

Quaboag Hills



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Newsletter



Inside:

CEO Corner • 2

New Members & News • 3

Recent Chamber Events • 4

Choice Award Nominations! • 5

Business Spotlight • 6

Upcoming Chamber Events • 7

Workshops & Training • 8

Upcoming Member Events • 9

Welcome to 2025. The new year always brings a renewed optimism of what lies ahead and allows us to pause and reflect on the past.

Unfortunately, this year began with an act of terrorism carried out against NYE revelers in New Orleans. Another senseless attack on the values we work for everyday in the Quaboag Hills region, and across the country: our freedoms, pursuits of equality, and our labor for preserving and growing free markets.



Over the first twenty-five years of this 21st century, both locally and globally, we have experienced countless tragedies, economic upheavals and crippling health crisis. And through it all, many of us are still here, and many new businesses have been born, adjusting and learning along the way.

It is the Chamber's goal this year, as it has been for each year since our founding in 1978, to help deliver tools for our members to not just endure, or persevere, but to plan, grow and expand based on your freewill rather than as a response.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is here for you, and we look forward to making 2025 one worth celebrating!



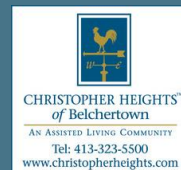
2025 CHAMBER BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
7:30AM-9AM



GUEST SPEAKER
PETER D. BANKO
PRESIDENT & CEO, BAYSTATE HEALTH

BOOK YOUR
SPONSORSHIP OF THIS
EVENT TODAY!



TICKETS
\$20/MEMBERS
\$25/NON-MEMBERS

SPACE IS LIMITED
REGISTER TODAY AT QHMA.COM

HOSTED AT CHRISTOPHER HEIGHTS OF BELCHERTOWN
99 FRONT ST - BELCHERTOWN, MA

New Members



- ★ Lantern Digital Marketing Agency
- ★ Pineapple Express
- ★ Wheel Horse Digital
- ★ Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School

Member News



Just as the weather started to turn and we began to crave Pumpkin Spice, one of Dunkin's nine locations that are members of the Chamber completed and celebrated a significant renovation at its 1559 North Main Street location in Palmer!

Congratulations to Kaily Hepburn and her team at Pineapple Express, a cannabis home delivery service, who hosted a Grand Opening event on November 21. Pineapple Express provided free food, entertainment, collected food can donations and awarded more than a dozen turkeys ahead of Thanksgiving.



Congratulations Dave Loos & Ed Fisher Jr, who were elected as new Officers to the Chamber's Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. Loos joined the Chamber's Board in 2023 following a successful law enforcement career and has since be named an Associate Partner with Keller Williams Realty Pioneer Valley. Fisher is the owner of Fisher Tech Solutions, a digital marketing agency that specializes in custom web development, search engine and pay-per-click optimization.



The Chamber also welcomes Kaitlin Young of the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, Michael Harris of Canna Retreat and Dioguardi Jewelers, Michael Moore of Silver Bell Farm and Rebecca Maurer of Quabbin Valley Eye Care as its newest members elected to the Board of Directors.

Recent Chamber Events

On October 23rd, the Chamber conducted an intimate After 5 gathering for more than twenty attendees hosted by the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery! Networking was conducted by all who attended including representatives from Cedarbrook Village, Christopher Heights, Country Bank, Fisher Tech Solutions, Hitchcock Free Academy, Keep Homestead Museum, Keller Williams Pioneer Valley, MassHire Rapid Response, Monson Savings, St. Germain Insurance and Turley Publications!



The Chamber's Annual Meeting & Dinner was Presented by Country Bank and J. Stolar Insurance Agency, and was held on November 7th at the Publick House Historic Inn.

More than 100 guests enjoyed an opening reception, party favors and raffle prizes, while dining on the Inn's Yankee Buffet, and voting on the Chamber's Bylaw amendments and election of Officers & Directors.

The evening concluded with an engaging presentation by Work/Life Balance expert, Colleen Campbell.

Choice Awards - Nominations



Submit Your Nominations for the 2025 Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Choice Awards Winners in one or more categories online at QHMA.com.

Submit your Nomination(s) by January 31, 2025.

Voting February 1 - March 16

Winners will be honored on Thursday, May 1 during a special event at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware.



Scan to Nominate

COMMUNITY HERO OF THE YEAR

An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community. The individual must reside or have performed their act or work within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

FOOD/DRINK ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YEAR

An outstanding local food and drink establishment such as a restaurant, winery, brewery, cidery or any other food and/or drink venue where product(s) can be consumed on-site.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YEAR

An outstanding store or business physically located within, or whose online operations is based within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities, that provides customers with goods or services.

Business Spotlight: *Kozyra Construction*



KOZYRA CONSTRUCTION
Modular Home Specialists

• Septics • Excavation
• Garages • Additions

141 Old Palmer Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010
email: kozyramodular@charter.net
www.kozyramodular.com
Fred Kozyra 413-245-4402



Kozyra Construction is a family owned and operated business since 1972 that can handle your complete modular home project from concept to completion. They have a large selection of modular homes. Ranches, Raised Ranches, T ranches, Capes, Colonials, Split Levels, Contemporaries and Duplexes. Any of their floor plans can be modified. They service the entire state of Massachusetts, with their primary service area being Western and Central Massachusetts including Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire and Worcester counties. A Kozrya family member will be involved in your project from design to completion, and your home will be completed on time and on budget.

Kozyra Construction started a real estate brokerage business after hearing a client say, "I like the house but not the location," or "I like the location but not the house." They decided to start doing modular homes where the client got the location they desire, and they build the home they need. When the Kozyra sons became involved in the business, they expanded to become a full-service modular home builder. Today, Kozyra Construction has their own excavating equipment and trucks. In addition to doing modular homes, they provide complete septic service, both new installation and repairs.

The Kozyra Construction team includes Fred, who graduated from Westfield State University and has a MA from Ball State University has been a custom modular home builder since 1972. He has a Construction Supervisors license, Home Improvement Contractor's license and a Septic Installers license in many area towns. Marilyn graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and is the bookkeeper and office manager. Freddie joined the company full-time after graduating from Fitchburg State University with a degree in Construction Technology and has been working full time as a modular home builder since 1995. He also holds a Construction Supervisor's license and Hoister's License as well as Septic Installer's License in many area towns. Mike, who joined the company full-time after graduating from Westfield State University with a degree in Business Management and has been working full time as a modular home builder since 1998. He also holds a Construction Supervisors license. And Joe, who graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Civil Engineering and works for the company part-time doing much of the computer work.

Upcoming Chamber Events

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Chamber Breakfast with Baystate Health CEO
Christopher Heights of Belchertown



Friday, March 21, 2025

Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo
AMETS - Three Rivers
Full details to be announced soon



Thursday, May 1, 2025

QHMA Choice Awards
Teresa's Restaurant - Ware
Full details to be announced soon



Friday, October 3, 2025

QHMA Golf Outing
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
Save the date!



Thursday, November 6, 2025

Annual Meeting & Dinner
Salem Cross Inn - West Brookfield
Save the date!



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

Upcoming Affiliate Workshops & Training

For full details on the training & workshop events below, visit: <https://business.qhma.com/events/calendar/>

Jan. 7	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Excel Level 1
Jan. 7	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Learn How to Sell Better
Jan. 7	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - How To Start A Business Using A Free SCORE Mentor
Jan. 7	6pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Starting a Successful Food Service Business
Jan. 7	6pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Simple Steps for Starting Your Business
Jan. 8	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Using Microsoft Teams for Project Management
Jan. 8	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Understanding the 5 Most Common Legal Forms of Business
Jan. 8	1pm	Computer Security Seminar with POST Computer Systems
Jan. 9	11am	SCORE - Live Webinar - Persuasive Writing
Jan. 9	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - How to Improve Your Website Traffic
Jan. 14	8:30am	EANE Leadership Training - Time Management
Jan. 14	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Mastering AI to Accelerate Your Marketing Strategy
Jan. 14	5:30pm	QVCDC Small Business Bookkeeping
Jan. 14	6pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Simple Steps - Concepts
Jan. 15	11am	SCORE - Live Webinar - Tax Prep for the Self Employed
Jan. 15	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - How to Get Certified as a Woman-Owned Business
Jan. 16	8:30am	EANE Leadership Training - Leading Different Workstyles for HR Professionals
Jan. 16	10am	SCORE - Live Webinar - Excel Pivot Tables - Dissecting and Analyzing Your Data
Jan. 16	11am	SCORE - Live Webinar - Branding Essentials
Jan. 16	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Legal aspects of Risk Management and Dispute Resolution
Jan. 16	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - A Primer in Website and Social Media Reporting
Jan. 16	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Email Opt-In Strategies Every Small Business Needs to Know
Jan. 17	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - A Primer in Website and Social Media Reporting
Jan. 21	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - So, You Want To Be a Consultant
Jan. 21	6pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Simple Steps - Marketing
Jan. 22	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Transform Awkward Encounters into Business Relationships
Jan. 23	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Excel - Formulas, Formulas, Formulas
Jan. 23	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Social Media Q&A - Ask Us Anything
Jan. 23	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - A Basic QuickBooks Guide for Small Business Owners
Jan. 27	6pm	QVCDC - Business Planning Workshop - Session 1
Jan. 28	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Effectively Managing Conflict
Jan. 28	1pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - 2025 Hottest Business Ideas, Trends & Markets
Jan. 28	6pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Simple Steps - Financials
Jan. 29	12pm	SCORE - Live Webinar - Using AI in Your Business - Simple Guide to Getting Started
Jan. 29	6pm	QVCDC - Business Planning Workshop - Session 2
Jan. 30	8:30am	EANE Leadership Training - Documentation Skills for the Supervisor
Feb. 3	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Microsoft Copilot for the HR Professional
Feb. 3	6pm	QVCDC - Business Planning Workshop - Session 3
Feb. 5	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Communication Skills for Leaders
Feb. 5	6pm	QVCDC - Business Planning Workshop - Session 4
Feb. 6	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Performance Management: Leading with Purpose
Feb. 6	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Excel for the HR Professionals
Feb. 11	8:30am	EANE Leadership Training - Reskilling Your Workforce for the Future
Feb. 11	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Excel Level 2
Feb. 20	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Communication Skills for HR Professionals
Feb. 25	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Assertiveness: The Art of Tactful Communication
Feb. 25	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Influencing Without Authority
Feb. 25	9:30am	QVCDC QuickBooks Online Class
Mar. 4	8:30am	EANE Leadership Training - Leading Different Workstyles
Mar. 5	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Excel - Power Query Fundamentals
Mar. 6	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Self-Awareness & Adaptability
Mar. 9	9am	QVCDC - ServSafe Certification Session
Mar. 11	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Excel Level 3
Mar. 19	8:30am	EANE Professional Training - Effectively Managing Conflict for HR Professionals
Mar. 20	8:30am	EANE Technology Training - Outlook Survival Tips for Busy People
Mar. 26	8:30am	EANE Leadership Training - Leading Change
Apr. 2	6pm	QVCDC Smart Strategies: Organizing for Impact & Growth
Apr. 14	9am	QVCDC - ServSafe Certification Session

Upcoming Member Events This Quarter

Ongoing - Saturdays from 1pm-4pm

Brimfield
Cat Adoption Days
Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary
heretodaysanctuary.org

January 11, 2025

Hardwick
Live Music at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Ware
Concert - The Green Sisters
Workshop13
workshop13.org

Hardwick
Sip & Stitch Workshop
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

January 12, 2025

Hardwick
Live Music at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

January 16, 2025

Hardwick
Wine Glass Paint & Sip
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

January 17, 2025

Hardwick
Live Music at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Ware
Open Mic Music
Workshop13
workshop13.org

Hardwick
Wine & Cheese Pairing Experience
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

January 18, 2025

Brimfield
Stained Glass Suncatcher Workshop
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

Monson
Movie Screening: Join or Die
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Don't See Your Event?

Email Your Member Produced Events to james@qbma.com

January 18, 2025

Hardwick
Live Music at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Ware
The Ultimate Cher Experience with Lisa Carter & Smokin' Hot NY Band
Teresa's Restaurant
teresasrestaurantware.com

Hardwick
Frander
The Center at Eagle Hill
centerateaglehill.org

Ware
Drum & Dance Circle Meet Up
Workshop13
workshop13.org

January 19, 2025

Hardwick
Live Music at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

Hardwick
Sip & Roll Sushi Making Experience
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

January 25-26, 2025

West Springfield
Railroad Hobby Show Presented by Amherst Railway Society
railroadhobbyshow.com

January 25, 2025

Monson
Wildlife On Wheels
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

Ware
Under Pressure: A Printmaking Exhibition
Workshop13 Artworks Gallery
workshop13.org

January 26, 2025

Hardwick
Live Music at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
hardwickwinery.com

January 30, 2025

Brimfield
Illuminated Seaglass Heart Wreath Workshop
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

February 1-2, 2025

Ware
Under Pressure: A Printmaking Exhibition
Workshop13 Artworks Gallery
workshop13.org

February 1, 2025

Ware
Beatles Tribute Band
Teresa's Restaurant
teresasrestaurantware.com

February 8-9, 2025

Ware
Under Pressure: A Printmaking Exhibition
Workshop13 Artworks Gallery
workshop13.org

February 8, 2025

Ware
Alex Shillo and Badlands - Bruce Springsteen Tribute Show
Teresa's Restaurant
teresasrestaurantware.com

February 11, 2025

Monson
Friend's Bake Sale
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

February 15-16, 2025

Ware
Under Pressure: A Printmaking Exhibition
Workshop13 Artworks Gallery
workshop13.org

February 19, 2025

Brimfield
Make A Mosaic Workshop
Hitchcock Free Academy
hitchcockacademy.org

February 20, 2025

Monson
Chain Reactions & Creative Contraptions Kids Workshop
Monson Free Library
monsonlibrary.com

February 22-23, 2025

Ware
Under Pressure: A Printmaking Exhibition
Workshop13 Artworks Gallery
workshop13.org

March 2, 2025

Ware
Concert - Weir River Bank Presents Mardi Gras 2025
Workshop13
workshop13.org

March 7, 2025

Ware
Concert - The Super Group
Workshop13
workshop13.org

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.

Business & Recreation Guides & Kiosks



Need more 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>

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

Quaboag Hills

CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

2025 Bronze Underwriter



CHRISTOPHER HEIGHTSTM
of Belchertown

AN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY