

# Chamber director sees opportunity ahead

By LISA BACKUS  
@LBACKUSNBH

**NEWINGTON** — The Newington Chamber of Commerce has much to offer businesses in town and throughout the Greater Hartford area.

With more than 200 active members, the chamber



provides networking and local resources to support owners in the opening,

running and growth of area businesses, said Chamber executive director Pete Forcellina.

"We're in the process of planning 2019 right now," said Forcellina who stepped into the job in the past few weeks. "I think there is a tremendous opportunity for the chamber and our chamber members."

The chamber hosts a weekly coffee hour, "The 7 a.m.," at Middlewoods of Newington, allowing members to network and chat. Events are held quarterly and board meetings are held monthly to give members the greatest number of opportunities to support each other, Forcellina said.

Members include a wide range of health care and fitness providers, from the Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Centers to Taylor Therapy Center to Back to Motion Sports Rehab & Fitness, and other businesses such as Geico Insurance, ERA Sargis-Breen Realty and Modern Edge Salon.

The chamber is not exclu-



Courtesy Newington Chamber of Commerce  
Pete Forcellina

sively for Newington business owners. Those who own businesses throughout the Greater Hartford area are welcome to join.

The chamber provides members with a unified business

voice when it comes to advocacy in town matters such as zoning, the chance to collaborate and form relationships with other business owners in the community and beyond and empowerment to promote chamber and local businesses, Forcellina said.

"We have a significant number of annual events and we're working on a 'lunch and learn' series for 2019," he said. "We'll bring in chamber members to discuss their businesses. It will showcase those businesses for other chamber members and the public."

Chamber dues are based on the number of employees each business has. For instance, a single business owner with no employees pays \$185 a year, while businesses with six to 20 employees pay \$300 a year. Businesses with over 300

employees pay \$855 a year.

"I think it's a very reasonable approach for what businesses receive for their membership," Forcellina said.

For more information on joining the Newington Chamber of Commerce, contact Pete Forcellina at 860- 508-1251.

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amenities and a strategic location. Consider if the Newington Chamber of Commerce is a perfect match for you. Contact the chamber at 1046 Main St., Newington CT 06111 or call 860-666-2089 for membership information.

Newington offers all the key elements to develop a successful business – a strong town government, a strong community, a strong chamber, appealing

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