

MARLBOROUGH REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NETWORK | REFER | GROW

2020 VOLUME 3

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TO OUR VALUED MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY

These months of operating in survival mode have provided valuable insight into how our Chamber fellowship can truly move forward from this disruption in 2020 and position ourselves to navigate the future obstacles that are bound to occur. In short, we see a path toward thriving, not merely surviving. Your spirit and perseverance has been amazing to witness. With the end of 2020 in sight, we have the means to create the light we want to step into. There's no "waiting for a better time"—the time is now. Enjoy the holidays and reflect on your health, your families and the opportunity to Reimagine, Redesign and Restore the path forward!





Hello everyone!

As we wind down 2020, it is rewarding to reflect on a very busy and productive quarter and year for MRCC and thank our membership and community for there support furing these unprecedented times! Despite very uncertain business conditions caused by the pandemic, the Chamber remained focused on the fall season and committed once again to deliver two meaningful events in November to finish the year.

We launched our 2nd Annual Tri-Chamber event honoring our Veterans as we partnered with the Collings Foundation in their spectacular virtual tour of the American Heritage Museum, with a very impressive lineup of retired military speakers. A portion of the proceeds were once again given to the Veterans Inc. and Sweats for Vets to assist in this very challenging year of pandemic impact on the Veteran impact on the veteran community.

Our Annual Luncheon entitled **Reimagine**, **Redesign and Restore** followed a week later in virtual fashion as we welcomed a healthy turnout of membership and a new slate of Board of Directors. We were very fortunate to have two excellent speakers! **Robyn Glaser**, Senior Vice President of Business Operations at the Kraft Group kicked us off with a very interesting discussion and Q&A. **Damien Leigh**, Senior Vice President of Direct to Consumer at New Balance closed the meeting with another inspiring discussion on overcoming the adversity of the pandemic on a home grown business.

We have been fortunate to maintain some very solid momentum with our membership growing by 50 new members which is the second year in a row that we achieved this number despite the challenges of Covid. Our renewals also remained strong despite the extremely difficult business conditions and **we appreciate the support of our membership!**

We are very excited to be entering into a strategic partnership with the **Boston LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce** which will serve to launch our platform to drive our commitment to inclusion and diversity.

We close out the year with a very strong sense of momentum and are very excited to share our marketing and business focused programming with you in the months ahead. Our staff and volunteers have been instrumental in setting the bar high for quality of events and improved communications to our membership.

As we bring 2020 to a close, I reflect on how the membership, the board and the community demonstrated amazing resiliency and courage in the face of business conditions that we had never faced in our history. The true spirit of our Chamber fellowship was inspiring to watch, and I felt extremely proud to represent MRCC in the region we serve.

Our value proposition remains sound and focused on delivering a consistent value proposition to our membership.

Wishing you all a **healthy, safe and joyous holiday season** takes on significant meaning as we look to move past the impact of the pandemic and into recovery. Onward and upward!

Robert Schlacter, President and CEO rschlacter@marlboroughchamber.org

stayinformed

This newsletter is a publication of the MRCC: Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce. Celebrating over 90 years of service!

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FALL RECYCLE EVENT

MRCC and the Marlborough Rotary teamed up to provide two weekend days for community recycle to support our commitment to sustainability. It was extremely successful with over 300 cars and close to 10 truckloads of recyclables!





AFC Urgent Care MARLBOROUGH

BACKGROUND

Local Contact Bing Yeo **Address** 38 Boston Post Road, Marlborough MA 01752

Access Hours Clinic hours are M-F from 8 to 8 and Weekends from 8 to 5. Daily COVID testing hours are 10 to 4 on weekdays and 9 to 4 on weekends.

FUN FACTS

- When the new "Urgent Care" industry started growing in MA, AFC was the first clinic to open in Marlborough n 2014 delivering high-quality, convenient and cost-effective medical care to patients.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, AFC Urgent Care has been in the frontline, providing testing and much needed care. To date, AFC Urgent Care in Marlborough has conducted well over 50,000 COVID tests.
- Belongs to a network of over 200 urgent care clinics in the US but remains independently/locally owned and operated, which has allowed it to leverage the infrastructure of a national company and remain deeply connected with the local community.
- AFC Urgent Care is partnered with the City of Marlborough to offer free COVID testing to all of its residents and workers in Marlborough.

CONTACT INFORMATION

508.658.0764 | www. afcurgentcaremarlborough.com



NEW MEMBER | TACKLE BOX BREWERY

MRCC is excited to welcome its first local brewery into the membership! Adam Krasinski shows off the Colorado Fisherman IPA!!! Highly recommended!

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MRCC committee updates

NextGen Networking

The Next Gen Network has spent their last few meetings talking about how to support each other and discussing what they want to see from events in the future. In the new year, we'll be building momentum through Virtual Events and other ways to connect the young professionals in the region. MRCC and the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation are partnering on a new mentorship series, "Passing the Torch," and looking for both mentors and mentees. Check out the first episode featuring **Chamber Member Steve Uliss of Firefly's** as a Mentor. If you're interested in being a mentor or mentee, please reach out to Jill Morin at press@marlboroughedc. com. We are all looking forward to supporting Doug Dombrowik and Fox Ballroom at their Holiday Showcase on Monday, December 21 (7:30pm Pre-Show Cocktails, 8pm Show). If you'd like to get involved with the Next Gen Network, email Kelley Borer-Miller at kborer-miller@crossroadsschoolma.org. We look forward to working with you in the new year!

Government Affairs

As we end this widely different year, Government Affairs has been busy. We finished up the year attending the City of Marlborough's annual tax rate review advocating between the commercial and residential tax rates. Molly Brodeur of Al Brodeur's Auto Body and Fred Brewitt, retired from Brewitt & Domke represented the Chamber with our position. (both are residents and business owners in the city).

We were able to hold a COVID-19 responsible debate for the State Representative Middlesex 4th District giving voters a view of both candidates to inform their decision before the election. We are in planning mode for next year. We will be having City Councilor's attend our meetings each month to let us know what is going on in their wards and how the Chamber can support the businesses in the city. We are focusing on sustainability, inclusion and diversity for 2021 and how government impacts each one of these areas to be able to help support every business owner in the city achieving success. We will be debuting a question and answer to help businesses get their challenges answered by Chamber members. Watch your email for a survey from the Chamber's Government Affairs committee for your input. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Remember the state is updating signage along the Mass Pike currently. Please contact the Chamber if you are interested in serving on this committee. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

School to Business

Mark Vital has assumed the leadership position of the STB committee and we are thrilled with having in lead efforts that will leverage the business community with the diverse school systems we have in our Chamber region. Look for large steps in everything from S.T.E.M. program engagement, to training, internships and engagement with National Business Honor Society. We are very fortunate to have so many great superintendents to work with who are committed to working with our Chamber! We will be piloting an "Ed Assist" program in the Marlborough School system that will enable students to get tutoring remotely online through reservations at no charge while tutors earn community credit for the honor society. Stay tuned for exciting things this year.

Partnership with Massachusetts LBGT Chamber of Commerce



As part of our ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are proud to announce a very exciting strategic partnership with the Massachusetts LBGT Chamber of Commerce! We are thrilled to welcome them and we will be joining forces to create a very exciting year of programming and membership opportunities with reciprocal memberships.



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Lucy Servidio

Chamber Ambassador, CHMM, TURP

Lucy loves being an ambassador which gives her the opportunity to meet new members and share the compelling benefits of being a Chamber member! She is a

Senior Vice President with Capaccio Environmental Engineering, Inc. (CAPACCIO). CAPACCIO has been a member with the chamber since 2010 and has served on the Chamber BOD since 2014. Lucy participates in the Quarterly Large Employer Round Table meetings which have focused on 2020 on Sustainability. You may also remember her as the "Pretzel Gal" at past October fests!

Lucy is responsible for directing marketing and business development, building client relationships, and leveraging business partnerships. She has more than 35 years of experience in providing specialized environmental consulting to industry. To help minimize risks, she has focused on solving clients' environmental compliance challenges by providing cutting edge solutions that align clients' environmental, health and safety (EH&S) team goals with their company business goals. Lucy lives CAPACCIO's mission, "Helping Industry and the Environment Prosper," every day!





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RESTORING MORE THAN PROPERTY

Vikki M.G. Levine

Chamber Ambassador

I moved to the Hudson area about six years ago with my two children, Maya and Ilan, and didn't know a soul - but since then I have immersed myself in the community, including the Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce, Local Networking Groups, & Hudson High School.

I'm proud to be a MRCC Ambassador since it's given me the opportunity to meet, network and cultivate relationships with business owners and community members. I wear my ambassador sash with pride and always take the time to "meet & greet," as it must be my Ohio roots!

Just ask my Mom - she will tell you that I've been a caregiver since I was a little girl, especially with my two younger sisters. When my partner (and former owner of Comfort Zone Home Care, LLC) was diagnosed with cancer, I was his primary caregiver for 19 months and I knew I wanted to continue his dream & vision. I believe that those who want to be cared for at home can be, and that a quality home care service provider is only a phone call away. It's been a pleasure and honor to serve those in need of care since I became the owner of Comfort Zone Home Care in 2017.



5 Mt. Royal Ave., Suite 40 Marlborough, MA 01752

C 617.548.0681

O 978.443.3600

E jwalker@walker-dev.com



WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED MOST DURING THE PANDEMIC?

"Music, music, music" Steve Uliss

"Hugs and handshakes"

Vikki M.G. Levine President, Comfort Zone Home Care, LLC Chamber Ambassador

"I have missed most of all my students and athletes, hearing them laugh and address me as their coach." "From a business standpoint, I most miss working in our office with our team – we were able to make the pivot to working remotely very easily as our infrastructure was already in place to handle a 100% remote work force, but I miss the watercooler talk and lunchtime conversations around our kitchen table. From a personal standpoint, I would love to be able to visit my family from coast to coast without having to take the risk of mixing our "pods" and increasing the odds of infection for us all.

Dave DelVecchio

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