

Chamber Channels

A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CHAMBERS
OF COMMERCE OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD, INC.

Serving Agawam, East Longmeadow/Longmeadow,
Hampden/Wilbraham, Ludlow, Springfield, West Springfield
and the Women's Partnership

November 2009

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President's Message

The ACCGS has partnered with NorthPoint Services of Boston, MA to introduce the Small Business Executive Series of professional development programs featuring the world renowned Disney Institute and hosted at Walt Disney World® Resort Destinations. The first program in the Series, "Leadership Excellence and People Management," is scheduled for January 24 -27, 2010 at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts in Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

This is an exciting opportunity for our small business owners and their key staff. We understand the vital role professional development serves in helping businesses improve their performance and profitability. Big company executives have historically benefited from world class professional development, and now our small business Chamber members can benefit too. We encourage every small business owner, executive and key staff member to take advantage of this world class Series.

Disney Institute has been attended by millions of professionals worldwide since its founding in 1986. This particular Series was specifically produced for small business owners, principals, executives, key staff and family business members. Topics include Leadership Excellence, People Management, Brand Loyalty, Quality

[ACCGS Website](#)

**Affiliated Chambers of
Commerce of Greater
Springfield, Inc.**

**1441 Main Street, Suite 133
Springfield, MA 01103**

(413) 787-1555



Legislative Update

On Election Day, November 3, 2009 all cities in our area will elect Mayors and City Councilors. State-wide elections for Senators and Representatives will follow next year. It seems election signs are up longer than they are down these days! These elections are vitally important, as so many decisions that affect our private lives and work lives are made by the people we vote into office; but remember - the ONLY way to elect your candidate is if you vote. Please vote and do all you can to make it easier for friends, colleagues and employees to do so as well.

Yet, even as campaigns are waged, promises made and accusations hurled, the real work of balancing budgets, making decisions on important policies and regulations, and enacting

Service, and Inspiring Creativity - and are presented by Disney Institute's professional facilitators. The Series is being offered exclusively through Chambers of Commerce.

Programs conducted at the Walt Disney World® Resort provide attendees with a unique "Disney learning experience". Beyond classroom activities attendees literally step into Disney's "living laboratory" of Theme Parks and Resorts for "field experiences" - including an exclusive "Behind-The-Scenes" tour.

Another unique feature of this Series is the program's schedule. Sessions begin early each day and adjourn in the early afternoon to provide time for attendees to enjoy their resort facilities and other attractions. There is also a spouse option that enables them to participate in the Welcome reception, the behind-the-scenes tour and the graduation luncheon.

Attendance in this Program is limited. Early registration is strongly recommended. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

For more information about this fantastic program, contact Diane Swanson at (413) 755-1313 or visit www.northpointservices.com/disney/springfieldchamber/.

As always, please remember, should there be issues or concerns that you have that you believe the Chamber should be more closely involved in, feel free to contact me directly at denver@myonlinechamber.com.

Russell F. Denver
President, ACCGS

Happy Anniversary!

Every month the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce honors those members who have continuously supported our mission throughout the years. The following members joined in the month of November. Happy Anniversary!

1 Year Anniversary

Elements Therapeutic Massage
Glacial Energy, Inc.
Huntington Learning Center

laws goes on.

Locally, all of our communities set their property tax rates in the October through December time frame. East Longmeadow is always the first to do so and in October agreed to maintain the same rate for businesses as for residents. There are always some that promote business having a higher rate, falsely assuming that this will bring in more money to the municipality. However, just looking at the vitality of East Longmeadow, one quickly realizes that this single tax rate contributes in a large part to the vitality of that community. The town enjoys the benefit of a full industrial park and a fair housing market for employees.

Congratulations to Barb Perry, President, of the East of the River 5 Town Chamber, the Chamber board, and members of the East Longmeadow business community for presenting testimony at the hearing. I encourage more business people in our other affiliates to get involved in this important yearly endeavor. Your Chamber has the facts and figures to help and only you really know how important it is for your business to remain competitive in today's world.

Statewide and nationally much is written about the H1N1 flu virus and much of that is about delays in the delivery of the vaccine. As with any anticipated outbreak of a disease, estimates as to its size remain varied, but the threat is real. However, sometimes in legislation, government tries to do too much. Bills have been heard mandating that all businesses offer seven paid sick days to their employees. We believe the vast

McNamara Waste Services, LLC

Pocket Communications

Tri-State CDL Training Center, Inc.

WP- Candy Lafreniere

WP- Theresa Hodur

5 Year Anniversary

Cambridge College

HAPHousing

Market Mentors

10 Year Anniversary

American Heart Association Northeast Affiliate

Kegco Mechanical Contractor, INC.

Massachusetts United Soccer Club/ MYISL

15 Year Anniversary

Hofbrauhaus

Ideal Insurance Agency & Real Estate

20 Year Anniversary

Emery Development Ltd.

Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services

Temp-Tech Co., Inc.

30 Year Anniversary

O'Leary Group, Inc.

Thank You to all Exhibitors Who Participated in Oktoberfest!

AJE Financial Services

www.ajefinancial.com

American Laser Center

www.americanlaser.com

American International College

majority of our members offer these days and often time's they do so as part of a complex total employee benefit package. The Chamber believes decisions such as these should be in the hands of the employer. I mention this as many legislators seem to be using the H1N1 issue as a wedge to push this legislation.

Businesses that I have spoken with are already looking at making their work policies more flexible. Having sick workers come in and making others sick is not something an employer looks forward to. As for accurate information on the H1N1 and other flues, there are many sources. The state's web site, www.mass.gov is a good place to start as you can click onto subjects such as the flu update and bulletins from the Department of Public Health.

The State legislature breaks for this calendar year on November 18, 2009. They have recently completed all actions necessary to allow the fiscal year that ended July 31, 2009 books to be balanced and closed. And the good news is that the fear that \$200 million more of the reserve fund that was first thought to be needed to accomplish this was not needed.

Going forward remains a serious challenge as revenues are now projected at \$ 600 million below the last level used to formulate the budget. The Governor will indeed make cuts, and may have already done so, with more, perhaps targeted at the local level looming for later. The Chamber continues to monitor this situation and all bills effecting business. We

www.aic.edu

CareerPoint

www.careerpointma.org

CityStage & Symphony Hall

www.citystage.symphonymhall.com

College of Our Lady of the Elms

www.elms.edu

Comcast Business Services

Community Enterprises, Inc.

www.communityenterprises.com

Corporation for Public Management

www.partnersforcommunity.org

Crocker Communications, Inc.

www.crocker.com

Crowne Plaza Enfield - Springfield

www.cpenfield.com

Days Inn-Chicopee

www.daysinn.com

Denise Smith Photography

www.denisesmithphotography.com

Dental Dreams LLC

Distinctive Marketing Co. Inc.

www.distinctivemarketing.com

EBBE Group

www.ebbegroup.com

Elegant Affairs/The Glass Room

www.elegantaffairs-mass.com

Environmental Compliance Services, Inc.

www.ecsconsult.com

believe that legislation must not harm business but encourage it to create those jobs we need to move forward, generating needed revenue.

Finally, I encourage you to come to the Chamber's Annual Government Reception, November 19, 2009 at the Carriage House at Storowton Tavern, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. You will be able to meet with most of your elected officials and fellow Chamber members to discuss these issues and any others that are important to you.

Your ideas, concerns and comments on pending or needed legislation are encouraged. Simply contact me at ciuffreda@myonlinechamber.com.

Jeffrey Ciuffreda

Vice President,
Government Affairs

Welcome New Members!

Companies and organizations listed here have made an important investment in their business and in the community by joining the Chamber. Do business with Chamber members-it's good business!

A Plus HVAC, Inc.

51 White Oak Road
Springfield, MA 01128

Nathan Lemay, President(413) 782-1840
Heating Contractors

ADT Security Services, Inc.

76 Capital Drive
West Springfield, MA 01089

Adam Dubilo, Business Dev. Officer

Environmental Integrity Company

www.environmentalintegrity.net

Fasttrack Airport Parking

www.fasttrack.com

Get Set Marketing, LLC

www.getsetmarketing.com

Gold's Gym

Health New England

www.hne.com

Hogan Communications, Inc.

www.teamhogan.com

Holiday Inn - Holyoke

Holyoke Credit Union

www.holyokecu.com

Holyoke Gas & Electric Department

www.HGED.com

J K Solutions, Inc.

www.jk-solutionsinc.com

JMP Environmental Consulting, Inc.

www.jmpec.net

Johnson & Hill Staffing Services, Inc.

www.jhstaffing.com

Liberty Mutual Group

www.libertymutual.com

MacDuffie School, The

www.macduffie.org

MassMutual Center

www.massmutualcenter.com

McIntire Business Products

(413) 750-5400

Security Control Equipment, Systems & Monitoring

Concentra Medical Center

140 Carando Drive

Springfield, MA 01104

Marti-Ann Martins, Clients Relations
Manager

(413) 348-1814

Occupational Health Services

JB Auto Sales, LLC

P.O. Box 4704

Springfield, MA 01101

Bill Gilligan

(413) 374-3664

Automobile Dealers- Used Cars

Joe's Auto Body

199 West Ave.

Ludlow, MA 01056

Jack Mateus, President (413) 547-6455

Automobile Body Repairing & Painting

Page Landscaping

P.O. Box 175

East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Ralph Page, Owner

(413) 525-6490

Landscape Contractors

SAFCO Foam

126 Mountainview Road

East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Stuart Fearn, President

(413) 525-3380

Insulation Contractors- Cold & Heat

Scantic Valley YMCA

45 Post Office Park

Wilbraham, MA 01095

Judi LaBranche, Executive Director

(413) 596-2749

Social & Human Services

JJSKD, Inc.

www.mbp-inc.com

Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

www.mbkcpa.com

Minuteman Press

www.mmpne.com

New England Financial

Northeast Security Solutions, Inc.

www.northeastsecuritysolutions.com

Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/The Springfield
Group

www.nmfn.com/thespringfieldgroup

Nuvo Bank & Trust Company

www.nuvobank.com

Penfield Productions, Ltd.

www.penfieldprod.com

Ranch Golf Club, The

www.theranchgolfclub.com

Reminder Publications, Inc.

www.thereminder.com

Resavue Exhibits

www.resavue.com

Riverbend Furniture/Center for Human Development

www.chd.org

Rob Alberti's After Hours DJ

www.afterhoursdj.net

Roberts & Sons Printing, Inc.

www.robertsprinting.com

Royal & Klimczuk, LLC

www.rkesq.com

24 Shaker Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
John Moylan, President
(413) 525-8189
Restaurants

Unity First Direct, Inc.
P.O. Box 80837
Springfield, MA 01138
Janine Fondon, CEO
(413) 734-6444
Marketing

2009 ACCGS Legislative Reception

The ACCGS' Annual Government Reception is set for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at the Carriage House at Storowton Tavern. Mark your calendar to save the date and join us for one of the Chamber's premier events. The annual reception has always proven to be a great social occasion, with no formal program, but with plenty of opportunity for attendees to talk one-on-one with our elected officials.

Thanks to this year's sponsors, Baystate Health, Bay State Gas Company, Comcast, Verizon and the Western Massachusetts Electric Company, the reception will again feature great hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary bar. For more information email Diane Swanson, ACCGS Events Manager at swanson@myonlinechamber.com.

Serv-U Stores of Western MA, Inc.
www.servulocksmiths.com

Sir Speedy
www.sirspeedy.com/springfieldma

Spirit of Springfield, Inc.
www.spiritofspringfield.org

Famous Dave's
www.famousdaves.com/springfieldma

Springfield Falcons Hockey Club
www.falconsahl.com

Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.
www.springfieldpartnersinc.com

Stavros Center for Independent Living
www.stavros.org

STCU Credit Union
www.stcu.com

Strategic Information Resources, Inc.
www.nextgeninfo.com

The Republican
www.masslive.com

Tiger Press-Copy Cat
www.tigerpress.com

United Personnel
www.unitedpersonnel.com

USI Insurance Services
www.usi.biz

Westfield Bank
www.westfieldbank.com

Williams Distributing Corp.

WomanShelter Companeras
www.womanshelter.org

The East of the River 5 Town Chamber of Commerce to host "The Humor Doctor"

The ERC 5 will host Dr. John Glick - "The Humor Doctor" at their December 11th Holiday Breakfast.

Dr. John Glick is a touring performer, writer and collaborator with Dr. Patch Adams of the Gesundheit Institute.

In addition, John Glick is a physician, acupuncturist, musician, clown, songwriter, father, photographer, bird watcher, yoga practitioner and painter. He attended the College of William and Mary graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and a minor in religion. He practiced family medicine in rural Shenandoah Valley for 10 years before opening western Virginia's first acupuncture clinic in 1991. He has practiced clinical medicine for 25 years, combining bioscientific and various traditional modalities to provide an integrated approach to patient care. He works mostly with those who suffer chronic pain, depression and loneliness.

He serves on the board of directors of Gesundheit! Institute and organizes clowning and community building missions around the world. Most recently Gesundheit! has built a medical clinic in rural El Salvador and initiated a community development project in the Peruvian Amazon. He has traveled the United States and 40 countries throughout the world, as a "humanitarian clown", visiting prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, and refugee camps. He has taught, lectured and done keynotes and workshops throughout the US, Canada, Europe and Latin America. Combining storytelling, poetry and music, he offers possibilities for how to live a more loving and healthy life, touching on power, rank, humor, fun, suffering, death, love, laughter, spirit, care and joy.

Dr. Glick's presentation on December 11th will be "*Rubber Chicken Soup for the Workplace*" - a presentation on stressors in the workplace and how to deal with them using humor and a positive attitude. Includes spoken word, humorous musical interludes and group participation in techniques.

Please join the ERC 5 on Friday, December 11th , 7:00

- 9:00 am, at Elmcrest Country, 105 Somersville Road, East Longmeadow. Member reservations - \$20.00, Non-member reservations - \$25.00. To make a reservation sign up on line at www.myonlinechamber.com or fax your reservation to Diane Swanson at 755-1322.

For information on the East of the River 5 Town Chamber of Commerce and events, visit the Events Calendar on the Chamber's website at www.myonlinechamber.com, or contact East of the River 5 Town Chamber of Commerce Director Sylvia Poole at 755-1318 or by email at poole@myonlinechamber.com.

ACCGS Calendar

Sponsored by

The logo for United Bank, featuring the words "United Bank" in white serif font on a dark green rectangular background.

[Visit United Bank online!](#)

November 13

ACCGS Legislative Steering Committee
TD Bank Conference Center
8am - 9am

November 18

ERC5 Board of Directors Meeting
The Gardens of Wilbraham, Community Room, 2
Lodge Lane, Wilbraham
8am - 9am

*

Women's Partnership Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield
11:30am - 1pm
General Admission: \$25, Members: \$20

*

Diplomats Meeting
EDC Conference Room
4pm - 5pm

November 19

ACCGS Board of Directors Meeting
TD Bank Conference Center
8am - 9am

*

ACCGS Government Reception
Carriage House at Storrowton Tavern, West
Springfield
5 - 7pm
General Admission: \$60, Chamber Members: \$45

November 24

WRC Board of Directors Meeting
Captain Leonard House, Agawam

