewing Members!

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Manchester, Inc • Café Services Inc. • CCA Global Partners
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Dani S. Fine Art • Enterprise Car Sales • EPE Corporation • Farm and Flower Market/The Fruit Center
Franco-American Centre • Gosselin's Superette, Inc. • Granite State Communications
Griffin & Owen, P.C. • Grubb & Ellis|Northern New England • Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of NE
Headshots Photography • Home Health & Hospice Care • Howe, Riley & Howe, CPAs
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JKM Painting, LLC • Lambert Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. • Laundry Equipment Corp.
Life Line Financial Services • m5 • Mall of New Hampshire General Office
Manchester Masonic Bodies • Manchester Police Department • Manchester School District
Montagne Communications • Nature Made Simple, LLC
New Hampshire Dept. of Employment Security • New York Life Insurance Co., Inc.
Normandeau Associates, Inc. • One Dow Court, Inc. • Paul Charles & Associates
Phaneuf Funeral Home • Planet Aid • Rath, Young and Pignatelli • Russell Auto, Inc.
Savoir Faire Marketing/ Communications • Say it in Stitches • Send Out Cards - Dawn C Gentuso
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse-Manchester • Ski 93 Trips • Special Events of New England, LLC
Spectrum Marketing Companies • Springfield College • St. Mary's Bank • Super 8 Motel
Teen Challenge • The Common Man • Thibeault Properties & Investments LLC
Wadleigh, Starr & Peters, P.L.L.C. • Workplace Benefit Solutions • WXRV 92.5 "The River"

GMCC January Committee Meetings

1/6	Fri	Government Affairs Committee - 7:30 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/11	Wed	Green Committee - 8:00 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/12	Thu	Ambassador Committee - 4:00 p.m. - Sparetime Bowling, Manchester
1/17	Tue	Executive Committee - 7:30 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/19	Thu	Downtown Committee - 2:00 p.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/20	Fri	Infrastructure Committee - 7:30 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/24	Tue	Board of Directors - 7:30 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/25	Wed	Leadership Steering Committee - 8:00 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
2/3	Fri	Government Affairs Committee - 7:30 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street

GMCC January Events

1/3	Tue	Business Book Club - 12:30 p.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/10	Tue	Spotlight On Business - 12:30 p.m. - Manchester Community Health Center
1/12	Thu	Network PM - 5:00 p.m. - Sparetime Bowling, Manchester
1/17	Tue	Member-led Workshop - 12:30 p.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/24	Tue	Lunchtime Connections - 12:00 p.m. - 54 Hanover Street
1/26	Thu	Network AM - 7:30 a.m. - Blended Solutions, Manchester
1/27	Thu	Business Government Reception - 7:30 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street
2/1	Wed	Member Briefing - 7:45 a.m. - 54 Hanover Street

Member News & Updates

Continued from page 2

the corner of Belmont and Valley Streets. Construction of the project began in 2010 after FIT received a $2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) through the Community Development Finance Authority.

Citizens Bank and WMUR-TV/9 Enhance *Champions In Action* Program in Response to Economic Challenges Facing Local Nonprofits
Recognizing the specific difficulties that nonprofit organizations face in the current economic climate, Citizens Bank and WMUR-TV announced several enhancements to their signature *Champions in Action*® program. The initiative rewards nonprofit organizations championing change and providing essential programs and services in local communities. Citizens Bank is accepting nominations for the enhanced 2012 *Champions in Action* program, which will focus on two areas of social concern: youth initiatives and neighborhood development. Enhancements to the program include: an increase in financial support from the Citizens Charitable Foundation, from $25,000 to $35,000, an extension of the time period in which each Champion is honored from three months to six months, and the opportunity for the organization's executive director to participate in a president-to-president mentorship with Citizens Bank of New Hampshire President Joe Carelli. The ability for previously-honored organizations to re-apply after five years has lapsed.

Thomas Manson Named 2012 Manchester Corporate Lawyer of the Year
Cook Little Rosenblatt & Manson is proud to announce that Thomas Manson was named the 2012 Lawyer of the Year for Corporate Law in Manchester by Woodward/White's Best Lawyers®, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Only a single attorney in each specialty per community is honored as the Best Lawyer of the Year. Cook Little was named one of the top firms in the state for its Commercial Litigation, Corporate and Trademark practices. The firm was also honored for its Employment Law practice. Additionally, each of the firm's seven partners was honored by U.S. News Media Group with Best Lawyers® distinctions.

Member news is published monthly. Submissions are based on space availability and may be submitted to marketing-pr@manchester-chamber.org.

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
54 Hanover Street
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