

Chamber helps businesses grow

BY THE HERALD STAFF

NEWINGTON — The Chamber of Commerce is an organization that brings together local business people, entrepreneurs and community groups to promote the town's economic growth and civic responsibility.

Comprised of about 300 active members, the Chamber has been in existence for 60 years.

According to its website, the Chamber was founded in 1945 with 153 individuals and businesses dedicated to improve the business climate in town.

Unable to be maintained by its all volunteer staff, the group disbanded in 1960 when there was insufficient support to affiliate with the Hartford Chamber of Commerce. In January 1967, a group of business and professional people formed the present day Chamber of Commerce and it began as an affiliate of the Greater Hartford Chamber.

In April 1993, the first Newington Business Showcase sponsored by the Newington Chamber of Commerce was held at the Sphinx Temple on the Berlin Turnpike. The following year it was moved to Newington High School and, in conjunction with the high school, started Career Day as part of the Showcase.

Expanding and growing the Chamber operating as an affiliate of Greater Hartford in 1998,



Chris Richie | Staff

Cars on display at the Cruising Newington Classic Car Show a few years ago.

the Chamber chose to make a presence on Main Street by opening a small 250 square foot office. This office was staffed by volunteers. In November of 2000 a staff of one was hired to manage and run the office. On June 1, 2004 the Newington Chamber of Commerce became independent of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce and built a new office two doors down from the former location and four times as large, the website indicates.

Always seeking to grow its membership, today's Chamber boasts many benefits of joining the business-oriented group including weekly networking meetings, a newsletter, a mobile app and a network of other businesses owners seeking to support small, medium

and large business ventures in town.

The Chamber also offers a member discount program that offers a discount to fellow members and their employees. This provides a value added component for Chamber members, a discount to their employees and can help increase sale revenue.

Community involvement and civic engagement is also a mainstay of the Chamber. For example, the Chamber is preparing for its annual Cruising Newington Classic Car Show. The event will take place on June 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Market Square. The entry fee is \$10 per car.

For more information on the upcoming car show or membership information call 860-666-2089 or visit picturethiswebdesign.com/newingtonchamber/index.php.



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.

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