



March/April 2021

outlooknews

A bi-monthly publication of the Greater Keene & Peterborough Chamber

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Congratulations to the Peterborough Area Spirit of Excellence Award Winners!

The former Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce (GPCOC) Spirit of Excellence Awards have honored individuals and businesses in the Greater Peterborough region for 41 years. The pandemic and subsequent merger of the Greater Keene & Peterborough Chambers put the announcement of the awards on hold. While the GPCOC no longer exists as its own organization, we'd like to recognize and honor the following award winners and finalists for their professional excellence and community commitment!

Patty Blake, former GPCOC board member, is shown presenting awards to the recipients.

2020 Business of the Year

TRIBALS, RUGS BY HAND/PETERBOROUGH ART ACADEMY

Owner Michaela Chelminski

Tribals/PAA has been serving the community for over 25 years. Chelminski is also known by residents as the owner and instructor at the Peterborough Art Academy & Gallery, which shares its space with the rug shop. She utilizes elements of both businesses together, displaying the rugs alongside works by local artists she represents through the art gallery. Artists and art appreciators can shop, browse and learn at the Art Academy & Gallery. Children are nurtured in their artistic and personal growth and development through year-round art classes and summer art camps.



Steven Lipofsky/LipofskyPhoto.com

FINALISTS:

Hubert's, Peterborough Paw Spa, Waterhouse Restaurant & Bar

Award Winners continued on pages 2-3.

Chamber News

SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS (Con't)



Steven Lipofsky/LipofskyPhoto.com

Non-profit Organization of the Year

CVTC (Community Volunteer Transportation Company)

For over 10 years, CVTC has coordinated transportation for riders in the Monadnock Region to get a ride to essential destinations such as doctor appointments, social services, pharmacy and grocery shopping, for no cost. A team of vetted volunteers get them where they need to be, so they no longer need to hesitate to make appointments for their health or worry about their needs. CVTC'S drivers and staff are courteous and trustworthy, and contribute to the health of the entire Monadnock Region, one person at a time.

FINALISTS: Franklin Pierce University, Harris Center for Conservancy, Reality Check



Man of the Year

ED WALKER, Peterborough Fire Chief

Chief Walker is passionate about building community. He's been a long-time member of the Peterborough Rotary Club and has chaired the Pancake Breakfast that has raised thousands of dollars for local charities.



Steven Lipofsky/LipofskyPhoto.com

He is committed to educating the community about behavioral health issues and has championed a partnership with Peterborough Fire & Rescue and Monadnock Community Hospital to be the hospital's ambulance provider. He has been a big part of "Be The Change", our community's Behavioral Health Task Force, and teaches the Youth Mental Health First Aid class for any group that is interested.

FINALISTS: Bill Kennedy, Peter Leishman, Roy Schleiban

Woman of the Year

MANDY SLIVER

Mandy is known for her deeply rooted care for the community. She pursues opportunities for personal growth that equip her to better serve and create greater



Steven Lipofsky/LipofskyPhoto.com

impact through the nonprofits and boards on which she serves. She was involved in the leadership of the Peterborough Women's Club and has been on the steering committee of the 100+ Women Who Care Monadnock. Mandy is now involved in the quality review process at the River Center as a volunteer tax preparer, and also serves the organization as board treasurer/Chair of the Finance Committee. She is currently the Assistant Director of Leadership NH.

FINALISTS: Susan Howard, Sharon Smith, Kim Chandler

The Pinnacle Award

SHARON SMITH

Presented to anyone who works hard to start and/or support an initiative that improves the quality of life for either a particular group or the community.

For many years, Sharon has quietly and effectively given to the community in many ways – volunteering on the leadership team of “End 68 Hours of Hunger,” as a long-standing member of the steering committee of 100+



Steven Lipofsky/LipofskyPhoto.com

Women Who Care Monadnock, through ongoing service to Union Congregational Church, volunteering with the “America Reads” program at the Peterborough Elementary School, as an officer of the “Friends of the Library,” and as a corporator/supporter of the 1833 Library Project. She’s also been involved with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program for over 28 years and is known for dedicating herself to the “littles”, planning fun and educational outings and activities with them.

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The Paul Hobbs Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year Award

NUTTIN’ ORDINARY, Adam Hamilton and Josh Velasquez



Steven Lipofsky/LipofskyPhoto.com

Nuttin’ Ordinary is one of the most unique products to ever come out of Peterborough. Adam and Josh created cashew cheese without a recipe or another product to model it after and experimented until they had something unique and delicious. As a zero-waste manufacturer, they take pride in creating foods that are both earth friendly and sustainable. They have grown their business from a local Peterborough market to east coast distribution at Whole Foods, Wegmans, and Market Basket. They plan to increase production, hire more staff and expand distribution across the country.

2021 Leadership Monadnock Program Update

In a normal year, the 2020/2021 Leadership Monadnock program would have started this past September. This year, due to the on-going pandemic, it was postponed. The Chamber considered conducting a shortened but thorough program starting in early 2021. However, after much thought, it was decided that shortening the program and offering it virtually would not serve the participants.



The next cohort of Leadership Monadnock will begin in October 2021.

The Chamber will communicate when applications are available. If you have questions, please call (603) 352-1303 or email: leadershipmonadnock@keenechamber.com.

Have You Tried the Chamber’s MemberPlus Mobile App?

MemberPlus is the only app designed to let Chamber members interact directly with the Greater Keene & Peterborough Chamber and each other. This FREE mobile application allows members to:

- Receive notifications from the Chamber
- Link to their Member Information Center
- View member listings
- Update profile information
- Register for events
- Interact with other members
- Post & view jobs, hot deals and member-to-member specials

The MemberPlus app is FREE to download and available for iOS and Android devices. Download at iTunes or Google Play, and search for “memberplus”. You can download the app and try a demo account, or log in with your current member credentials and begin using it immediately.

To learn more about the MemberPlus app, attend a Chamber 101 Workshop, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from noon–1 pm via Zoom.

If you have any questions, contact Christine Hadlow, at (603) 352-1303 x16.

Member News

Shae Sterrett, LLC, a virtual yoga therapy practice and holistic wellness practitioner based in Keene, NH, has created a unique 9-week self-mastery experience that combines all the personal wellness and self-help practices people are looking for right now to combat stress, depression, anxiety and burnout: *Evolution from Within*.



SHAE

The program includes weekly therapeutic yoga classes, private Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy sessions,

meditation, mindfulness, mindful self-compassion and stress management coaching, a guided day retreat and many other benefits to inspire participants to practice self-care, learn tools and practices to radically transform stress and bring more bliss into their life.

This is a 100% virtual experience which allows for the ultimate in safety, confidentiality and convenience. One of the unique benefits of this program is that it is a group experience that allows participants to connect in community. Learn more at <https://shaesterrett.ac-page.com/evolution-from-within>.

As a pilot program, this first experience is being offered at 50% off the regular price, Shae Sterrett, LLC is also offering two scholarships once there are eight paying participants.

<https://shaesterrett.com/>

Monadnock Humane Society announced the awards for Volunteer and Employee of the Year at their 2020 virtual Annual Meeting. After reviewing dozens of nominations submitted by co-workers and MHS volunteers, nominating committees comprised of MHS staff, volunteers, and former award recipients made the final selections. The Volunteer of the Year was chosen based on how the person demonstrates passion and commitment to the MHS mission. To

be eligible for the award, nominees must actively volunteer at MHS for at least a year.

Employee of the Year nominees are chosen based on the person's ability to consistently go above and beyond in their job, as well as their demonstrated passion and commitment to the MHS mission. Eligible nominees must be an MHS employee for at least a year.

This year's honorees are:

2020 MHS Outstanding Employee of the Year – Ashley Okola, Assistant Shelter Manager/Feline Coordinator



Okola enjoys mentoring and guiding new shelter employees in a sometimes-overwhelming environment. She is always professional and never hesitates to jump in and do whatever is needed - whether it is animal care, triaging incoming phone calls, or helping with some of the marketing initiatives. Most recently, Ashley spearheaded the Foster Care Program, and was instrumental in moving all the shelter animals into foster care during the COVID crisis. She always goes the extra mile in whatever she does with a positive, helpful attitude.

2020 MHS Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – Steve Schumacher

Schumacher is dependable and passionate about caring for the dogs at MHS. You can count on his smile, calm demeanor, and willingness to help. He does his best to take every dog for a walk no matter the weather and gives them lots of love, treats and cuddles. He even takes hard-to-adopt dogs to downtown Keene where they can get more exposure to potential adopters. He helps



train the dogs in basic commands and leash walking, which also makes them more adoptable.

To watch the award presentations at the 2020 Annual Meeting, a recorded version of the entire event is available at www.monadnockhumanesociety.org.

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The Monadnock Humane Society was chosen as 1 of 5 organizations whose virtual fundraisers were hand-selected from more than 30,000 campaigns on Givebutter, an online fundraising portal, in 2020. The category is "Most Compelling Livestream Event." The Toasty Awards, Givebutter's first digital celebration of excellence and innovation in online fundraising, announced the finalists for the awards program.

Kathy Collinsworth, MHS executive director said that "Each campaign's story is awe-inspiring, so we are truly honored by this nomination. It's been great to partner with Givebutter, a platform that is designed for virtual events and is very easy to use."

For more information about Monadnock Humane Society, and to download a copy of their 2020 Report to the Community, visit www.monadnockhumanesociety.org.

Savings Bank of Walpole announced that Danielle Ruffo, Community Engagement Officer, has been appointed as Vice Chair of the Board for Keene Housing Kids Collaborative (KHKC). She has been actively involved with the organization for the past few years, previously serving as Treasurer on KHKC's Board.



KHKC is a local non-profit organization that serves kids who live in housing owned or managed by Keene Housing, including Housing Choice voucher

holders. Their mission is building a successful adulthood by giving kids access to opportunities and experiences in the community that will help them gain confidence, have fun, learn, get ready for kindergarten, do well in elementary school, and exit high school with the tools that will help them become economically independent adults.

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Savings Bank of Walpole is pleased to announce the introduction of **The Julie Tewksbury Scholarship for Working Moms**. The Bank-sponsored scholarship is designed to help support the efforts of working moms who want to grow professionally and personally, and to help them become great leaders in their fields and in the community. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded annually. The Bank has begun accepting applications which are available online.

The scholarship pays homage to longtime Bank employee **Julie Tewksbury**, who served as Senior VP of Operations for Savings Bank of Walpole before retiring in 2020. As an employee for 28 years and a member of the Bank's leadership team for 15 of them, Tewksbury's contributions were many and included championing workplace education initiatives to help promote ongoing career growth for employees – many of whom were working mothers like herself.

Interested scholarship applicants should visit <https://walpolebank.com/scholarship-for-working-moms/> to fill out the one-page application which must be accompanied by a current resume as well as one to two references. Winners will be chosen by a small panel comprised of local community leaders and bank employees.
www.walpolebank.com

The **Monadnock Food Co-op** recently completed a Lactation Space for its employees, part of an effort to improve workplace breastfeeding. This private room includes a comfortable chair, a

hospital-grade breast pump, and other needed supplies. New mothers will receive a pumping kit and a breastmilk cooler, compliments of the Monadnock Food Co-op.

This project was supported by Keene State College's Public Health faculty in cooperation with the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, with funding from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The Co-op was one of 34 businesses across the state of New Hampshire to receive grant support.

When the room is not needed for lactation purposes, the staff are welcome to use it for wellness, mindfulness, and meditation.

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Monadnock Food Co-op recently promoted **Ned Braley** to the position of Customer Service Manager. Braley started with the Co-op in 2013 and became Assistant Customer Service Manager in 2014.



"Ned's tenure at the Co-op has prepared him well to lead the Front End into the future," said Assistant Store Manager **Pat Cotter**. "We are all excited to see what changes and improvements Ned has planned for our Customer Service Team."

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Shoppers at the Monadnock Food Co-op collectively donated \$6,486.68 to **The Community Kitchen** of Keene during their December "Round It Up" donation drive. Customers rounded up their purchases to donate their change to The Community Kitchen.

"The Community Kitchen has the word 'community' in its title for a reason," said **Phoebe Bray**, Executive Director of The Community Kitchen. "The community truly supports the organization and the work we do. Monadnock Food Co-op has at the very base of its mission

the community's well-being -- and the Community Kitchen is so grateful for their support and the support of their members and customers."

The Co-op's Round It Up donation program empowers shoppers to make a positive change in their community by rounding up their change for local agencies like The Community Kitchen. During the Co-op's last fiscal year, the Round It Up program raised over \$47,895 and supported seven nonprofits.

www.monadnockfood.coop

Cheshire Medical Center now offers urgent primary care visits on its main campus at 580 Court Street. The walk-in care services provided by Cheshire at the Emerald Street location in Keene have been discontinued. Urgent primary care visits will continue to be available 365 days a year, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays; and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the weekend, with holiday hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This change allows Cheshire to provide its extensive health care services in one convenient location. Designated parking for urgent primary care visits will be near the West Entrance of Cheshire Medical Center.

"We look forward to continuing to care for our patients' acute medical needs, whether in person or via Virtual Visit," says **Marika Henegan, MD**, medical director of Urgent Visits and Keene Ambulatory Respiratory Evaluation Service (KARES). "Whether you have an everyday illness such as a sinus or ear infection, or you have a minor injury like a fracture or a cut that needs stitches, we can provide high-quality care quickly. If you have symptoms that may be COVID-19, calling us before you arrive allows us to provide the most appropriate care and help you schedule testing."

Same-day urgent visits will be available to Cheshire patients and community members who wish to establish care with a primary care provider at Cheshire. To

Member News

receive care for non-life-threatening problems or those that could become worse if delayed, including diagnostic services such as X-rays and lab tests, call (603) 354-5484 for screening and registration before you visit. Screening for COVID symptoms is ongoing at Cheshire Medical Center.

Cheshire is also expanding telehealth services for their patients' urgent medical needs. Urgent Virtual Visits allow patients to receive the same quality care by meeting with their provider via video conferencing. Prior to an appointment, all patients are pre-screened based on their symptoms to determine whether a Virtual Visit or an in-person visit is needed.

Patients who use these services can conveniently access their medical records and test results, including the records of their urgent visits, and can contact their provider through their myD-H patient portal.

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Cheshire Medical Center is pleased to welcome **Jaye Morgan, PA-C**, to the General Surgery department. Morgan recently earned her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston in May of 2020. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Premedical and Health Studies from MCPHS.



She has spent the last year and a half in clinical rotations at several Massachusetts hospitals, including Newton Wellesley Hospital, in Newton, Massachusetts, where she served in the General Surgery department. She also has experience at Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston as a patient operations assistant.

www.cheshiremed.org

Northeast Delta Dental is encouraging Monadnock region

residents to nominate a community for the ExcellenceNorth Alliance's (ENA) "Dr. Sylvio Dupuis Community Excellence Award". This award was created to recognize New Hampshire communities that reflect Dr. Dupuis' lifelong work to improve communities for the benefit of citizens and families in New Hampshire.

"From the development of arts and education to political, economic and non-profit project leadership and development, Dr. Sylvio Dupuis epitomizes the effort to bring and sustain excellence in his community," explained **Tom Raffio**, Chair of ENA's Board and President & CEO of Northeast Delta Dental. "Creating a Vision, purpose and values along with promoting legal and ethical behavior is a Dupuis trademark. An excellent communicator with all stakeholders, he is always working to create an environment for success along with a focus on action. It's exactly why we are so honored to name this Community Excellence Award after him."

The Community Excellence Award will recognize and raise awareness of communities in New Hampshire, that through ingenuity and innovation, are making improvements that benefit economic conditions, quality of life, education, and/or public health. In this award, communities are not limited by boundaries and are defined as a group of people working together with a common goal to provide these benefits to a city/town, neighborhood, or region. The goal is to not only recognize these communities but to share best practices from these successes and encourage other communities to follow suit.

The submission deadline is April 30, 2021. To get more information on ENA, this award and how to nominate a community visit <https://excellencenorth.org/>. www.nedeltadental.com

The regional accounting firm of **Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA** announced that staff members **Matthew Nadeau**, CPA, CVA, CFE, **Melissa Biron**, CPA, and

Demetrios "James" Mitkonis, CPA have been promoted.

Matthew Nadeau became familiar with Nathan Wechsler in 2009, when he first joined the firm as an intern. After graduating from college, he spent just under two years with a Big Four firm before joining the Nathan Wechsler team fulltime in 2012 as an associate. He worked hard to rise through the ranks, serving as a senior associate, supervising senior accountant, manager, and senior manager. With this promotion, which will go into effect in the summer of 2021, Nadeau takes on the role of principal. A well-rounded professional, Nadeau works on all phases of audit and tax engagements, including planning, preparing financial statements, and formulating income tax returns. He specializes in serving manufacturers and construction businesses, performing business valuations, and assisting with mergers and acquisitions.



In 2010, Nadeau graduated from Bentley University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Finance and Accounting. He went on to study at Stetson University, graduating in 2011 with a Master of Science in Accounting. An active participant in the professional community, Nadeau is currently affiliated with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the New Hampshire Society of Certified Public Accountants (NHSCPA). He is the immediate past President and current Board Member of Second Start in Concord, NH.

A member of the firm since 2007, **Melissa Biron** has spent the entirety of her professional accounting career with Nathan Wechsler. She leads teams on attestation engagements,



ensuring that engagement objectives are met, and client expectations are exceeded. Biron specializes in working with clients in the nonprofit and manufacturing sectors.

A 2007 graduate of Plymouth State University, Biron holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Professionally, she is affiliated with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the New Hampshire Society of Certified Public Accountants (NHSCPA), and the Leadership Greater Concord Program class of 2013. Within the community, Biron serves as a board member of Waypoint and previously sat on the board of the Upreach Therapeutic Riding Center.

A member of the firm since 2012, **James Mitkonis** previously served as a manager. In his new capacity as a senior manager, he is responsible for directing all phases of audit engagements, including planning, financial statement preparation, and delivery of services. He serves both business and individual clients, with a particular focus in the nonprofit sector.



A graduate of the University of New Hampshire's Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics, Mitkonis holds both a Master of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing. He is a member of the New Hampshire Society of Certified Public Accountants and serves within his local community as a board member and the treasurer of Circle Program. Mitkonis is married and he and his wife have twin sons.

www.nathanwechsler.com

Each quarter **GFA Federal Credit Union** selects a member with an active Fusion Savings Account to receive a bonus reward of up to \$250, however, in 2020 the Credit Union extended its program to assist the many members financially impacted by the coronavirus. GFA decided

to give back to its members in a big way.

The first quarter of 2020, a Hubbardston Member was awarded \$250 through the Fusion Savings Program. For the second quarter GFA was able to help 23 members to stretch their recently received Economic Impact Payments or "Stimulus Checks" collectively by over \$1,200 through the Program. The third and fourth quarter Fusion Savings recipients were members of the Rutland office and the Gardner, Pearson Boulevard office.

The Fusion Savings program originated in October of 2008, a solution that encourages systematic savings and gives savers the chance to earn bonus rewards each quarter. One Fusion Savings bonus recipient stated, "We set up this account as a rainy-day fund, winning the \$250 really helps grow our savings for when we will need it."

To learn more about the Fusion Savings Account and how you can be eligible to win the quarterly bonus rewards visit gfafcu.com/banking/savings/fusion-savings-account.

Each Friday, GFA Federal Credit Union employees are encouraged to dress Casual for a Cause, wearing jeans to work in exchange for a donation to local community organizations.

GFA employees were asked to submit recommendations for organizations in their branch communities, where the contribution could make the biggest impact. The Casual for a Cause contribution of 2020 will benefit the following eight community organizations:

Ashburnham Community Church Food Pantry, Ashburnham, MA

Gardner CAC, Gardner, MA

Ginny's Helping Hands Food Pantry, Leominster, MA

Mount Wachusett Community College Student Relief Fund, Gardner, MA

People's United Food Pantry, Ashburnham, MA

Peterborough's Operation Santa, Peterborough, NH

The Community Kitchen, Keene, NH

The Rindge Food Pantry, Rindge, NH

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At a recent meeting of the GFA Board of Directors, **Jeffrey Scott** was promoted to Senior Vice President. Scott joined the credit union in May 2020 as Vice President, Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

Tina M. Sbrega, President and CEO stated, "Jeff is a proven technology leader whose strategic perspective, commitment to operational



excellence, and collaborative leadership approach will continuously evolve the technology focus at GFA. We are confident he will continue to have success in leading initiatives to increase efficiency and provide a secure and superior member experience. His knowledge of and commitment to cyber security provides us great comfort knowing we are protecting the confidential information of our members and our credit union."

Scott has over 20 years of experience in the banking technology industry and has played a key role in the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of GFA's information technology systems. As Senior Vice President, he will continue to direct the Credit Union's technology investments and assets, while ensuring they meet the changing demands of members in a digitally focused financial environment. Propelling GFA forward by evaluating new technology and applications; establishing and implementing information systems security policies and procedures; managing technology resources; and leading information technology team.

www.gfafcu.com

Member News



WKNE Good Friends

Soft, cuddly and collectible Good Friends, which are 100% donated from Douglas Cuddle Toys, were sold at the Savings Bank of Walpole and "Feed a Friend" Live Broadcasts during the months of November and December 2020-- for \$10 each.

Here, Danielle Ruffo & Mark Bodin of the Savings Bank of Walpole, Scott Clarke from Douglas Cuddle Toys and Steve & Teri from KNE FM are presenting Ann Henderson of Monadnock Understands Childhood Hunger Coalition with a check for \$24,000 -- proceeds from the 2020 Good Friend sales!

SAVE THE DATE!

46th Annual GKPC Golf Classic

Bretwood Golf Course
June 16, 2021

Watch for Sponsorship
opportunities and more details to
come!

Local restaurants are cooking and
packaging individual meals for
members of our community in need.
Meal distribution begins on Tuesday
February 2, 2021.



FREE DRIVE-THRU MEALS



Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6pm
First come, first served.



South Meadow School
Rear Upper Parking Lot
108 Hancock Road
Peterborough, NH

No sign-ups.
Masks required for safety.

Sponsor:



**A collaboration to feed our
community and support our
restaurants during Covid.**

Partners: Peterborough Fire and
Rescue Association, Cornucopia
Project, Peterborough Food Pantry,
The River Center, ConVal School
District, the Town of Peterborough,
local churches and restaurants.

Questions: community@peterboroughnh.gov
More Information: <http://bit.ly/PboroMealsToGo>

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March Business AFTER Hours

American House Senior Living Communities

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

5:00 PM



Join the Greater Keene and Peterborough Chamber and American House Keene for a St. Patrick's day infused Business after Hours. Grab a pint, wear your green, and get ready for an enjoyable evening with the staff at American House who will engage you in a bit o' blarney and test you with some Irish trivia. We will go on a grand tour and meet a resident lad or lass who will share a wee story with us.

Stay for the hour and your name will be entered to win a raffle prize to a local business! We look forward to seeing you there! Sláinte!

Please RSVP to the GKCC:

- Online at keenechamber.com
- Call (603) 352-1303
- Email info@keenechamber.com



Chamber 101

Maximizing Your Membership

Hosted by Christine Hadlow, GKPC Member Services Manager

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Noon



This is a free Member orientation session designed to help you navigate the Members Only Information Center and learn ways to promote your business through the Chamber.

Offered the 2nd Tuesday of every month, all members are invited to attend this interactive workshop. Complete your member profile. Learn how to upload a profile picture and logo, post status updates, hot deals, events, photos, videos and more to the social feed, comment on content; learn how to update account settings.

Register online at www.keenechamber.com or e-mail info@keenechamber.com. Once registered, you'll receive a confirmation email with the Zoom meeting info.

Do you have a topic or area of interest to other Chamber members that can be presented virtually?

The Chamber is looking for members to host virtual B2B lunches.

Please contact Nancy Bishop at nbishop@keenechamber.com to get on the schedule!

New Members



Twenty-five years ago, a man had a dream to start a company that would use stories to help others. His idea came from being a songwriter and a newspaper editor, among other things.

He worked from home, which enabled him to be there for three young children while their mother held down a sales position that paid the bills while the business got off the ground.

The man, **Bill Plante**, came up with a great slogan: *“Your business has a story to tell. Our business is to tell it.”*

Many of the first projects had an educational focus. Plante turned a life-skill called Media Literacy into a means of helping young people to think critically about their own attitudes and behaviors. Projects included two programs – Aducation, which taught 5th grade students how to deconstruct advertisements, and Flashpoint, a series for at-risk youth used in judicial settings, ranging from juvenile diversion to maximum security facilities. Flashpoint was formally evaluated and found effective by investigators from Harvard School of Education.

As projects came in, the Plante home office began to fill with cameras and editing software and musical instruments. The kids soon took up these tools and began to help their Dad. Today Ashley, Chris and Joe Plante are highly regarded and successful photographers, videographers and music producers. Joe, who returned to New England from Colorado at the outset of the Covid pandemic, is now a resident of Peterborough, where his parents had moved in 2019. He is Creative Director of New Media, which is now a New Hampshire-registered corporation.

New Media is a valued partner to organizations that want to move people with their stories. Their programs have helped non-profits and schools to raise tens of millions of dollars. They have deep communication experience in physician practices, community banking and manufacturing. Recent work includes a 35-minute history of the oldest mutual bank in America and much of the great video content to be found on the up-and-coming online initiative Xplore Monadnock.

New Media Associates, Inc.
60 Old Greenfield Road, Peterborough, NH
(978) 270-5442
<http://www.newmediastorytellers.com/>
Bill@newmediastorytellers.com



NH Job Board, LLC is a locally managed online job portal developed for by longtime Keene resident and Army veteran, **Tony Morrison**.

The company was created on the premise that local is better, especially in the employment sector. With an array of affordable packages, NH Job Board is a valuable employment resource for small businesses with a couple of employees up to the largest companies in New Hampshire.

Employer Benefits

Employers who sign-up at nhjobboard.com receive a company profile page to highlight their brand and show current openings. In addition, employer accounts will benefit from an enhanced dashboard allowing companies to better track applicants during the hiring process. Finally, nhjobboard.com is built on a user-friendly, secure, and mobile-responsive platform to provide employers a flawless online experience on any device.

Employment Blog

NH Job Board is unique to its competitors, featuring a blog related to New Hampshire employment. They are always looking for contributors, so if writing is a passion of yours and you work in a relevant field, contact them at success@nhjobboard.com.

Job Candidate Advantages

NH Job Board is a free service to candidates. Job seekers can create a profile and upload their resume to potentially be found by an employer. Additionally, everyone is encouraged to sign up for job alerts to be the first to know of new opportunities.

NH Job Board, LLC
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More New Members

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12 Vose Farm Road, Peterborough NH
(603) 371-3200
www.soclean.com

Alpine Healthcare Center

298 Main Street, Keene NH
(603) 352-7311
www.alpine-hc.com

Monadnock Habitat for Humanity

(603) 357-8474
www.monadnockhabitat.org

Winchester Economic Development Corporation

contact@winchesterredc.org
www.winchesterredc.org

True REST Keene

437 West Street, Keene NH
(603) 354-3191
www.truerest.com/locations/keene

Temescal Wellness

69 Island Street, Suite 1 Keene NH
(603) 219-4158
www.nh.temescalwellness.com

Thank You Renewing Members!

The following members renewed their memberships in January and February 2021:

Applewood Care & Rehabilitation Center

Applied Employment

Arts Alive! Inc.

Carl Jacobs

Cheshire Cleaning

Cheshire Home Inspections LLC

Cheshire Wellness Center

ConvenientMD Urgent Care

Corning Specialty Materials

Costello, Valente & Gentry, PC

Cynthia A. Knipe, RDN, LD

David O'Neil Construction, LLC

Farrell Video Productions

Franklin Pierce University

Frisky Cow Farm Products

GFA Federal Credit Union

Greater Monadnock SHRM

Hannah Grimes Marketplace & Center

Howard Printing

Jay Kahn, State Senato

Katie Sutherland Architect

Keene Montessori School

Liberty Utilities

Life Safety Fire Protection, Inc

Mi-Box of Central NH

Mint Premium Car Wash

Monadnock Broadcasting Group

Monadnock Economic Development Corp

Monadnock Ledger Transcript

Papagallos Restaurant

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At Savings Bank of Walpole, we appreciate the way local businesses go above and beyond to make a difference in our community—one reason why the Raynors have been longtime SBW customers. Ready for business banking that makes a difference? Call **603-352-1822** or learn more at walpolebank.com.

"Savings Bank of Walpole is truly local and they pay as much attention to our community as we do," says Dr. Stephanie. "In addition to making business banking more convenient for us, we can always rely on them—we know they're always on our side."



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"Like SBW, we're in the practice of helping our community."

Community & Industry **Events**

Monadnock Food Co-op

Local Investment 101: How to Reboot the Region's Economy After COVID-19

March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2021 • 5:30-7:30 pm.

The Monadnock Food Co-op will co-sponsor this event series with Community Economist Michael Shuman. This virtual series is designed to help grassroots investors and community groups develop practical, local investment strategies to fuel innovation and resilience in their community.

Small businesses throughout Vermont and New Hampshire have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdowns, as have the local economies that depend on them. One readily available solution—one that does not depend on government intervention—is to mobilize grassroots investment. Americans now have \$56 trillion in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, pension funds, and insurance funds—nearly all of it invested in global corporations. Shuman will help participants develop a plan to move some of their investment dollars from Wall Street to Main Street.

The cost for the entire four-part series is \$100. Scholarships are available upon request. Find more details and registration at tlcmonadnock.com/investing.

NH Business for Social Responsibility

Silver Linings: Resiliency and Regeneration, a Virtual Sustainable Business Conference

May 5-6, 2021 • 9 am - 1 pm

NHBSR's 20th Annual Spring Conference presented by Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, will feature keynotes from sustainable business pioneers, Margaret Heffernan and Emily Lane. Their leadership encourages us all to lead with purpose and drive innovative thinking into how we emerge from uncertainty and challenge with more resiliency and opportunity.

Contact Michelle Veasey at (603) 391-8471, michelle@nhbsr.org, or visit www.nhbsr.org to learn more. Register at nhbsr.org/conference

The Monadnock Restaurant Project: Eat, Drink & Build Community

The Local Crowd Monadnock, Culinary Journeys, and Food Connects have partnered to launch The Monadnock Restaurant Project, a homegrown stimulus effort. A virtual press conference was held on February 3rd to introduce the project and answer questions.



This project will invest \$10,000 to purchase gift cards from participating locally owned restaurants. The group plans to strategically disperse these gift cards to community members who will spend the cards quickly, providing an immediate shot in the arm to Keene's local economy this winter.

"It could be a really rough few months for our fellow restaurateurs and if we don't do something soon, we could lose some of the businesses on the edge," said Luca Paris, owner of Luca's Mediterranean Café. "We can't wait for someone else to help us. Eat, drink and build community! Let's do this as a community—quickly and safely."

The project team anticipates that community members will spend twice the amount of their gift cards when redeemed, doubling the impact of this project by infusing \$20,000 to these cash-strapped businesses.

According to the Monadnock Indie Impact Study, locally owned retailers return 62.4% of their revenue to the local economy, while national chain retailers return just 13.6% of revenue—meaning that locally owned businesses return over 4x more money to the local economy compared to chain retailers.

Culinary Journeys is funding Phase 1 of the project and invites local community members to fund future rounds.

To learn more about the project or to contribute to the Crowdfunding effort, visit <https://tlcmonadnock.com/stimulus> or contact Jen Risley at jen@thelocalcrowd.com or 603-400-9157.

Building Youth Apprenticeship in New Hampshire

Wednesday, March 10 at 9 am



The Community College System of NH has been awarded a \$3.45 million grant from the US Department of Labor to develop a pre-apprenticeship to registered apprenticeship model for high school students across the state.

During this event you will meet the youth apprenticeship team, learn the details of the grant, and work with stakeholders to discuss opportunities, strengths, barriers, and strategies for moving this initiative forward.

Join using this Google Meet Link:
<https://meet.google.com/xtu-qcts-kqs>

Thank you to NH Tech Alliance for their support of this event.

Questions?

Contact Anne Banks at 603-230-3544 or abanks@ccsnh.edu



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FREE online application at www.rivervalley.edu



Resiliency Academy for Small Business and Communities



April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19 and June 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

UNH Extension and NH Small Business Development Center are partnering to offer Resiliency Academy, bringing together small businesses and community leaders to work toward a resilient future. The academy will focus on the intersection of small business and community resiliency.

Academy sessions will include opportunities to learn from practitioners, municipal staff, business owners and experts through case studies, presentations, discussions and Q&A sessions. In addition, Resiliency Academy includes Regional Discussions, Regional Business Cohorts and the opportunity for businesses to receive advising from SBDC advisors. Participants are encouraged to attend all five sessions.

Resiliency Academy will explore:

- Resiliency planning and business retention
- Defining and measuring resilience
- Value and Supply Chains
- Workforce Needs and Quality of Life
- Communications and Cybersecurity
- Innovation, Sustainability and Partnerships

Why is community & business resiliency important?

Business resiliency is the ability to quickly adapt and respond to business disruptions, protect your employees and assets, while maintaining business operations. Every business regardless of size, industry, or stage of growth needs a resiliency plan because at some point it will face an unexpected disruption, like a fire, flood or pandemic. A business resiliency plan is a guide on how to function during an unexpected disruption in operations. Throughout Resiliency Academy, we will provide training for businesses to develop resiliency plans.

Community resiliency is the ability of a community to respond, adapt, withstand and recover from adverse situations, like a natural disaster or pandemic. To strengthen and prepare for future disruptions, communities should consider resilience topics in their planning. Communities can also learn about business resiliency to help strengthen businesses in their community.

Who should attend:

Small businesses, community leaders and volunteers, municipal officials, Chamber Executives, economic development professionals and those interested in resiliency planning. This academy is designed for New Hampshire communities and businesses but is open to others.

Why you should attend:

- Businesses will receive the tools and support needed to develop a business resiliency plan. Participants will receive access to the Business Resiliency Guide and Workbook, have the opportunity to join a Regional Business Cohort and receive advising from SBDC.
- Communities will receive tools and information to address resilience topics in their planning. Communities will also have the opportunity to learn about business resiliency to strengthen and help retain businesses in their community.

For more information, contact: Christine Wolczko, Christine.Wolczko@unh.edu or Liz Gray, Liz.Gray@unh.edu