

Quaboag Hills



Newsletter

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Six months in, and I hope you are feeling as good about the Chamber as I am. We've made some solid progress in a short amount of time with re-establishing the Chamber's availability to be there for you, creating opportunities and connections, consistent communication and great events to participate in.

Each week, I have been able to interact with a number of businesses and organizations to learn more about how the Chamber can assist. And as the Chamber continues to unite with each of you, please do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, questions or concerns.

The Chamber's Annual Meeting will be here soon, registration deadline is October 18, and I hope you can join us to celebrate your 2024 accomplishments.

The 2024 QHMA Annual Meeting & Dinner
Presented by J. Stolar Insurance Agency & Country Bank
Thursday, November 7
The Publick House Historic Inn - Sturbridge

5pm - Social Hour/Cash Bar

6pm-8pm Meeting, Dinner & Guest Speaker

Featuring:

- **Annual Meeting/Election of Board & Officers/Bylaw updates**
- **Guest Speaker, Colleen Campbell & Achieving Success Through Work/Life Balance**

\$45.00 - Members

\$55.00 - Non-members

Includes Buffet Dinner, Dessert & More!

Register at QHMA.com

Sponsor Opportunities Available

Register and RSVP by October 29, 2024

Recent Chamber Events

The Steaming Tender Restaurant, the Lamothe Family and their partner businesses, The Trainmaster's Inn & Bygone Excursions hosted the Chamber, along with more than sixty guests on August 13 for an After 5 Presented by Sanderson MacLeod.



Guests enjoyed delicious food from the restaurant, and toured The Trainmaster's Inn while riding the Bygone Excursions trolley car.



On September 19, the Brimfield Winery, along with Registration Sponsor, the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery welcomed the Chamber for a beautiful After 5 evening. Chamber members enjoyed an abundance of food from Villa Sophia's and optional line dancing lessons under the pavilion.

Upcoming Chamber Events

Wednesday, October 23 - After 5
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery in Hardwick

Thursday, November 7 - QHMA Annual Meeting/Dinner
Presented by J. Stolar Insurance & Country Bank
Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 - Chamber Breakfast
Christopher Heights of Belchertown

Registration & Sponsor Opportunities open for events
thru November at QHMA.com



Chamber Golf Outing Presented by Baystate Wing Hospital, J. Stolar Insurance Agency & Monson Savings

More than 40 golfers teed off on Thursday, October 3 for the first QHMA Golf event since 2019. Players enjoyed a fun day of nine-hole scramble golf at Hardwick Crossing Country Club in Gilbertville.

The Chamber would like to thank all of this year's participants and supporters, including:

Baystate Wing Hospital
J. Stolar Insurance Agency
Monson Savings
Behavioral Health Network
Superior Plus Propane

Burkhart & Pizzanelli
Country Bank
Noonan Energy
Tailgate Tavern
Quabbin Wire & Cable

Breton Estates/RB Enterprises
Cedarbrook Village at Ware
Howe Lumber
Michael's Party Rentals
St. Germain Insurance

Brimfield Winery
Christopher Heights of Belchertown
Figlio Italian Restaurant
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
North Brookfield Savings Bank
Pathfinder Regional Voc. Tech. H.S.
Rose32 Bread & Six Flags New England

1st Place

Ed Kosla, Logan Sullivan, Johnny Mancini & Brian Owczarski from Baystate Wing Hospital

2nd Place

Tim Burke, Nolan Burke, Jon Murray & Tom Murray from Tailgate Tavern



Longest Drive (W)

Catherine Rioux, Monson Savings

Longest Drive (M)

Randy Gratan, Behavioral Health Network

Closest to the Pin

John Sasur, Three Rivers Chamber/J. Stolar Insurance team











New Members

- ★ Allied Professional Cleaning Services
- ★ Green Gold Group
- ★ Patient Presence
- ★ O'Connell Care at Home
- ★ Riverbend Laundry
- ★ Soundscape Merchandise
- ★ Tailgate Tavern
- ★ The Crazy Cat Wood Shop

Upcoming Affiliate Workshops & Training

10/8 4:30p: SCORE - Live Webinar - Cybersecurity 101 for Small Businesses

10/10 12p: SCORE - Live Webinar - Legal Business Entities

10/16 10a: SCORE - Live Webinar - Excel Charts - A Picture Is Worth 1000 Numbers

10/16 12p: SCORE - Live Webinar - Building A Startup Budget

10/16 6p: SCORE - Live Webinar - Website Planning 101

10/17 12p: SCORE - Live Webinar - Legal Issues Facing Business Owners

For more information on SCORE Webinars, visit:

<https://business.qhma.com/events/calendar/>

On-going Programs from Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, including:

Business Development Services for Small Business

Business Planning Classes

Computer Training



For more information, visit qvcdc.org or call the QVCDC Office at (413) 967-3001

Member News



Congratulations to Mike Harris and his team at Canna Retreat who hosted a Grand Opening event on August 15.



On September 13, the Chamber was on-hand to support Pathfinder Regional Vocational & Technical High School & Country Bank announcing the Bank's donation of the former Four Corners branch to Pathfinder to grow their adult education programs.



Chamber Staff & Officers, Lena Buteau & Renee Niedziela, met up on September 17 with past President & member, Tanya Bullock to present a special recognition plaque to Tanya for her dedicated volunteer service to the Chamber in a variety of roles and responsibilities over the years. Thank you Tanya!



Officials welcomed Three Rivers newest business, Riverbend Laundry with a ribbon cutting event on October 4. Congratulations to the Dias Family!



Longtime Chamber member and Quaboag Referral Group colleague, Gene Birk, owner of Gene Birk Electric announced his retirement this summer. We will miss Gene's truck rolling around the Quaboag Hills servicing residents & businesses throughout the region. Happy Retirement Gene!

Business Spotlight:

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow/Rachael Max

I am the executive director and board president of Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary, Inc. (HTAT), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Brimfield. We help cats and the people who love them in the community, and we operate a cat shelter and offer many complimentary programs to support this mission.



With more than 40 years of collective experience in animal welfare, my mother, Barbara Horn, and I saw a critical need to help community cats through shelter and adoption services in and around southwestern Worcester and eastern Hampden and Hampshire counties.

We bought close to 30 acres of land along Route 20 in Brimfield, and in 2012, we co-founded HTAT. Our vision was to provide a cage-free cat shelter to serve the needs of homeless cats to provide a comfortable, low stress setting where they could live until they were ready to go to their new homes.

Today our shelter and adoption services remain an integral component of our mission, and we have expanded to meet community needs. For instance, we have a low-cost spay/neuter program to help area residents who couldn't otherwise afford to get their cat(s) spayed or neutered—we are also committed to spaying and neutering stray and feral cats, too.

Business Spotlight:

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow/Rachael Max

continued from previous page

We also run a Pet Food Pantry supporting people in the communities we serve, with pick-up locations in Brimfield, Southbridge, and Ware. We also provide pet food to food pantries in other towns. In addition, we provide free cat behavior counseling to people who otherwise may think they have no choice but to surrender their cat due to biting, scratching, inappropriate elimination, or other issues. And we have a Care for Life program, which is designed to cover medical costs of special needs cats who without this support might not get adopted.

In today's economy, many people are struggling to pay for food. Local food pantries can be a godsend to people—and pet food pantries provide ancillary relief to offset costs so they can better afford household necessities. HTAT's Pet Food Pantry is designed to provide such relief and we are inviting area businesses to join us as community partners on this front.

The cats and the kittens we have supported provide unconditional love, friendship, and companionship to their people, so it's a win-win for everyone involved. Our hope is to continue matching cats with loving people who will, in turn, reap the rewards of building an immeasurable bond with their new pet, and to continue serving the community through a wide range of community-focused programs to support cats and people.

**VISIT & SUPPORT:
HERETODAYSANCTUARY.ORG**

RIVEREAST SCHOOL TO CAREER

Currently serving the following school districts: Hampden – Wilbraham; Longmeadow; Ludlow; Monson; Palmer; Pathfinder Tech; Quaboag Regional & Tantasqua Regional

River East School to Career provides benefits to employers/mentors:

- Increase your pool of qualified applicants
- Make a positive contribution to the community
- Have a role in training and shaping the future workforce
- Acquire value from student work
- Help make schools more responsive to today's needs in business and industry
- Assist students in developing workplace readiness skills
- Foster the next generation of employees
- Know that you are making a difference in a student's life as well as your community

Visit: rivereaststc.org Contact: ascribner@rivereaststc.org (413) 283-5051

ATTN: QUABBIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AREA BUSINESSES!



Quabbin Regional High School students are looking to connect with you through their Innovation Career Pathways programs

Seeking internships or project experience in a variety of disciplines, including: Manufacturing, Information/Data/Communications and Business & Finance

For more information, contact:
Quabbin Regional School District
Gregory J. Devine (978) 434-1751 gdevine@qrsd.org

Business & Recreation Guides & Kiosks



Need more 2024 Business & Recreation Guides?
Email james@qhma.com for a delivery

Download a digital copy of the 2024 Guide on
QHMA.com



Would you like a QHMA display kiosk for your
business?

Email james@qhma.com to coordinate

Special Offer for Chamber Members from

**STAND OUT
TRUCK.COM**

Claim Your First Hour Free on Stand Out Truck®



Have you been looking for a new way to advertise your business?

Stand Out Truck® is the perfect solution for you! Our traveling digital billboard trucks will make sure your ad is seen by thousands of people in your target market. And the best part is that you can get started with the first hour free!

With no additional fees for design, you can be sure that your ad will look great on our trucks. And you get to choose the route that your ad travels, so you can be sure it reaches your target market. We have a four hour minimum, no max, your first hour is on us. We have an open calendar system. First to book gets the time.

Claim this, limited time, offer below and we'll contact you to get started with the first hour free!
To claim visit: <https://www.standouttruck.com/chamber>

Upcoming Member Events thru December

November 15 & 17, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

November 22-December 31, 2024

Monson
Silver Bell Nights
Silver Bell Farm
silverbellfarm.com

November 22 & 24, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

November 23, 2024

Palmer
4th Annual Sandy Nichols Book Sale
Palmer Public Library
palmerlibrary.org

November 27, 2024

Brimfield, Wales, Holland & Monson
Senator Ryan Fattman Office Hours
Various Locations & Times

November 29-December 1, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

December 6 & 8, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

December 6-8, 2024

Hardwick
A Charlie Brown Christmas
The Center at Eagle Hill
centerateaglehill.org

December 13-15, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

December 20-22, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

December 27-29 & 31, 2024

West Brookfield
Fireplace Feast
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

Now-Oct. 13, 2024

Thursdays-Sundays
Monson
Pick Your Own Apples & More
Echo Hill Orchards Winery & Distillery
echohillorchards.com

Now-Oct. 14, 2024

Warren
Pick Your Own Apples & Farmstand
Breezelands Orchards
breezelandsorchards.com

October 8, 2024

Holyoke
Behavioral Health Network Job Fair
bhnworks.org

October 10, 2024

Ware
Behavioral Health Network Job Fair
bhnworks.org

October 12-13, 2024

Monson
Fall Harvest Weekends
Silver Bell Farm
silverbellfarm.com

October 12, 2024

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

October 12, 2024

Brimfield
Brimfield's Annual Auto Show
Brimfield Auction Acres-Brimfield Winery
brimfieldwinery.com

October 12, 2024

Monson (110 Main St)
Veterans' Fall Festival

October 19-20, 2024

Monson
Fall Harvest Weekends
Silver Bell Farm
silverbellfarm.com

October 19, 2024

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

October 23, 2024

Brimfield, Wales, Holland & Monson
Senator Ryan Fattman Office Hours
Various Locations & Times

October 26-27, 2024

Monson
Fall Harvest Weekends
Silver Bell Farm
silverbellfarm.com

October 26, 2024

Monson
Halloween on the Farm
Silver Bell Farm
silverbellfarm.com

October 26, 2024

Brimfield
Brimfield Farmers' Market
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

October 26, 2024

Hardwick
Halloween Spooktacular Craft Fair
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

October 27, 2024

Springfield
Baystate Health Foundation's
Rays of Hope Walk & Run
baystatehealth.org/raysofhope

November 2-10, 2024

Ware
Shaped By Service Art Show
Workshop13 Artworks Galley
homefrontstrongus.org

November 3, 2024

Monson
Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi
Keep Homestead Museum
keephomesteadmuseum.org

November 3, 2024

West Brookfield
Salem Cross Inn
salemcrossinn.com

November 9, 2024

Hardwick
Broadway's Next Musical Hit
The Center at Eagle Hill
centerateaglehill.org

Don't See Your Event? Email Your Member Produced Events to james@qhma.com

UNLOCK NEW BUSINESS WITH THE



Quaboag Referral Group

The Quaboag Referral Group is the Chamber's own business networking and referral organization.

"Joining this group was the best thing for my business"

- Gene Birk, Gene Birk Electric

It's time for you to experience the difference Q.R.G. can do for you and your business.

- No fees or obligations to attend your first meeting.
- Membership is limited to non-competing professions.
- Q.R.G. meets weekly on Tuesdays from 7am-8:30am at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center in Three Rivers.



Contact the Chamber office at (413) 283-2418 or info@qhma.com to set up your initial meeting.

Behavioral Health Network

Holyoke & Ware

JOB FAIRS



Join us for a Raffle & Snacks ~ Rewarding Work ~ On the Spot Interviews
Excellent Benefits & Professional Growth Opportunities

Positions available for all career levels - from **high school diploma** to **master's level**.

Developmental Services Programs

 Oct. 8, 2024 | 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

 BHN, 36 Bobala Rd. Holyoke, MA

Child & Family Programs

 Oct. 10, 2024 | 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

 Ware Family Resource Center
82 Main St. Ware, MA

High School Diploma, Driver's license and vehicle access during work hours required for all positions.



Have questions? Email bhn-recruitment@bhninc.org
To view all openings, visit bhnworks.org or scan the QR code



SCAN ME

The Boston Globe
TOP PLACES TO WORK
2022 2023

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion 2025

BHN is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice and encourages diverse candidates to apply.

bhnWorks
Career & Life at Behavioral Health Network



J. Stolar
Insurance Agency, Inc.



countrybank
Made to make a difference.

Monson Savings
Your Bank Forever



Behavioral Health Network



CHRISTOPHER HEIGHTS™
of Belchertown
AN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY



WESTFIELD
BANK

2024 *Underwriters*