



CURRENT AFFAIRS

YOUR REGIONAL RESOURCE | AUGUST '25

GREATER DANBURY IS COMPRISED OF A THRIVING 10-TOWN REGION IN WESTERN CONNECTICUT: DANBURY, BETHEL, BRIDGEWATER, BROOKFIELD, NEW FAIRFIELD, NEW MILFORD, NEWTOWN, REDDING, RIDGEFIELD AND SHERMAN.

CHAMBER INFORMATION

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CHAMBER STAFF

Maura Ruby, President and CEO
Jessica Goncalves, Events Coordinator
Natacha Pimentel, Administrative Coordinator
Jennifer Murphy-Pitcher, Project Manager
NWRWIB (Healthcare)
Nelson Merchan, Business Advisor, CT
SBDC

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Ross Rizzo, (Vice President)
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Greg Steiner, Vice President, Berkshire
Corporate Park
Dan Sousa, Managing Director, Coldwell Banker
Commercial Realty

Member Spotlight: Elicit Brewery - A Destination for Dining & Entertainment

We are thrilled to welcome Elicit Brewery to the Chamber and to Danbury's Westside! This dynamic new venue is more than a brewery, it's a community hub for craft beer, live entertainment, and elevated dining. Elicit enhances the city's nightlife and hospitality scene, making Danbury an even more attractive destination for residents and visitors alike. Visit them on the Westside and see what everyone's talking about!

"Spacious, stylish, and built for community, this is not your average brewery. This is Elicit."



Prepare to LEAD...

Leadership Greater Danbury, a regional learning series is now accepting applications for the class of 2026!

Since its inception in 1987, this rewarding program has become one of the longest-running and best-reviewed leadership initiatives in our region. Leadership Greater Danbury is designed to prepare emerging leaders for positions of responsibility within regional government, philanthropy, and business. Over the course of nine months, each participant will gain valuable insights into the intrinsic aspects of our region, equipping them to engage effectively in community processes and address pressing issues.

Ready to increase your regional knowledge and network? **Leadership Danbury** is a signature program designed to empower emerging professionals through hands-on learning, community impact, and networking.

Apply & Learn More:

danburychamber.com/events/leadership-danbury

Regional Growth - ONE CONNECTION AT A TIME...

NEW (*) and Re-Newing members (6/1 to Date)



APEX Community Care, Inc	Halloran Sage, LLP	*Occupational Healthcare on the Go
American Pavement Specialists LLC	Harry Grodsky & Co., Inc.	On The Mend Medical Supplies & Equipment
Ann's Place, Inc.	*Hartman Financial Group DBA Stratos Wealth Partners	Regional Hospice
AOD Financial LLC	Hawley Construction Corporation	REI Property & Asset Management, Inc
*Aristeia Communications LLC	Hilton Garden Inn	Richter Park Golf Course
Bart's Tree Service	Hocon Gas of Danbury	Seventy2 Architects, LLC.
*Cafe on the Green	Hodge Insurance Agency, Inc.	*ShopeRite (Cingari) Brookfield
Capitol Design & Engineering, Inc	Housatonic Habitat for Humanity	*ShopRite (Cingari) Danbury
Chamber Publishing Group	Housing Authority of the City of Danbury	Signarama Danbury
Coldwell Banker Commercial Realty	*Images Fine Print	Sonics & Materials, Inc.
Collins Hannafin, P.C.	Immaculate High School	Spring Village at Danbury
Danbury PAL	Ingersoll Automotive	Square Consulting, LLC.
Dave's RV Center	Intersurface Dynamics Inc	*The Purple Drop
*DAWS Animal Welfare Society	J Chan Law, LLC	*Thomas J. Curro Architect, P.C.
*Doors and More Inc	*Jenks Productions	Town of Brookfield
Engraved Products	Jim's Welding Service	Town Of Newtown
Ethan Allen Corporate & Retail	Latinos for Educational Advocacy and Diversity (LEAD)	Townsquare Media Danbury
Executive Air Services, LLC.	Leahy's Fuels	TPMConnect
Fast Eddies Barber Shop & Hair Salon	Linde / Praxair Inc.	Vale Foot and Ankle Surgery, PLLC
Fiorita Kornhaas & Company, PC	Linde / Praxair Inc.	Western Connecticut State University
*Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Foundation	Norwalk River Valley Trail	*Women's Business Development Council
	Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling	*Zen JuJu Boutique

Thank you for your Feedback!

Highlights from the 2025 Membership Survey

The Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce is committed to being your source for business news, resources, and support. To better serve you, we conducted a survey of members and former members earlier this year. Thank you to everyone who shared feedback—it helps us shape our programs and priorities to better meet your needs.

- 82% of respondents find GDCC membership valuable (extremely or somewhat).
- 80% would recommend membership to a colleague; 19% said it depends on the industry, and only one respondent said they would not.

Top-Ranked Services

Members said the most valuable Chamber services are:

- Networking and Business Relationship Building
- Advocacy and Government Relations
- Visibility and Business Promotion
- The least valued service was Exclusive Member Benefits and Discounts. We are reviewing these offerings to make them more valuable to you.

What You Asked For

You shared great ideas for how GDCC can support your business. We're exploring:

- More opportunities to spotlight small businesses
- New formats for networking events
- Business development and educational programs
- Greater promotion of businesses in Brookfield and Newtown
- Lower-cost event options to make participation more accessible

Business Concerns

In today's uncertain environment, your top challenges are:

- The economy (33%)
- Legislation that could make it harder to do business
- Hiring and job training
- Employee retention was the least concerning factor for most members.

Past Member Perspectives

We also reached out to former members to understand perspectives about GDCC membership:

- **Main reasons for lapsing:** ROI and shifting business priorities
- **Most valued services:** consistent with current members, but with added emphasis on business credibility and referrals
- **Top concerns:** the economy first, followed by the impact of AI on business
- Nearly half of former members said they would recommend GDCC membership, with most others saying it depends on the industry. We did receive several areas for improvement and are taking this feedback very seriously.

What's Next

Your feedback is shaping our work. The Chamber has a strategic plan to guide our efforts, and your survey responses help us refine it. Over the coming months, you'll see new initiatives based directly on what you told us; more opportunities for connection, tailored programming, and stronger support across all the towns we serve. Thank you again for your input. Together, we're building a stronger business community across the Greater Danbury area.

Economic Updates

Danbury - Danbury High School West: The new west side campus is preparing to welcome students for the 2025–26 school year. The facility blends career academies with traditional academics, offering labs and programs designed to align education with workforce opportunities.

- **Downtown Streetscape Renaissance – Phase II:** \$9 million in state and community grants, enhancements are moving forward to improve sidewalks, accessibility, lighting, and landscaping. The effort remains a central piece of downtown’s revitalization.
- **Crowne Plaza Redevelopment** - Plans are underway to reimagine the former Crowne Plaza hotel into a mixed-use residential and innovation hub with micro-apartments, co-working, makerspace, and lifestyle amenities. The project has received approvals and is advancing through the development process.
- **Ives Bank Headquarters** - construction is underway of the new 35,000 sq ft headquarters at Main and White Street, signaling further investment momentum in the downtown corridor.

Ridgefield - Red Rooster Site Redevelopment: The longtime diner location is set for transformation into a 20-unit apartment building, with six affordable units included. Traffic flow and safety requirements remain part of ongoing review.

New Milford - Riverfront Revitalization: Design work is in progress following town approval for architectural planning funds. The goal is to transform the Housatonic riverfront into a connected space blending recreation, housing, and public gathering areas.

Newtown - Senior Housing Zone at Fairfield Hills: Zoning changes now permit a dedicated senior living zone, opening the door to mixed-use redevelopment opportunities. Project proposals and site planning remain in early stages.

Bethel - Stars Lab Sports Complex: A new 16,000 sq ft sports and recreation facility has been launched, offering volleyball, basketball, pickleball, and fitness programming. The project is designed to expand access to youth and adult sports, with programming continuing to grow.

Brookfield - Food Emporium Site: Redevelopment is progressing at 731 Federal Road, with pedestrian and streetscape improvements complementing the commercial project.

- **Overland Crossing Apartments:** A 108-unit apartment complex is under construction, adding new housing supply that includes underground parking and a mix of unit sizes.

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates!!

SEPTEMBER 24TH

**ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
RIDGEWOOD COUNTY CLUB**

OCTOBER

**7TH -BROOKFIELD 1ST SELECTMAN DEBATE
16TH DANBURY MAYORAL DEBATE
23RD GDCC LEADERSHIP GRADUATION
30TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Happenings

NEW - Monthly B2B Networking Series

Morning Connect; 2nd Tuesday each month - A relaxed, energizing way to start your day and make great connections.

Business After Business; 3rd Thursday each month - Unwind while connecting with peers in a casual after-hours setting.

Member event locations vary. Showcase your business and connect with Chamber members!

Reserve your date today!! Contact Jessica Goncalves at - jessica@danburychamber.com



Leadership Greater Danbury in Action!

The pictures above capture Leadership Greater Danbury in Action!

Photo taken at Cotton Candy Fabric during a hosted sewing session, where the 2025 Leadership Greater Danbury class created 100 handmade bags. This year, the class has partnered with the Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut to collect much-needed hygiene items, supporting seniors in our community who lack access to basic essentials.

Below is a snapshot from last month's class environmental session, a great day had by all!

