

May, 2016

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President's Message

Old Man Winter seems to have gone into hibernation, the weather is turning warmer, the Red Sox handily won their season opener (despite it being postponed due to Mother Nature), and the Falcons season is ending after a tough schedule. Which means, the 2015-2016 Chamber season is coming to a close. But don't fear! There is plenty still going on here in the Chamber offices!



The Legislature is in its budget season and needs to have one agreed-upon and signed budget in place by July 1. This is also the end of its formal session with more than 6,000 pieces of legislation having been filed since the session started in 2015. The Chamber will continue to follow the budget and the active pieces of legislation and continue to represent your interests. In case you missed the article in last month's *Chamber Channels* about our Legislative Agenda, follow this [link](#) to download the agenda and review the issues we are working on for you.

Upcoming Events



The Creative Economy

- May 4, 2016
7:15-9 a.m.

Lyman and Merrie Wood
Museum, Springfield

[REGISTER](#)

Speaking of the Legislature... WOW - what a great Outlook event! Even with a capacity crowd, you could hear a pin drop when both Congressman Neal and Governor Baker were making their remarks! THANK YOU to our platinum sponsors, Eastern States Exposition, MassMutual Financial Group, MGM-Springfield, and United Personnel; our program/reception sponsors Comcast, Eversource, *The Republican* and Sisters of Providence Health System; our gold sponsors Chicopee Savings Bank and *BusinessWest*; and our event partner, the East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce. And an even bigger THANK YOU to our presenting sponsor, Health New England, for its consistent support of this event. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

And since we are in acknowledgment mode, special thanks to Senator James Welch and Representative Angelo J. Puppolo



Ladies Night

May 10
5-7 p.m.

White's, East Longmeadow





**Creating a Western
Massachusetts
Renaissance**

May 11
7:15-9 a.m.

MassMutual Center
Springfield





Kickoff to Summer!

May 18
5-7 p.m.

The Colony Club
Springfield





**Secretary of Administration
and Finance**

Kristen Lepore

May 24
9-10 a.m.

TD Bank Conference Center
Springfield



Jr., our co-hosts for the Springfield Regional Chamber Beacon Hill Summit last month, sponsored by Comcast and WWLP TV-22. What a great round-up of presenters! This event is always interesting and informative, and this year was no exception. And special thanks to our partner chambers: the East of the River Five Town and the Greater Holyoke chambers of commerce. Through this unique collaboration, we were able to demonstrate the collective strength of our region.

What's on tap for the Springfield Regional Chamber? Look further in this newsletter for events coming up this month that are sure to engage, excite and entertain, including the Chamber's Summer Kickoff After 5, the season finale of our Pastries, Politics and Policy and the PWC Woman of the Year.

As our 2015-16 season begins to wind down, planning for the upcoming season will move into high gear. We are always interested in hearing your thoughts to ensure we are developing programs that meet your needs and interests, so please drop any of our staff a line with your thoughts, comments and ideas for future programs, locations, speakers, topics -whatever your interest! Your feedback is critical to our success.

So, until next time, thank you for your investment in the Chamber, and we hope to see you at an upcoming event!

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Celebrating Our Members

In this [special supplement](#) of e-Channels, look for news from HAPHousing, Glenmeadow, Eastern States Exposition, Holyoke Community College and more!



We welcome *your* news! Simply send your press releases to:

Springfield Regional Chamber

1441 Main Street

Springfield, MA 01103

Attn: Editor, Chamber Channels

or by [email](#)

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Hot off the Press!


The 2016 Membership Directory and Community Guide is here! This annual publication lists members in





**Woman of the Year
Arlene Rodriguez
Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Springfield Technical
Community College**

May 24
5:30 p.m.
Carriage House
Storrowton Tavern
West Springfield



Welcome These New Members and Visit Their Web Site!

Airsweep Inc
[Altus Dental](#)
[Lenox/American Saw](#)
[McNair Business Machines](#)
 Racing Mart Fuels
[W.F. Young, Inc.](#)
[White Lion Brewing Company](#)

Congratulate These Members on their Chamber Anniversary!

1 Year

Handz On, Inc.
 Massachusetts Commission for
 the Blind
 SNI Companies
 Susan Scantlen

5 Years

O&G Industries, Inc.
 Inspired Marketing, Inc.

10 Years

Mason-Wright Retirement
 Community

15 Years

Springfield Partners for
 Community Action Inc.
 Hampshire Hospitality
 Group
 Chapin Center

20 Years

Massachusetts Bar Association

good standing as of December 31, 2015 of the Springfield Regional Chamber and its Professional Women's Chamber division.

The four-color hard-bound magazine format with a digital e-book component includes information about the economic development of our region, the region's economy drivers and the critical roles industry sectors play in the health of our region.



As well, the Directory includes information about the Springfield Regional Chamber, its role in the region and the many benefits of membership.

The person identified as the primary representative of each member company was mailed a complimentary copy of the 2016 Directory. Additional copies are available at the Chamber offices, 1441 Main Street, Springfield.

Throughout the year, the Chamber also publishes an electronic supplement listing members who joined after the publication date. The first quarter supplement which lists all members who joined between January 1, 2016 and April 10, 2016 can be downloaded [here](#).

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The Creative Economy

Have you ever wondered what the Creative Economy is in Massachusetts and our region? Well, then we have the answer for you!



Join us for our May Business@Breakfast on May 4 from 7:15-9 a.m. at the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum on the campus of the Springfield Museums, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield for a panel discussion on this very topic!

We'll have Deputy Assistant Secretary of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology and the state's former Creative Economy Industry Director Helena Fruscio, the City of Holyoke's Creative Economy Industries Coordinator and Steve Porter from award-winning Porterhouse Media on hand to discuss how film, music, gaming and other sectors are contributions millions of dollars and loads of talent to our region's success.

The breakfast will also salute Ronald McDonald House of Springfield on its 25th anniversary and Freedom Credit Union's new President and CEO Glenn Welch.

Reservations are \$20 for Springfield Regional Chamber members in advance (\$25 at the door) and \$30 for general admission.

Holyoke/Chicopee/Springfield
Head Start, Inc.

REGISTER 

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Ladies Night!

Looking for something for the woman (or man!) in your life? Want to make new connections? Then look no further than the Professional Women's Chamber Ladies Night on May 10, 2016 from 5-7 p.m. when you can combine BOTH at East Longmeadow's newest clothing store, White's, at 41 Maple Street.



The boutique boasts great clothing, accessories and gifts for both men and women.

Ladies Nights provide members with opportunities to meet socially with other PWC members after hours. Themed nights are incorporated adding another element to the event. What a better way to feel good about yourself than with a night out while building relationships!

Reservations are preferred and include complimentary beverages and refreshments. For reservations, please contact Debra Chamberland at smdchamberland@yahoo.com.

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Renaissance Region

The Chamber, in conjunction with the Western Mass Economic Development Council, will present a panel discussion, "Creating a Western Massachusetts Renaissance" on May 11, 2016 from 7:15-9 a.m. at the MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street in downtown Springfield, sponsored by People's United Bank.



Moderated by the Bank's Regional President David Hobert, panelists John Traynor of People's United Bank, Rick Sullivan of the EDC, and Dr. Mark Keroack of Baystate Health will discuss the Massachusetts economy and how communities across the Commonwealth can work together to create a broader and more robust economy.

As well, panelists will outline local economic development initiatives at work in western Massachusetts and how the region can capitalize on its existing assets and develop its growth engines, and the important role the healthcare sector plays in developing centers of excellence for future growth.

Reservations are \$35 and include breakfast and parking.

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Summer Kickoff After 5

It may be National Cheese Soufflé Day, National No Dishes Day and National Visit Your Relatives Day but, for us its... Kickoff to Summer After 5!



Join us on May 18 from 5-7 p.m. at The Colony Club, 1500 Main Street, Springfield, for our last After 5 of the 2015-16 Chamber season, sponsored by Wolf & Company, P.C.

Enjoy informal after-hours networking, cocktails on the patio and summer fare under the late-setting sun!

Reservations are \$5 for Springfield Regional Chamber members and \$10 for general admission.

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The Fiscal Health of the Commonwealth

Secretary of Administration and Finance Kristen Lepore will be the guest at the last Pastries, Politics and Policy roundtable event on May 24 from 9-10 a.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the event will be held at the TD Bank Conference Center, 1441 Main Street, Springfield.



Secretary Lepore will discuss the fiscal health of the commonwealth. As Secretary, she is in charge of formulating the governor's budget plan, providing guidance on the economy, and implementing state government's operating and capital budgets. She also manages the state's administrative agencies, including revenue collection, information technology, human resources, procurement, and state facilities.

In January, the Baker-Polito Administration submitted its FY2017 budget proposal which significantly reduces the state's reliance on one-time solutions, and budgets for a sizable deposit into the stabilization fund. The Administration's plan recommends key investments in education, local aid, addressing substance misuse, workforce development, transportation, and the

Department of Children and Families, all without raising taxes or fees.

Prior to being sworn in, Secretary Lepore was previously vice president of government affairs at Associated Industries of Massachusetts where she was responsible for AIM's health care agenda and advocated for policies to lower the cost of health care in Massachusetts. She also worked on education and workforce development issues on behalf of the association.

Reservations are \$15 for Springfield Regional Chamber members, \$25 for general admission and include continental breakfast.

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Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Dr. Arlene Rodriguez, vice president of academic affairs at Springfield Technical Community College, on being named the 2016 Professional Women's Chamber Woman of the Year!



The Woman of the Year is presented to a woman in the western Massachusetts area who exemplifies outstanding leadership, professional accomplishment, and service to the community. This award has been given annually since 1954 and is publically recognized as one of the most prestigious honors given to any citizen for distinguished service and selfless giving.

"We are thrilled with this year's honoree - a truly inspiring and accomplished woman like Dr. Rodriguez," said PWC Board President Janet Casey. "She is a trailblazer amongst women and a staunch advocate for education, empowerment and advancement and her passion to help young people succeed is unparalleled," she added.

Click [here](#) for more information on why Dr. Rodriguez was chosen.

A celebration in her honor will be held May 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Carriage House, Storrowton Tavern, 1305 Memorial Drive, West Springfield, sponsored by *Businesswest*.

Reservations are \$55.

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Photo Gallery

Check out these photos from our recent events. Were you there?

[March Madness After 5](#), photos by Underwood Photo



[PWC March Headline Luncheon](#), featuring literary agent and national culinary talent representative Lisa Ekus



[Outlook 2016](#) with Governor Charlie Baker and Congressman Richard E. Neal, photos by Michael Epaul Photography

[April Business@Breakfast Mayor's Forum](#) with Mayors Domenic Sarno (Springfield), Karen Cadieux (Easthampton) and Will Reichelt (West Springfield), photos by Ed Cohen



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OOPS! WE'RE SORRY!

In our April *Chamber Channels*, we incorrectly identified the relationship of Colleen Holmes and Tiffany Holmes, both of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. They are colleagues at the organization. We apologize for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.



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Member Benefits Available to You and Your Employees



Chamber Health Coop



TSYS Merchant Solutions™

Save on Credit Card Transactions





Save on dental insurance for businesses with as little as 1 employee!





Springfield Receives National Award for Early Literacy Work

Springfield has been recognized as a 2015 Pacesetter by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, one of 38 communities nationwide to receive this recognition, which is awarded to communities for making measurable progress on eliminating barriers faced by children from low-income families on the path to becoming proficient readers.

Springfield's Reading Success by 4th Grade initiative and community partners were cited for making "measurable progress" on student attendance outcomes.

Pacesetter Honors have been awarded to communities and partners in the Campaign network since 2012.



Our Member News

HAPHousing Opens Holyoke Office

HAPHousing recently opened a new Holyoke office at 267 High Street which will provide better access to the organization's range of affordable housing services to the public and HAPHousing clients and will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HAPHousing currently serves clients with a broad range of housing needs, in-

cluding rental assistance, from Holyoke and the nearby communities of Chicopee, South Hadley and Easthampton. The new Holyoke office will provide access to housing support services, the Housing Consumer Education Center, homeownership and rental assistance programs and other related programs and services.

HAPHousing is currently working with Holyoke residents on multiple projects designed to improve the community located near the new office.

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The organization is also in the process of redeveloping vacant property across the street from the Holyoke Public Library, called Library Commons, which will provide 47 apartments when completed. HAPHousing is also providing resident leadership training to empower city residents to build stronger neighborhoods.

HAPHousing also previously developed the Verano Apartments, a 44-family rental unit community in Holyoke that was rehabilitated in 2006 and provides affordable housing to Holyoke families.

Drapeau Promoted at Florence Bank



Florence Bank, a mutually-owned savings bank serving the Pioneer Valley through nine branch locations, has promoted Danielle M. Drapeau to

the position of vice-president/mortgage production.

Prior to her promotion, Drapeau had served the Bank as assistant vice-president /mortgage production. She first joined Florence Bank in 2014 as a mortgage production officer. In all, she has 30 years' experience in banking. Prior to joining Florence Bank, she was an underwriter-officer with a community bank, located in West Springfield. Her experience includes underwriting loans that include FHA, VA, Fannie Mae and USDA Farmers Home.

Drapeau studied at Holyoke Community College and additionally is a 2012 graduate of the Springfield Regional Chamber Leadership Program.



Participating in the official ribbon cutting ceremony was (from left) Holyoke Ward 2 City Councilor Nelson Roman; State Representative Aaron Vega; Nancy Rivera, senior vice president of HAPHousing Rental Assistance; Deborah Boatright, a representative from NeighborWorks; Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse; HAPHousing President and CEO Peter Gagliardi; Ward 1 City Councilor Gladys Lebron-Martinez, and Ward 3 City Councilor David Bartley.

Glenmeadow CEO Set to Retire in October

The Glenmeadow Inc. Board of Directors has announced the impending retirement of Timothy V. Cotz as president and chief executive officer, effective October 5, 2016.

The Board will work with an executive search firm and will seek input from all

the organization's constituencies—residents and clients, families, donors, volunteers, and staff – to help it determine the qualities the organization should be seeking in an ideal candidate.

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MEDIA PARTNERS















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The Board's intention is to enter into an active search and interview process this summer and name the new president and CEO by fall. Cotz will assist in transition activities, but his primary role will continue to be leading Glenmeadow in day-to-day operations.

In his 22 years with Glenmeadow, Cotz has overseen tremendous growth and formed close relationships with staff, residents and clients alike.

Cotz oversaw construction of the organization's current 23-acre development in Longmeadow, as well as the relocation of residents to it from the former building in Springfield. He also facilitated the process through which Glenmeadow received first-time national accreditation as a continuing care retirement community in July 2000 and achieved subsequent reaccreditation four times.

Further, Cotz managed the creation and continued development of Glenmeadow at Home, through which seniors living in their own homes throughout greater Springfield receive home and property management services, wellness programs and personal care and support.

Likewise, Cotz also created the Lifestyle Pass, through which members of the wider community can access Glenmeadow resources, including the swimming pool, wellness center, café and events.

Cotz also had a role in establishing the community's newest offerings—Glenmeadow Learning and Glenmeadow Getaways, education and travel programs that have allowed Glenmeadow to serve an even greater number of older adults and their families.

Cotz previously served in leadership positions with Berkshire Health Systems, the Geriatric Authority of Holyoke and the National Lutheran Home for the Aged. He has also served on the boards of the AIDS Action Committee, the Community Music School of Springfield, Girls Inc. of Holyoke, Hawthorne Services, the Mt. Tom Institute, United Way of Pioneer Valley and the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Cotz holds a master of health care administration from The George Washington University and a bachelor of arts in economics from Hartwick College.

HAPHousing Awarded Funds for Development

HAPHousing has recently been awarded affordable housing resources by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to be used for HAP's Live 155 development at the Northampton Lodging site in downtown Northampton.

Live 155 will consist of 70 studio and one-bedroom apartments and 2,800 square feet of retail space on Pleasant Street. The cost for construction of the building is estimated at \$14 million.

The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation provided HAPHousing a \$1.6 million acquisition loan and an \$800,000 pre-development loan. The City of Northampton had awarded \$300,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding and \$150,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the project.

HAPHousing plans to commence building demolition and construction in September and complete the project in late 2017. HAPHousing will manage the Live 155 project and will offer a range of supportive services to Live 155 residents along with third-party providers. Apartment rents will be tiered to include market rates and rates affordable to people who earn up to 60%, 50% and 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Eight apartments will be reserved for homeless households earning less than 30% of the AMI, and five apartments will be reserved for clients of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Four apartments will be fully handicapped-accessible and two apartments will be equipped for the visual and/or hearing impaired. Supportive services will be available to building residents, facilitated by a HAPHousing Resident Services Coordinator.

HAP purchased the building in July 2015, and now manages the 58 single-room

occupancy building, known as Northampton Lodging. The building was originally built in 1967 as a dormitory for the now-defunct Northampton Commercial College. HAP will begin temporary tenant relocation in April to prepare for demolition and construction of the building.

PeoplesBank Appoints Angela Liebel as Mortgage Consultant



Angela Liebel

PeoplesBank has announced the appointment of Angela Liebel as mortgage consultant.

Liebel brings a combined 32 years of real estate sales

and residential lending experience to her new position, including nine years with PeoplesBank before she moved out of the area. She will offer a variety of home-financing options to customers, including fixed and variable-rate mortgages, home equity lines of credit, and PeoplesBank's unique "First-Time HomebuyerPlus" mortgage program and will primarily serve Springfield, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham and Hampden.

Liebel holds a Master of Business Administration from Western New England University and a Bachelor of Arts from American International College. She also holds a Massachusetts real estate broker's license and paralegal certificate from Southern Methodist University.

Big Y to Expand

Big Y Foods, Inc. has announced plans to open a World Class Market in Shelton, CT. Big Y's proposed 56,000 square foot supermarket will be at the intersection of Bridgeport Avenue and Nells Rock Road in Shelton. This Shelton location will be the chain's 64th store and the 5th in Fairfield County.

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Big Y is also planning some renovations in their Ansonia location to coincide with the opening of Shelton. The proposed Shelton Big Y World Class Market represents an investment of over \$10 million by Big Y into the local community. In addition, the project will provide several opportunities for local contractors during the construction process, and more than 150 full and part time positions will be created.

An October, 2016 opening is planned.

As well, Big Y has Park Avenue Pharmacy in Worcester, MA and all records were transferred to the Pharmacy and Wellness Center located inside the Big Y World Class Market at 100 Mayfield Street, Worcester, MA. Park Avenue Pharmacy's owner, Scott Najarian RPh, has joined the Big Y team.

HAPHousing Names Vice President of Resource Development



Kandyce Aust has been named vice president of resource development at HAPHousing, responsible for managing marketing communications, grants and individual and corporate fundraising initiatives.

Aust has spent her career working on behalf of nonprofit organizations and in higher education, including the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, HARC, Inc. and the University of St. Joseph (Connecticut).

She is also active in community organizations, including serving on the membership committee of the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Northampton Chamber of Commerce and the Association of

Fundraising Professionals for Western Massachusetts.

Aust earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and received her Master of Education degree from Westfield State University.

Florence Bank Awards \$100,000 to Local Non-Profits

A total of 56 non-profit organizations throughout the Pioneer Valley received grants from \$500 to \$5,000 from Florence Bank's Customers' Choice Community Grants program for a total of \$100,000.

Florence Bank last fall asked customers to cast their votes; qualifying non-profit organizations receiving 50 votes or more are now collecting a share of the funds. More than 11,200 votes were cast this past year and more than 100,000 customer votes have been cast since the program began.

Over the past 14 years, the Bank has awarded \$850,000 through the popular program. This year, a record-breaking 56 organizations will benefit from the program.

HCC Welcomes New Director-Public Safety



Holyoke Community College has hired veteran police officer Jose Rivera as its new director of Public Safety.

Rivera has worked in law enforcement for more than 20 years, getting his start as a patrolman with the Amherst Police

Department, where for two years he was a member of the department's mounted unit. Since then, he has worked for campus police departments at Massachusetts Community College, the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, and, most recently, as the assistant director of Public Safety at Springfield Technical Community College.

For eight years, from 2006 to 2014, he served as the chief of police in the town of Granville, where he implemented a number of community policing initiatives, including bicycle patrols, a citizens police academy, junior police academy, children's bicycle safety rodeo, and child identification program.

Rivera holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Curry College in Milton and numerous advanced certifications.

ESE Staff Appointed to ABA Marketplace Subcommittee

Gillian N. Palmer, MBA, was recently appointed to the American Bus Association (ABA) Marketplace



Orientation Subcommittee for the 2017/2018 term. Palmer is the business development and group sales coordinator at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass.

The mission of the ABA Marketplace Orientation Subcommittee is to instruct and guide newcomers during their first Marketplace event. Subcommittee members are an integral component to the Marketplace experience. The program has found great success in the years since its establishment, and Palmer looks forward to building upon this momentum.

Marketplace is the travel and tourism industry's premier business event. More than 3,500 tour operators, suppliers and exhibitors come together to explore

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business opportunities, network and attend seminars, over the week-long conference.

During Palmer's two-year assignment with the subcommittee, she will develop communication, instruction and delivery methods to determine ways to best serve new event attendees and educate them on Marketplace practices, procedures, expectations and activities.

Palmer joined the Exposition's Sales Department in 2013. She is responsible for researching and developing prospective events, coordinating all food concessions at The Big E and during year-round events that take place at the Exposition, as well as working as the liaison for the Group Tour industry.

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts Joins EPA Methane Challenge



Columbia Gas of Massachusetts has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program as a founding member.

Through the current five-year Methane Challenge Program commitment, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts is investing approximately \$65-70 million per year on the systematic modernization of systems, which are designed to improve safety and reliability for customers and reduce emissions. These investments over the five-year period will replace approximately 230 miles of priority pipe and reduce methane emissions by over 39 million cubic feet.

Through the five-year program commitment, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts will replace a minimum of five percent per year of cast iron and bare steel pipelines remaining in its natural gas system, replacing it with state-of-the-art coated steel or plastic pipe.

The Methane Challenge Program is an integral part of the EPA's ongoing commitment to address methane emissions and global climate change. The program provides a framework through which oil and gas companies can make and track commitments to reduce methane emissions.

HUB International Adds Personal Lines Account Manager

HUB International New England, a division of HUB International Limited, a leading global insurance brokerage, risk advisory and employee benefits firm, announced



Melissa Provost

that Melissa Provost has joined HUB International New England as a personal lines account manager, responsible for providing exceptional customer service in assisting clients with their homeowner's, auto and personal liability umbrella coverages. Provost will be based in the South Hadley, MA office.

Provost joins HUB International with several years of customer service experience in the insurance industry, and has held previous positions with Liberty Mutual Insurance, most recently as a senior customer service representative.

Springfield Named One of the Best Cities for African Americans

The City of Springfield has been named one of the 10 Best Cities for African Americans, 2016 by Livability.com. The cities were selected based on basic indicators

of livability including cost of living, health care availability, economic equality, commute time, access to parks, and safety. Editors looked for cities with higher-than-average and growing African-American populations, and where they are succeeding in terms of income, academic achievement, and homeownership.

Springfield is cited for its diverse economy and recovery from the financial recession of 2008, as well as ongoing economic development. Also noted are the strong presence of corporate headquarters which offer employment opportunities and commitments to workforce diversity. Local nonprofit organizations are noted for leveling the educational and economic playing field for African Americans through providing afterschool programs for children, as well as mentoring, and housing and parenting skills training.

Livability.com states that African Americans are the ethnic group most likely to stress the importance of a college education, and Springfield and the surrounding area is home to more than two dozen colleges and universities.

Irish Rebellion on View at Springfield Museums



The Springfield Museums are hosting a new exhibit titled Easter Rising: Springfield's Response to the Irish Rebellion of 1916 at the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History. The exhibit, which features poster-sized newspaper headlines of the day as well as memorabilia from Springfield residents, explores local reaction to the events of April 14-29, 1916, when Irish Republicans led a revolt aimed at ending British rule and establishing a fully independent Irish Republic. Although the initial revolt was

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violently suppressed by a massive influx of British troops, which included an artillery and naval bombardment of Dublin, the "Easter Rising" signaled the beginning of what would become the Irish War for Independence.

The exhibit, which is on view through May 22, is part of a series of city-wide events being scheduled in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Country Bank Donates

Country Bank has reported that, in 2015, more than \$670,000 was donated back to nearly 350 organizations in the communities it serves through the bank's Charitable Giving Program. Many of these donations were in the form of contributions to local non-profits including senior centers, food pantries, homeless shelters and health centers.

Country Bank's staff is just as invested in giving back to the communities. In 2015, they volunteered more than 800 hours of their own time and contributed an additional \$50,000 to employee selected non-profits through the Bank's Employee Charitable Giving Program.

Springfield College Names HR Director



Miriam J. Siegel has been named director of human resources at Springfield College. Siegel brings more than 24 years of experience in human

resources to the College, including her last nine years at the senior management level. Siegel, as the College's chief human resources officer, will be responsible for providing strategic leadership and direction surrounding all human resources initiatives and priorities for Springfield College.

Previously, Siegel served as senior vice president for human resources at United

Financial Bancorp, Inc., and was responsible for all human resource functions at United, with more than 400 employees and 39 branch locations. She led the transformation of human resources as an administrative role, to a strategic business partner working with management to drive and support a performance based culture.

Siegel earned a bachelor's degree in business and psychology from State University of New York at Albany. She is a member of the WorldatWork society of Certified Professionals, and has been a certified compensation professional

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Tighe & Bond Awarded for Engineering Excellence

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA) recently honored Tighe & Bond and Borrego Solar Systems with a Silver Award for the 3.5-megawatt (MW) North Adams E Street solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The annual competition and event recognizes recent engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit, ingenuity, complexity, and client satisfaction.

Tighe & Bond, a New England leader in civil and environmental engineering, teamed with Borrego Solar Systems to develop a solar PV system on top of the closed E Street Landfill in the City of North Adams. Completed last year, the new solar system is one of the largest of its kind in western Massachusetts. Its output, when combined with power being purchased from two other nearby PV sites, makes the City 100-percent solar powered. All of its municipal buildings and facilities (schools, state-owned skating rink, and street lights) are running on clean, renewable energy. Borrego Solar Systems estimates that the array offsets 2,989 tons of carbon annually, the equivalent of removing 630 cars from the road or the amount sequestered by 2,450 acres of U.S. forests in a year.

Tighe & Bond provided site design, permitting, and construction administration for this project that sits on approximately 11.7 acres of the 31-acre capped landfill. Additional project features included the construction of access roads, and the installation of ballast trays with concrete blocks to support the photovoltaic panel racks and solar panels. It also included equipment pads for the inverters and transformers, as well as a variety of other electrical infrastructure and support features.



Participating in the award ceremony were (from left) Senator Karen Spilka, Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack; Fran Hoey, P.E., LEEDAP of Tighe & Bond; Brendan Neagle of Borrego Solar Systems; Kurt Jelinek of Nobis Engineering; Cynthia Carleo of HDR and Dave Vivilecchia of VHB.

Celebrating Our Members

Continued from page 7

since 2004 and a certified benefits professional since 2008.

Siegel also is a member of the personnel committee for the town of Wilbraham and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Northwestern Mutual Adds Three Reps

Donald Mitchell, John Richards, and Darren James have all been appointed financial representatives by Northwestern Mutual in Springfield, MA.

Before joining Northwestern Mutual, Mitchell was vice president of facilities and projects at the YMCA of Greater Springfield. Mitchell received a bachelor's degree from American International College.

Prior to joining Northwestern Mutual, Richards was a Sergeant Major in the

United States Marine Corps and was active in the Marines for nearly 30 years.

James was previously the food service director for Aramark. He received a bach-

elor's degree from American International College.

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2016 SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL CHAMBER
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Thursday, July 28, 2016
The Ranch Golf Club
\$600/foursome; \$150/individual

11:00 a.m.—Noon
Registration/Course-Side Lunch
12:30 p.m.
Shotgun Start
6:00 p.m.
Dinner Buffet

Sponsorship opportunities available.
Contact Kara Cavanaugh at (413) 755-1313 or
cavanaugh@springfieldregionalchamber.com for information
or to reserve your foursome today.

Photo by Michael Epaul Photography

You don't want to miss this one!

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