



Chamber Channel

Serving the Chamber members of Somersworth, Rollinsford, and the Berwicks of Maine **January 2016**

58 High Street, PO Box 615, Somersworth, NH 03878 • 603-692-7175 • Fax 603-692-4501 • email: info@somersworthchamber.com • www.somersworthchamber.com

Letter from the 2016 Chamber Board Chair



With the news of our Executive Director retiring, please join me in offering many thanks to Jennifer Soldati for dedicating nearly 10 years of time and talent to the Greater Somersworth Chamber. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors and bid her farewell with gratitude and many fond memories.

As incoming Chair during a time of change, I want to keep you informed of interim plans to keep our chamber running smoothly and delivering value to members during our time of transition. The board and executive board are increasing frequency of meetings to develop solid action plans for the months ahead. Our top priorities are to launch an executive director search and keep the chamber office open and responsive to member needs. In early January, be on the lookout for new/temporarily modified hours of operation for the Chamber office.

In 2016 we have several new board members filling vacancies as well as expanding the number of members on the board from 15 to 18. We welcome our new board members and are excited to have additional hands on deck during a time when board member duties and engagement will be of high impact and importance. During this time we will also be calling on you, our members, to play a role in keeping our chamber vibrant and active. Please consider joining one of five committees. Your service to our chamber is needed. You can visit our chamber website for our committee sign up form.

Socrates once said, *The Secret of Change Is to Focus All of Your Energy, Not on Fighting the Old, But on Building the New.* Please consider yourselves invited to help us, *Build the New.* We have an increasingly strong business community in the greater Somersworth, Rollinsford and Berwick areas. We are abundant with potential and opportunity to advance and thrive. During this time of change, let's not skip a beat, and let's unite to bring about a positive evolution of the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce and the value it can bring to our business community.

Lara D. Willard

Obesity and Nutrition Workgroup

The Strafford County Public Health Network will be forming an obesity and nutrition workgroup that will bring together community stakeholders to increase the capacity to address obesity and nutrition in Strafford County.

The work group will be based on the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) model, which has formed successful coalitions that impact nutrition and physical activity practices in counties throughout the state. We have been coordinating with HEAL NH to develop a work group that aims to broaden network priorities and make changes through the sharing of resources, collaborating on funding opportunities, and creating a unified message and plan to address obesity and nutrition in Strafford County.

We will be working together on operationalizing the Obesity and Nutrition Priority in Strafford County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) as well as implementing some of the recommendations in HEAL NH's Healthy People Healthy Places (HPPH).

We would love to get as many organizations/people as possible involved in this new and exciting initiative. The first work group meeting will be held at Goodwin Community Health on Friday January 22nd from 8:30-10am.

If you are interested joining this workgroup, please contact Liz Clark (eclark@goodwinch.org) to be added to the contact list.

Chamber Welcomes North End Station Ristorante



From l-r: Chamber Board member Kathy Sessler of Cornerstone VNA; Dean Crombie, Somersworth Chief of Police; Chamber Board Chair Ann French of Profile Bank; Business owners Patrick Rigione and Tom Kelley; Chamber Board members Lara Willard of Goodwin Community Health and Louise Flood of Tri-City Christian Academy; and City Manager Bob Belmore.

The Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce recently held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony to welcome a new restaurant to Somersworth, P&T North End Station Ristorante. Located in the lower level of Somersworth's train station at 2 Main Street, the restaurant specializes in affordable Italian cuisine serving lunch and dinner daily. The restaurant opens daily at 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Sunday – Thursday and to midnight Friday – Saturday.

Hughes Elected to Cooperative Credit Union Association



Holy Rosary Credit Union (HRCU) President & CEO, Brian Hughes, has been elected to the Cooperative Credit Union Association (CCUA) Board of Directors.

The CCUA is a collaboration of credit unions from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island with a focus on providing members with advocacy, outreach and professional development opportunities. Hughes is one of two Granite State representatives making up the nine member Board.

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve the CCUA and the credit union community," said Hughes. "Through our cooperation and innovation, we will work to enhance the experience of all credit union members, even right here at HRCU."

HRCU serves more than 19,000 members with branch locations in Rochester, Dover and Farmington. The CCUA represents 180 credit unions from the tri-state region, with 17 headquartered in New Hampshire. For more information on the Cooperative Credit Union, visit www.ccuaassociation.org.

HRCU Honors Five More Non-Profits to Conclude Christmas Caring Campaign

Charitable giving program recognized 16 local organizations with over \$25,000 in donations



Holy Rosary Credit Union (HRCU) concluded their 2015 Christmas Caring Campaign last week by recognizing five more local non-profit organizations with holiday donations.

The Spaulding High School (SHS) Raider Station Student Pantry, Hope on Haven Hill, the St. Elizabeth Seton School, Community Action Partnership

(CAP) of Strafford County, and the Somersworth SHARE Fund were all recipients of charitable contributions.

Now in its second year, the Christmas Caring Campaign took place over three weeks in December and awarded sixteen local non-profit organizations with over \$25,000 in charitable giving.

"We were blessed again this year to be able to recognize these outstanding organizations who make a difference right here in our own community," said Brian Hughes, President & CEO of HRCU.

At a presentation in HRCU's Spaulding High School branch, a monetary donation as well as food and hygiene supplies were given to the SHS Raider Station Student Pantry. The Pantry provides students in need with necessary food and personal care items.

"We are here to help students at Spaulding who are not getting the support they need outside of school," said Lyn Curtin, Coordinator of the Pantry and Student Data Coordinator at SHS. "That can be anything from a snack or lunch to in the winter time, hats, gloves and jackets."

Community Action Partnership of Strafford County is another organization gearing up as winter approaches. CAP works with community partners to assist low income and elderly residents in their efforts to become or remain independent through assistance and prevention programs. Prior to their check presentation, CAP staff and volunteers were caught preparing holiday food baskets that would be delivered to local families.

"We thank HRCU for making sure local families have enough to eat this holiday season," said Betsey Andrews Parker, CEO of CAP of Strafford County. "Donations like this go a long way to make sure our holiday food baskets are filled, and families don't have to worry about how they will pay for this special meal."

The Somersworth SHARE Fund, a non-profit outreach program of CAP was also a donation recipient. The SHARE Fund provides emergency assistance of basic needs including food, shelter and clothing to Hilltop City residents.

"We help those who fall through the cracks of the system," said Sylvia Johns, a member of the Board of Directors for the SHARE Fund. "Sometimes it is a simple as giving someone a gas card to get them into a safer living situation."

Providing safe living conditions is something Kerry Norton and Colene Arnold can relate to. Norton, Arnold and a team of volunteers are working to open Hope on Haven Hill by the summer of 2016. The facility, located in Rochester, will provide a safe, nurturing home with therapeutic recovery services for pregnant and postpartum women with Substance Use Disorder.

"In the entire state of New Hampshire there are only seven beds for pregnant women with Substance Use Disorder," said Kerry Norton, Co-Founder of Hope on Haven Hill. "By opening this facility we can double the state's capacity to help these women."

It was the second year in a row that St. Elizabeth Seton School in Rochester received a donation from HRCU to help defray the cost of a new sprinkler system that was installed throughout the school last summer and was needed to keep their doors open.

"There was over eight miles of pipe that needed to be run through the school. It was a huge project," said Principal Suzanne T. Boutin. "HRCU has been a key supporter the whole way."

To donate or volunteer with any of the non-profit organizations mentioned, or for more information on the Christmas Caring Campaign, contact HRCU Marketing Coordinator Michael Mengers at (603) 332-6840.

Thank You, Renewing Members!

American Legion Post 69

Atlantic Mini- Storage

Atlantic Mini Storage-Berwick

Back Bay Networks of NH

Chinburg Builders, Inc.

Colliers International

Comcast

Cornerstone VNA

Dumais & Ferland CPAs, LLC

Hampshire Pewter

House of Hope

Hoyle, Tanner & Associates

iHeart Media

John C. Hoell, D.D.S.

Martel Roberge Function Center

New Hampshire National Guard

Piece O'Cake

Profile Insurance Group, Inc.

Sitara Inc. DBA Hardees Market

Somersworth Early Learning Center

Somersworth Tax Service

Strafford County YMCA

The Homemakers Health Services

Tritech Engineering Corp

Velcro Companies

Waste Management

Executive Director Position Open

The Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce Executive Director will coordinate and implement the many activities of the Chamber of Commerce and report to the Board of. He or she coordinates the activities of many committees, fundraisers, and supervises staff in the pursuit of the Chamber's objectives and strategic goals... To learn more about this position go to our website. www.somersworthchamber.com

The ideal candidate must have a minimum of 5 years of business experience in either the non-profit industry or business and a Bachelor's degree is desired.

To apply: Please submit a resume and letter of interest to SomersworthChamber16@gmail.com attention Search Committee.

Welcome New Board Members 2016



Jacques Breton
MJM Associates



Patty Coffin
Service Credit Union



Brady Dow
The Home Depot



Deborah Evans
*Somersworth
Housing Authority*



Kylie Goodwin
*Ron Currier's
Hilltop Chevrolet*



Peter Juneau
*BayRing
Communications*



Gary Nadeau
*Hannaford Bro.
Supermarkets*



Joseph Siudut
Jass Boxing

2016 Executive Committee



Paul Robidas

VICE CHAIR
American Ambulance

Kathy Guptill

TREASURER
Hampshire Pewter

Lara Willard

CHAIR
Goodwin Community Health

Ann French

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Profile Bank

Jeni Mosca

SECRETARY
SAU #56



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2016 Board of Directors

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Lara Willard
Goodwin Community Health

Vice-Chair
Paul Robidas
American Ambulance

Treasurer
Kathy Guptill
Hampshire Pewter

Secretary
Jeni Mosca
SAU #56

Immediate Past Chair
Ann French
Profile Bank

Jacques Breton
MJM Associates

Dennis Burke
Mr. Electric

Patty Coffin
Service Credit Union

Brady Dow
The Home Depot

Deborah Evans
Somersworth Housing Authority

Louise Flood
Tri-City Christian Academy

Kylie Goodwin
Hilltop Chevrolet

Peter Juneau
Bay Ring Communications

Roland Lapointe
D.F. Richard Energy

Gary Nadeau
Hannaford Bro. Supermarket

Kathy Sessler
Cornerstone VNA

Joseph Siudut
Jass Boxing

Christine Soutter
Somersworth Economic Development Manager

Printer

Digital Ink Printing
 603-692-6002

Calendar

Saturday, January 30th

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**A Gateless Garden Exhibition
 Celebrates Maine Women Writers**
 Sarah Orne Jewett House
 5 Portland St, South Berwick

Saturday, February 6th

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Winterfest Breakfast & Funfest
 Somersworth Festival Association
 Maple Wood Elementary School
 184 Maple Street, Somersworth

Thursday, February 11th

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance
 Idlehurst Café
 46 Stackpole Rd, Somersworth

Saturday, February 21st

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Berwick Winter Famers Market
 Berwick Town Hall
 11 Sullivan Street, Berwick

General Info

Host a Business After Hours

Contact the Chamber at
 603-692-7175 or
info@somersworthchamber.com

No fees - Free Benefit to Members
We do all the marketing for you!

New Temporary Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Or call to set up an appointment.