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Corridor Nine Named 2009 Best Business Association!

Corridor Nine is proud to be named 2009 Best Business Association by City Living Magazine in their November "Best of" Issue. City Living asked their readers to vote for their favorite places in Central Massachusetts, counted the votes and revealed the results of their Reader's Picks for 2009! There were 50 categories and we thank those who voted us Best Business Association.

What makes Corridor Nine the Best?

1. Our Members - Actively participating and engaged in their Chamber.
2. Fresh ideas and innovative programs and events that provide value to our members.
3. Unparalleled opportunities to make connections for your business - 200-250 attendees at all events - 1,000 visitors at Open for Business Expo.
4. Members driven to do business with each other.
5. Keeping members in the loop about critical issues that affect their business such as health care forums and seminars on important new state regulations.



Gubernatorial Candidates Charlie Baker, Christy Mihos and Tim Cahill respond to questions from moderator Mark Donahue



Business After Hours attendees take a tour of Cummings Veterinary School at Tufts



Ultimate Networking Breakfast for 200 attendees at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club



Summer Sizzle Event - Fun and competitive games for Corridor Nine members!



7 News Investigative Reporter Hank Phillippi Ryan speaks to nearly 200 attendees at Membership Breakfast

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Connections strives to give Corridor Nine members useful news, updates and information. If you have any suggestions, we welcome your feedback. Please email to events@corridornine.org. Your valuable input will help us continue shaping this publication. To connect with our organization call (508) 836-4444. Fax: (508) 836-2652. Mailing address: 30 Lyman Street, PO Box 1555. Website: www.corridornine.org.

Letter from Barbara Clifford



Photo by Ron Bouley

Dear Member,

According to Chief Economist David Wyss of Standard & Poor's, "economic data suggests that we have started to climb up from the longest and deepest recession since the 1930s." This has been an extremely challenging year for businesses and families. As Corridor Nine prepares for 2010, we are optimistic about our plans for innovative programming to benefit you and your business.

We packed our fall season with 33% more events. We did this to help you stay connected with us and our 750 members, believing that supporting each other still seems to be the wisest action to take in these critical times.

Corridor Nine was the first Chamber in the Commonwealth to present the first event featuring the three Gubernatorial challengers: Treasurer Tim Cahill, Charlie Baker and Christy Mihos. We plan to continue to offer programs that can assist our member businesses in moving forward to better times. It is in that spirit that we will again present our January 28th Legislative Panel Discussion Breakfast with our eight Corridor Nine Delegates. Also we will continue to offer our powerful networking events, that consistently help you build long lasting relationships, and we have some new and exciting variations of our networking to share with you in 2010!

Despite the challenging year we have all experienced, it was extremely gratifying to see such an outpouring of generosity from our members in response to our holiday campaign to help Fight Local Hunger. Because of YOU, we surpassed our goal of 5,000 food items for our local food pantries. This is just another great reason why Corridor Nine is the best Chamber in the region!

Barbara Clifford
President

HOLIDAY CHEER AT WHITE CLIFFS!

The Corridor Nine Holiday Business After Hours at White Cliffs on December 3rd was once again THE holiday party of the season! The incredible event, attended by 250 members and guests, offered an amazing full buffet with carving and pasta stations and a dessert bar! There was music by DJ Kevin Whitney, The Spinner, and more than 50 attendees won fabulous raffle prizes donated by Corridor Nine members.

The generous sponsors of the Corridor Nine holiday event were White Cliffs; American Alarm & Communications, Inc.; Choice Car Wash; Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP; The Hanover Theatre; Provo Financial Services, Inc.; Shrewsbury Health & Racquet Club and UniBank.



Left to right: Holiday After Hours Sponsors: Steve Anderson of Unibank, Dan Romano of Gray, Gray & Gray LLP, David Oles of American Alarm and Communications Inc., Nel Lazour of Hanover Theatre, Pam Provo of Provo Financial Services, Inc., Darline Thorp Yatim and Adam Healy of Shrewsbury Health & Racquet Club.

Corridor Nine Collects Over 5,000 Items for Food Drive

The Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce, Doubletree Hotel, HYPE9 and Fales Elementary school launched a food drive in late October to support the local food pantries of our five core towns of Westborough, Northborough, Southborough, Shrewsbury, and Grafton. The goal was to collect over 5,000 items by December 18th and WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL!

Corridor Nine extends its appreciation and gratitude to all our members that generously contributed to our food campaign. You not only helped us achieve another milestone for this organization but you helped us fight the battle of local hunger. Also, for every item collected the Doubletree Hotel will donate 5 cents to the United Nations School Lunch program.



Doubletree Hotel, Corridor Nine & HYPE9 lead food drive to fight local hunger! Barbara Clifford of Corridor Nine, Morgan Duffy of Hayden Wood Insurance Agency, Karen Chapman of Corridor Nine, Henry Tessman of Doubletree Hotel, Dr. Paul Levine of Vision Care Specialists and Peter Tziahanas of Doubletree Hotel.



Geniuses of the "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" challenge at the Ultimate Networking Breakfast. Left to Right: Jonathan Shapiro, Computer Care Associates; Michael DeLuca, Coldwell Banker; Jeffrey Hickson, Glacial Energy; Dean Rowe, United Benefit Services; Dick Urato, Grafton Suburban Credit Union; Dave Bagdon, Community Advocate; Julie White, Francis Harvey & Sons, and Sandra Miller, Marlborough Courtyard by Marriott



Left to right: Jim Malloy, Westborough Town Manager; Barbara Clifford, Dean Deborah Kochevar of Cummings School; Deborah Penta of Penta Communications, Inc.; Ed Lopes of Grafton Suburban Credit Union and Tim McInerney, Grafton Town Administrator at the Cummings School Business After Hours.



Corridor Nine team "C9 Buzz" at the Northborough Rotary Spelling Bee: Donna Cox, DYNAMX Financial Solutions; Carol Sexton, Sovereign Bank and Barbara Clifford.



Commerce Bank President and CEO Brian Thompson welcomes 220 Corridor Nine members and guests to the September Business After Hours held at their Westborough location.



Donna Cox of DYNAMX Financial Services at Speed Networking breakfast.



Ben Colonero of the Willows at Westborough, November After Hours sponsor, talking with Geo Villegas of New England Building Services.



Seth Caplan, General Manager of Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant, Westborough, hosts the November Ambassadors Breakfast Meeting.



2009 Title Sponsor of the Golf Tournament: Fallon Community Health Plan represented by Jim Morin, Beth Evans-Fauth, Beth Helenius, Keith Ledoux



Applefest Road Race Committee: Dave Jacobs, Office Depot; Alison Lewandowski; Karen Chapman; Betsey Cummings-Loomis, AstraZeneca; Aron Hutchins, Hutchins Law; Vickie Griffin, Confetti Gifts & Chocolates.



Sapphire Blue Team wins Summer Sizzle competition led by team captain Mary Simone (center). Event hosted by Teamworks, Bob Rojee (left).



2009 Applefest Road Race Division Winners!



Health Care Forum with Representative Karyn E. Poltio, Representative George Peterson and Bill Fields, President of Healthplan Solutions discuss Fair Share Contribution regulations.

KUDOS!

- Tavolino Italian Gourmet Restaurant Ribbon Cutting, Westborough. With General Manager Anthony Valletta and Chef Frank Sullivan
- Shrewsbury Health & Racquet Club owners Darline Thorp Yatim and Adam Healy at their fall open house.
- Central One Federal Credit Union celebrates the Grand Opening of their Westborough branch.
- REVIVE-MD Skin care and laser treatment practice opened by Dr. Zainab Nawab at Downtown Crossing in Westborough.
- Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening of Great Clips salon in Westborough with owners Ann Marie and Cal Van DeGiesen and staff.
- All Access Fitness Academy, Shrewsbury, celebrated their Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting by partners Mark Powicki and Steve Messineo.
- Acacia Functions at Indian Meadows Country Club, Westborough. Owner Lisa Tu and staff celebrated their grand opening with a VIP Dinner.
- Second Sunrise Massage Therapy Ribbon Cutting in Westborough. Sonya Tapley, Owner and Massage Therapist, cuts the ribbon with her staff.
- Curry Printing ranked 51st in the top 100 printers in the nation by Quick Printing Magazine.
- Accurate Resource Group, Inc. was named Best of Westborough 2009 Award for Human Resources Consulting Services by the United States Commerce Association.
- Grafton Suburban Credit Union's Dick Urato was awarded the 2009 Worcester Regional Association of Realtors Affiliate of the Year Award.



Tavolino



Shrewsbury Health & Racquet Club



Central One Federal Credit Union



Revive-MD



Great Clips



All Access Fitness Academy



Acacia Functions



Second Sunrise Massage Therapy

Corridor Nine Awards \$7,500+ in Mini-Grants to Educators

On November 19th, nearly 200 Corridor Nine Chamber members and guests attended the Chamber's Mini-Grant Program recognizing 20 educators with grants of up to \$400 each. This program is designed to support the development of innovative teaching ideas and increase student motivation and enthusiasm by providing funds for instructional experimentation and enrichment activities. This annual program recognizes special and worthy projects that benefit students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Since the Mini-Grant program's inception, 254 grants have been awarded totaling over \$67,920. Funding for the grants is dependent upon donations from Chamber members. Donations have been made from private individuals, businesses and corporations in our community.

Special thanks to the following grant sponsors:

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Swiftec IT



2009 Mini-Grant Recipients

Brew Before Nine for HYPE9 Members

In August, HYPE9 launched an exciting new venture called "Brew Before Nine". Once a month, HYPE9 members get together first thing in the morning to network with other young professionals. The goal of these meetings is to share information, make new contacts, and exchange ideas with each other.

Motivated HYPE9ers love the theme of a casual, no-frills, business-focused event in which they can make connections, find synergies, and grow their businesses and professional networks.

Young professionals between the ages of 21-40 years old are welcome to attend. There is no cost to attend (except for any food or beverages you order), and you don't have to formally register to be there! Meetings are generally held once a month at Panera Bread at the Bay State Commons in Westborough. Visit the Chamber's website for the date of the next event.

Why not start your morning with a good cup of coffee, meet new people, share information, and develop your business contact list at Brew Before Nine!



Brew Before Nine members collaborating with each other.



Networking at Brew Before Nine

CORRIDOR NINE BREAKFAST: THE KICK-OFF EVENT FOR THE 2010 CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR!

The three Gubernatorial Challengers appeared for the first time together at the Corridor Nine November breakfast to describe their vision for the Commonwealth, should they be elected Governor. Charlie Baker (R), former CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, State Treasurer Tim Cahill (I) and successful business owner Christy Mihos (R) shared their take on the state of the Commonwealth and what they would do as Governor to improve the economy.

Moderator Mark Donahue of Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, P.C kept the candidates engaged with humor and challenging questions. Each candidate had 10 minutes to share their vision and make their pitch on why they should be elected. Treasurer Cahill spoke first, stating "This is our first real opportunity to get together, to introduce ourselves," Cahill said. "First Impressions are important."

After each candidates opening remarks, they each had the opportunity to answer questions ranging from health care reform, taxes and local aid, to how each of them would deal with a Democratic-controlled Legislature. Baker and Mihos came down with a clear rejection of cutting local aid, with Cahill saying he would not reject cutting local aid since everything has to be on the table, given the current fiscal crisis.

Christy Mihos told the audience that "I am going to make this real easy for you- if you are looking for an insider, I am not your guy." Charlie Baker told the audience that everyone in Mass. has "been forced to live within their means except for Beacon Hill" and that he was fearful that if our current tax system remains in place, small business in the state will continue to shrink.

Baker and Mihos will compete in next year's Republican primary and the winner will face Governor Patrick and Treasurer Tim Cahill in the November 2010 general election.



Left to right: Charles Baker (R), Corridor Nine President Barbara Clifford, Moderator Mark Donahue of Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, P.C. Christy Mihos(R), Treasurer Tim Cahill (I), Corridor Nine Chairman Deborah Penta of PENTA Communications, Inc. and Corridor Nine Vice President Karen Chapman.

Save The Dates!

- Thursday, January 14, 2010**
Biz Builder (Business After Hours):
Network Like an Animal!
 Corridor Nine has added a new twist to our traditional Business After Hours!
Location: Doubletree Hotel, Westborough
Time: 5:00-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 28, 2010**
Legislative Panel Discussion
Location: Doubletree Hotel, Westborough
Time: 7:15-9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 7, 2010**
Open for Business Expo 2010: Best Business Expo in the region!
Location: Doubletree Hotel, Westborough
Time: 4:00- 8:00 p.m.
 Sponsorship Opportunities and Exhibitor Information will be available soon!

Congratulations to the Ambassadors of the Month!

May 2009:

Davis Cox, Dynamx Financial Solutions

June & July 2009:
Jimmie Ames, Avidia Bank

August, September & October 2009:
Lynda Chansky, A-1 Exterminators



Davis Cox of DYNAMX Financial Solutions and Jim Ames of Avidia Bank receive Ambassador Awards from Chairwoman Deborah Penta



Lynda Chansky of A1 Exterminators receives Ambassador Award from Chairwoman Deborah Penta

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