

YOUR CHAMBER NEWS



SRI CHAMBER'S NEWSLETTER SUMMER | FALL 2020



Virtual Edition!

**AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS & BINGO
BEGIN MONDAY, AUGUST 10TH!**

DETAILS INSIDE!



Welcome to The SRI Chamber | New Members



Chelsea Groton Bank
Krissa Beene
860-448-4212
Groton, CT

Based in Groton, Connecticut, **Chelsea Groton Bank** is a full-service mutually owned bank with over \$1 billion in assets. Chelsea Groton Bank's products and services include consumer banking, business banking, mortgage and business lending, cash management, financial planning, and financial education classes. With 14 branch locations throughout New London County and a Loan Production Office in Hartford County, Chelsea Groton Bank also provides online and mobile banking, 24-hour telephone banking, and nationwide ATM banking for individuals, families, and businesses.

Maureen Lawton had a small shop in Connecticut for many years. She started her new business, **Cottage Chic Décor**, after moving from Connecticut to her home in Rhode Island full time in June of 2019. Maureen sells home décor and is a decorator that has the ability to walk into a room and immediately know what to do and what it needs. She has an inventory of cottage style furniture, architectural pieces, vintage bar sets and carts, glassware, lamps, and textiles. She likes to use a lot of what the client has, and then add pieces old and new which is very helpful in keeping within a client's budget.



Cottage Chic Décor

Cottage Chic Décor
Maureen Lawton
860-798-4768
Narragansett, RI



JE Group Properties
Justin Gallant
401-742-0958
South Kingstown, RI

JE Group Properties is a low fee, full service real estate brokerage focusing on residential and commercial properties. They are proud to stand out from their competition by only charging a 3.5% commission rate to list and sell their clients' properties, while the traditional model calls for a 5-6% commission rate. Older brokerages still utilize this commission structure that was established in the 1950s, but JE Group Properties newer model allows them to split the commission with cooperating brokerages and still provide them with the ability to focus their advertising on finding buyers for their clients.

Michelle Proia is a Senior Loan Officer offering financing for homebuyers and homeowners. She works with Rhode Island Housing and Massachusetts Housing. Michelle started with Main Street Home Loans in June 2019, and previously spent six years at Coastway Community Bank. She has been recognized as a top 10 loan officers in the state with RI Housing for the last 5 years.



MAIN STREET HOME LOANS
FROM MAIN STREET TO YOUR STREET

Main Street Home Loans offer competitive rates and programs including FHA/VA/USDA and jumbo financing.

Main Street Home Loans
Michelle Proia
401-641-0109
Providence, RI



Mischief Managed Mayhem to Manners
Jo Ferraris
401-321-4525
Richmond, RI

Jo Ferraris opened **Mischief Managed Mayhem to Manners** in October 2018. They employ modern, science-based approaches to dog training. They offer completely flexible training classes both in person and virtually, and specialize in puppy training, manners, reactivity, aggression, and K9 nose work.



Welcome to The SRI Chamber | New Members



Karen Emma is the President/Founding Partner of **Universal Wealth Management, LLC**, a Rhode Island-based firm that specializes in wealth management and insurance services. For more than 20 years, she has been a successful Wealth Management leader, providing personalized investment advice to clients. She successfully provides personal, family, business, estate, healthcare, and career financial advice and management to more than 500 households and manages in excess of \$250 million in assets.

Universal Wealth Management

Cynthia Bailey
401-331-7600
Cranston, RI

Universal Wealth Management was established in January 2007. Their primary goal is to offer their clients sound financial and investment advice without the corporate pressure to sell one or more proprietary products. This allows them to work more closely in their client and advisor relationship to best help accomplish their client's long-term financial goals. Their mission is to expand their financial/retirement planning capabilities including Social Security and Healthcare/Medicare and enhance the quality of their client service experience overall.

Bon Bon Appetit

David Thornley
401-219-2312
Exeter, RI

Fox Pest Control

Michael Stokes
401-655-2922
Cranston, RI

Pawtucket Credit Union

Melinda Gaudreau
401-722-2212
Wakefield, RI

Sangster Insurance

Thomas Sangster
401-295-2200
North Kingstown, RI

CakeSafe, LLC

Julianne Chapin
401-378-8766
Wakefield, RI

Fresh Rebellion.com

Michelle Girasole
401-578-3498
North Kingstown, RI

Pet Supplies Plus

Alexandra Blake
401- 783-0174
Narragansett, RI

Striped Dog Creative LLC

Isabel Kateman
401-465-4251
Providence, RI

Christiana's Beautycounter

Christiana Gondreau
401-287-7773
Johnston, RI

Inbound Revenue

Tom Mulligan
401-545-0774
Wakefield, RI

Pier Life

Deirdre O'Connor
203-505-3843
Westerly, RI

The Bike Stop Café

Casey Montanari
401-284-1414
Narragansett, RI

Conanicut Marine Services, Inc.

Marilyn Munger-Lawless
401-423-7164 Ext. 222
Jamestown, RI

Max's Shoe Repair

Max Mkrtychyan
401-447-9167
Wakefield, RI

Providence Bagel

Chris Wietecha
401-421-2222
South Kingstown, RI

The Lock Shop

Jeff M. Owen
401-782-2080
Wakefield, RI

Custom3D LLC

Max Willett
401-487-4477
Charlestown, RI

Mi-Box of Rhode Island, LLC

Danielle Lasko
401-597-6400
North Smithfield, RI

Pump House Music Works Events

Cynthia Gifford
401-824-9971
Peace Dale, RI

Vitamin Smart Directions, Inc.

Marcie Millar
401-782-6800
Wakefield, RI

Customized Lead Generation

Peter Sanderson
401-644-9466
Wakefield, RI

Moran Properties

Lauren Moran
401-885-3950
North Kingstown, RI

Re/Max Flagship - Michael P. O'Sullivan

Michael P. O'Sullivan
401-742-7091
Narragansett, RI

Wakefield Running Company

Keith Ballard
401-782-8353
Wakefield, RI

Dogtopia Warwick

Jennifer Giardino
401-903-4900
Warwick, RI

Locanda RI

Don Poissant
401-661-9380
Saunderstown, RI

Resolute Wealth Management

David G. Hunter
401-490-0011
Saunderstown, RI

WRIK Entertainment

Rick Lataille
401-769-1325
North Smithfield

East Bay Bed & Breakfast

Mike Drzal
401-423-0330
Jamestown, RI

Lucky Dog Resort

Laurie Ruttenger
401-835-0680
Middletown, RI

Salon Bella

Nicole Walsh
401-782-9449
Wakefield, RI

XC Media Design

Jae Bradburd
401-326-4460
Westerly, RI

Faits Maison LLC

Olivia Wilcox
401-219-6471
Narragansett, RI



Member Spotlights



When COVID-19 hit Rhode Island and shut down the state in mid-March, we wanted to bring some positive news to everyone's email feed. We began including a special section in the Friday edition of our nearly-daily update to talk about a chamber member businesses that was doing positive things for the community during the crisis.



Rent Sons was very busy delivering goods and assisting those in need from the start of the shutdown as part of their "No Need Among Us" project. They provided jobs to many individuals that had been laid off due to COVID-19, and assisted individuals that were unable to leave their homes and otherwise might not have the resources to pay for errand services. Those in need were able to request errand services and "pay what they can" for those services. The Sons and Daughters running errands for customers on a donation basis were still paid the full rate by Rent Sons.

On Thursday, April 23rd, **Alaina's Ale House** sold "Thanksgiving Dinners" where a person could purchase a \$12 Thanksgiving dinner, and another Thanksgiving dinner would be donated to local essential workers and first responders. They were able to donate over 100 meals to essential workers at Richmond Stop and Shop, CVS, and Rite Aid, as well as first responders at Richmond Police Department, Hope Valley State Police Barracks, Richmond/Carolina Fire, Hope Valley Ambulance Squad, and Hope Valley Fire.



Earlier in the month, they held a Community Drive-Thru Dinner where community members could drive through Alaina's parking lot and grab a complimentary roast chicken dinner. Alaina's accepted cash donations where 100% of the money collected would be split among their kitchen and service staff who are currently not able to work. The restaurant served 800 dinners and raised over \$10,000 for their staff.



The **South County Smiles** team utilized the time given with the Covid-19 closures to focus their attention and efforts to those in need. When they were not busy seeing emergency patients or holding teledentistry appointments, they found new and exciting ways to give back to the community.

These are just a few of the ways they have been supporting the community during this time:

- The team donated personal protection equipment (PPE) to the RI Department of Health in the form of gloves, disposable gowns, and masks.
- Distribution of masks and gloves to the charitable organization the Southern Rhode Island Volunteers (SRIV). SRIV utilized these items for their volunteers to wear in the delivery and distribution of food for their Meals on Wheels efforts for local seniors.
- Donating oral health kits to the most vulnerable seniors so they do not have to leave their homes to fulfill

these needs.

- Bagged and distributed surgical masks to over 300 community members that did not have them to aid them in following the protocols put forth by our Governor as part of their "Need a Mask? Get a Mask!" Campaign.
- They participated in **The 401 Studio's** 'Here for Good RI' Project supporting local businesses. The project involves the sale of logo t-shirts with \$10 of each shirt purchase going to that local business. South County Smiles is taking all proceeds raised from their t-shirt sales and donating it directly to the **Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale** to support their numerous efforts during this time.
- They partnered with Bru RI Coffee Bar to #FUELtheFRONTLINE where they brought coffee and food items to local frontline workers during a Teacher Appreciation Day and Nurses's Appreciation Day.
- As of May 1st when they were featured in the member spotlight, South County Smiles had seen over 100 emergency care patients in their office. Many of these individuals were not patients of record at their office and were simply patients who were in pain and needed assistance. They had also done free teledentistry appointments for approximately 30 others and have been able to help them get out of discomfort without requiring a visit to the office.



"In a time of uncertainty, we aspire to be a team the community is certain of. We may have closed our doors for routine dental care, but we have opened our minds and hearts to serving our community."



Member Spotlights



Photo by **JL Photography**

It comes as no surprise that **Matunuck Oyster Bar** was busy helping out the community during the COVID-19 crisis. They provided free lunches daily to students and seniors in need, as well as providing dinner to residents at the **Welcome House of South County** three times a week every other week. They were also one of the first businesses to reach out to **South County Health** and offer to feed their hardworking staff.

The 401 Studio began raising funds for local non-profits and businesses when the COVID-19 crisis hit Rhode Island. Soon after it was announced that restaurants would be forced to close their indoor dining, The 401 Studio jumped into action and began producing "Eat 401" shirts and sweatshirts where 50% of every purchase went directly to their restaurant clients. They raised over \$400 for local restaurants from this campaign.

With the help of local parents, students, and teachers, they produced "Quarenteaching" shirts which raised money for the **Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale**. This campaign raised over \$800 for the Jonnycake Center.

Finally, they began the "Here For Good RI" campaign where they offered local businesses that may have had to close or cut back on their operations a way to raise brand awareness and bring in extra profits with zero risk, no inventory, and no upfront costs. Businesses submitted their logo or t-shirt design to The 401 Studio, who printed t-shirts on demand for customers. Participating businesses received \$10 from every shirt that they were able to sell, with payouts every week. As of mid-May, the campaign had raised over \$400 for small businesses and non-profits.



Photo By **JL Photography**

The Flatts is helping to keep our essential workers and critical community organizations fed during the COVID-19 crisis. They have been donating dinner to **Welcome House of South County** residents for the last several months. They have also donated meals to the **South Kingstown School Department**, **Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale** volunteers, and frontline workers at **South County Hospital**.

Several local businesses ran "Pay It Forward" campaigns in order to raise funds and donate meals to local frontline workers. Thank you to these businesses for working to feed our local frontline workers during the COVID-19 crisis: **Be Fit Nutrition**, **BOL** (between both locations in RI and CA, they have donated 750 meals to hospitals, police stations, fire stations, and nursing homes. Their campaign is still running.), **Cowabunga** (250 meals donated), and **Tilly's Cheesesteaks** (275 meals donated).



COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY



TVF
TEAM VONFLATERN

Team VonFlatern is one of the **Province Mortgage Associates** teams that are participating in Project Hand Up to help cover the cost of groceries for up to 25 families per week.

They also donated candy to the Amos House for Easter and worked with a realtor partner to donate masks to the Gloria Gemma Foundation. Those masks were handed out to women who had doctor's visits as well as chemotherapy appointments in an effort to keep them safe.



Member Spotlights



JL Photography has put together a number of community projects during the COVID-19 crisis. She began with the Front Steps Project, where she asked families to donate money to the **Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale** in lieu of paying her for her photography services. This project was a huge success, and raised \$12,000 for the Jonnycake Center.



Photo by **JL Photography**

Next, she began photographing frontline workers and small businesses that were giving back to the community as part of the South County Heroes Project. In an effort to recognize local seniors who unfortunately were not be able to experience a normal high school graduation or senior prom, Jerilyn set out to photograph as many South Kingstown High School seniors as she could, free of charge.



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and their taproom was forced to temporarily close, **Sons of Liberty Beer & Spirits Co.** were able to adapt and in a matter of days, transformed from a distillery to a sanitizer manufacturer. They partnered with Java Skin Care and began producing as much hand sanitizer as they could in order to support the community in its time of need. They held several “drive-thru” events where community members were able to pick up free bottles of hand sanitizer. They also donated sanitizer to first responders and essential businesses. Hand sanitizer for businesses and individuals are now available for sale on their website.

The Right Click is one of several RI businesses that has been offering free remote support for small businesses through a program offered by **Rhode Island Commerce**. They are assisting businesses with things like home office set-up, marketing, e-commerce, and food/beverage industry online presence.

Staff from The Right Click, along with more than 55 librarians and Fuse RI Fellows volunteered to staff the RI Distance Learning Helpline, which offers tailored, one-to-one coaching at times that work best for families and teachers. The helpline is open to teachers, parents, and guardians who have questions on how best to support students during their distance learning experience.



Southern RI Chamber Gift Certificates



How It Works

- ◆ Certificates are purchased through our chamber office.
- ◆ Certificates are redeemed at participating chamber member businesses. (A list of participating members will be provided with each certificate.) Membership must be maintained in order to accept gift certificates.
- ◆ In accordance with RI law, certificates have no expiration date listed on them.
- ◆ Certificates come in denominations of \$10, \$25, and \$50. You will never receive a certificate with a different value.
- ◆ The certificate is identified by a pre-assigned number and imprinted with our official chamber seal.
- ◆ The chamber assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen or counterfeit certificates and issues no duplicates.

Redemption and Cashing Procedure

- ◆ Treat the certificate as cash.
- ◆ Never give or receive partial certificates. (ex. On a \$25 certificate, if a customer uses \$15, give the customer \$10 back and retain the \$25 certificate.)
- ◆ Either offer cash back for balance of the certificate, or require them to use the entire value of the certificate.
- ◆ Never return certificates to the customer. Certificates must be brought to the chamber for redemption.
- ◆ Once received, it is redeemed at the chamber office for full value. If you cannot come to our office, please call us (401-783-2801) and we can pick up your certificates, or mail your certificates to 230 Old Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879. If mailing, please write your business name on the top right corner of each certificate.

If you would like to participate in this program, please call our office at 401-783-2801 or email jviele@srichamber.com

SRICC Awards Scholarships to Local High School Seniors



The Southern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce recently awarded two \$750 scholarships to local high school seniors Nathaniel Felicetti (Charlton High School) and Ian Sroka (South Kingstown High School). Scholarship applicants were asked to submit an essay explaining how they would implement the Chamber of Commerce's mission: "to support and enhance the business community of Southern Rhode Island and create opportunities for the growth and development of its member businesses."



Virtual First Friday Coffee

Friday, August 7th 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Grab a cup of coffee and join us from your own home or office for an hour of networking. Everyone will have the opportunity to address the group for 1-2 minutes to let them know what you do, who you are looking to connect with, how your business has adapted to the current situation, and what the other attendees can do to support your business during this time.

After the meeting, everyone that attends will receive a list of the attendees with contact info so that you can follow-up with those that you met!

SPACE IS LIMITED.

You must pre-register on www.srichamber.com or call 401-783-2801 to attend this event.

Only those that pre-register will receive a link and passcode to attend the Zoom session.
Link and passcode will be sent out in your confirmation email.

\$5 SRI Chamber members
\$10 Non-members



Member News



If you have news that you would like us to share in an upcoming newsletter or on our Facebook page, send it to communications@srichamber.com.

Congratulations to **The Glass Station**, who is celebrating 20 years in business on Main Street this year!

Earlier this year, **ServiceMaster By Mason** owner, Ryan Mason, achieved his certifications from the Professional Mold Inspection Institute to perform air quality testing for microbial growth (mold) concerns in homes & businesses. ServiceMaster By Mason can now assist property owners, real estate professionals, healthcare offices, assisted living facilities & more with sampling for air quality. This testing identifies the presence of mold spores and mold growth, types of mold, and total air count/spores count to determine if a property is normal or abnormal. Ryan will carefully collect air, swab, tape or bulk item samples and send overnight express to a Certified Laboratory, for quick and accurate results.

Lathrop Insurance, Inc. was recognized by Ohio Mutual Insurance Group President & CEO Mark C. Russell as one of the company's top 10 agencies for Outstanding Profitable Growth in 2019.

CBD Center of R.I. opened their new location at 17 Columbia Street in Wakefield on Monday, May 4th! They are open Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm. For CBD consultations, appointments, questions and wholesale inquiries please contact: (401) 439-5240.

South County Health invites amateur photographers to submit original photographs that depict life in South (Washington) County throughout the year – winter, spring, summer, and fall – to appear in the 2021 Scenes of South County wall calendar. More details can be found on www.southcountyhealth.org.

Rhode Island Fast Ferry will not be operating ferry service to Martha's Vineyard or Lighthouse Cruises this season; their entire 2020 season has been cancelled.

Save The Bay is pleased to announce that its 2020-2021 volunteer program will be supported by Bank of America. Annually, Save The Bay connects over 4,800 volunteers with opportunities to assist with shoreline cleanups, habitat

restoration efforts, at the Exploration Center and Aquarium, and more. In 2019, volunteers contributed more than 29,000 hours to Save The Bay.

Green Line Apothecary is moving to 245 Main Street in 2021! Only four doors down from its original location but over twice the size, the new space will enable the fast-growing pharmacy to serve Rhode Islanders better. Green Line is proudly renewing its commitment to Main Street.

Oyster Farm Productions created a YouTube Playlist consisting of relaxing sounds and scenes from our home state: Rhode Island. Each week they add a four to ten minute video to the collection. These visual meditations are a lot of fun for them to create and, they hope, a pleasure to watch.

DiStefano Brothers Construction recently finished an exciting project: the new rooftop deck at **Matunuck Oyster Bar!** Stop by and grab dinner or a drink and take in the beautiful scenic views.

Billboard Power!

Attract the eyes of commuters, locals, and visitors every day!



Take advantage of the Chamber's unique new advertising opportunity: Your business message will stand alone and your brand will attract the eyes of thousands of commuters, locals and visitors every day. The one and only sign for miles, the billboard stands 12ft wide by 8ft high and is located on Route 1 South, just past the Hannah Robinson Tower in South Kingstown.

To reserve your billboard or for inquires, contact SRI Chamber of Commerce *Office Manager*, Joanne Viele, at (401) 783-2801 or jviele@srichamber.com

Southern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Growing



Since 1933

Advocacy | Connections | Credibility | Education | Referrals

Your Chamber Board & Staff

Executive Board 2020

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 Torin Soares, Chair Elect....Fairfield Inn & Suites S Kingstown/Newport Area
 Kimberly Kelley, Secretary.....Kimberly Kelley Agency - Allstate
 Jeffrey Kreyssig, Treasurer.....Padgett Business Services
 Pete DiStefano, Past ChairDiStefano Brothers Construction
 Joe Viele, Director.....SRI Chamber of Commerce

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Joe Viele.....Executive Director
 Katie LaCroix.....Communications Coordinator
 Sherry Curran.....Membership & Marketing
 Joanne Viele.....Office Manager

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS, PLEASE CONTACT SHERRY CURRAN AT 401-332-8003

SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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