



BUILDING ON
STRENGTHS
MAXIMIZING
OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NANCY COWSER

Places said to have a strong "sense of place" have an identity that is deeply felt by inhabitants and visitors. I am often asked, "What exactly is 'sense of place' and why is it important?"

*"People develop a 'sense of place' through experience and knowledge of a particular area. A sense of place emerges through knowledge of the **history, geography and geology** of an area, its **flora and fauna**, the **legends** of a place, and a growing sense of the **land** and its **history** after living there for a time. ... **Memories** of personal and cultural experiences over time make a place special, **favorite objects** that shape to your hand or body with use, **songs** or **dances** that emerge from the people of a place, **special skills** you develop to enjoy your area--these too help to define a place and anchor you in it. Through time, shared experiences and stories (history) help to connect place and people and to transmit feelings of place from generation to generation." ~ Dr. Thomas A. Woods, President of Making Sense of Place, Inc.*

Interwoven with the concept of place is the sense of home. Home can be a dwelling, a town, even a state or a nation, but it is always a place. A full sense of the meaning can only be developed by really getting to know one place well. That usually means living there, becoming engaged with the surroundings, getting involved with the community, making enough of a commitment of time to get beyond the surface.

In this newsletter, we are primarily focusing on housing. As our region continues to recover, attracting and retaining a trained and experienced workforce is critical to our competitive advantage. Having a variety of housing options is vital to that effort. We've spoken often of the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board's Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI), and you will see their incredible results outlined below. In order to support their efforts, and that of the hundreds of local companies trying to hire talented staff, it is important for them to want to come to our area, and to stay! That includes the young people who grew up here and are now getting ready to enter the workforce, and new recruits who we want to welcome to our incredible region. That's where "sense of place" comes into the picture.

Weaving together beautiful housing, great restaurants, the arts, wonderfully diverse cultural attractions, our beautiful and varied natural resources, newcomers clubs, young professionals and leadership organizations, volunteer opportunities, workforce development training... all are critical towards attracting and RETAINING talent, and attracting and RETAINING business growth and new industries. You'll therefore see organizations like seCTer working together on heritage projects, tourism initiatives, arts collaboratives, philanthropic efforts, climate change projects and many other issues that define our "place". There are honestly too many to list, but please join us in supporting these worthwhile and critical initiatives.

Enjoy this compilation of regional news, and please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions!

Nancy Cowser
Executive Director
ncowser@sector.org



Nancy Cowser,
Executive Director



SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
ENTERPRISE REGION

THE LATEST FROM THE EASTERN CT MANUFACTURING PIPELINE INITIATIVE

We are a proud community partner of the **Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI)** – the region's leading workforce development programs. The MPI provides no-cost training to address the hiring needs of regional manufacturers. Designed by businesses to meet their specific needs, the program training includes online and short-term classroom training and even job search assistance. We encourage you to take a moment and watch the video below to learn more!



[CLICK HERE](#) to for the latest data on the MPI.



REGIONAL HOUSING PROJECTS

The **Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)** was awarded a Department of Defense grant to review the potential housing and transportation impacts of expanded hiring at Electric Boat and the New London SUBASE. This work will update the findings of the 2018 Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance's Housing Needs Assessment and develop recommendations for meeting infrastructure needs. As part of this project, SCCOG collected information on recent construction and permitted projects across the region. Over the last 5 years, about 1,300 units have been built and another 5,700 proposed units have received land use approvals. SCCOG's consultant will evaluate how much of this pipeline inventory will be utilized to satisfy future demand for housing.

Our local communities have myriad projects underway to meet the demand for housing. Norwich has the second phase of the Lofts at Ponemah Mills and the Westledge Apartments which will offer 120 units on the site of the former Peachtree Apartments. New London has sixteen projects in the works including the Edgerton School which will offer 72 affordable housing units, Shipway 221 in walking distance to EB's New London offices, Parcel J city redevelopment, and renovation to multi-use of several downtown properties on Bank and State Streets. Stonington has nine current projects and has updated zoning to accommodate more residential mixed-use.

(LISC): ADMINISTERED HOUSING CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

A LISC-managed program called Housing Connections, supported by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), works with volunteer boards of local housing organizations. Housing Connections guides them in effective utilization of professionals and helps them understand the complexities of affordable housing development. LISC has assisted groups across the state as communities come to recognize the value of affordable housing in attracting young people and economic development. If you would like to discuss the possibilities in your town, contact Lesley Higgins-Biddle, lhigginsb@lisc.org.

SAVE THE DATE!




GENERAL DYNAMICS
Electric Boat

**LEADING
THE WAY**

A full-day event featuring
business education programs,
networking, and matchmaking
opportunities with General
Dynamics Electric Boat.


Department of Economic and
Community Development


CONNECTICUT
PTAC
Spring Conference Series


SECTER

READ MORE

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Exhibit in the Connecticut Building at the 2019 Big E!

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is accepting applications for exhibition space in the Connecticut Building at the 2019 Eastern States Exposition (aka The Big E).

There are three (3) types of exhibition opportunities:

- Full-time exhibitor (17 days);
- Part-time exhibitor (2 or more consecutive days); OR
- Connecticut Showcase Vendor (1-2 days only)

Exhibition space is available at a rate of \$25 per square feet. The cost includes admission tickets, parking, electricity and water (if applicable).

The 2019 Big E runs from Friday, September 13 - Sunday September 29, 2019 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. [Click here to apply.](#)

The Best Small Business Grants of 2019: [click here](#) to learn more!

PARTNER EVENTS

Three Rivers Community College - Spring 2019 Employer On-Campus Recruitment Sessions: Connecting Employers to TRCC Students

When: Now through May 1st

- Employers select Day(s), Time(s), and Location(s) from a Career Services Recruitment Schedule
 - Career Services coordinates all marketing efforts for each employer (ie: campus flyer, Facebook notification)
 - Contact: CareerPlacement@threerivers.edu
-

Manufacturing Career Expo - Friday, May 3, 2019, 8:30am-2:30pm at the Holiday Inn Norwich, 10 Laura Blvd, Norwich, CT 06360. The [GNACC](#) is putting together a Manufacturing Career Expo for local High School Students who are also participants of the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI). Interested in Participating? [Sign-up here.](#)

Connecticut's Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

- [Click here](#) to inquire for more information.

- **SBDC Day 2019:** March 20, Connecticut State Capitol, Old Judiciary Room, Hartford, 9 AM - Noon. [Click here to register.](#)
 - **Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection's Food Labeling 101:** March 22, 22 Pitkin Street East Hartford, 9 AM - Noon. [Click here to register.](#)
 - **Starting or Growing a Veteran Owned Business:** May 8, 222 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, 8:30 AM – 4:45 PM. [Click here to register.](#)
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Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP) - *For more info, email [Emma Palzere-Rae](mailto:Emma.Palzere-Rae).*

- **Innovators Networking Series Goes Organic:** March 21, 5:00-7:00pm, BioCT Innovation Commons
- **Ignite Office Hours:** March 27, 10:00am-2:00pm, BioCT Innovation Commons

- **Women + Girls in STEM:** March 29, 6:00-9:00pm, BioCT Innovation Commons
 - **Electronics Meetups:** Every Thursday in March, 6:00-9:00pm, Spark Makerspace
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Women's Business Development Council - 6th Annual Women-Owned Business Day - April 30, 2019, Legislative Office Building, Room 2d, 9:00am-2:00pm. [Click here for more info or to register.](#)

Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition's Current Exhibit at Groton–New London Airport - New London's Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) Students' Nationally Acclaimed Photography Exhibit "Community Faces - Humanizing the Immigrant Label" - Open until April 30, sponsored by seCTer. [Click here](#) for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Thank you to the **Frank Loomis Palmer Fund**, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, for their support of seCTer's implementation of the 2017 – 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Lending Clients in the News:

[Thames River Greenery Making the Cut in New London](#)

Workforce and Housing:

[More sub workers and sailors are coming. Are we ready?](#)

[With influx of sub-related workers, the first task: What kind of housing is needed and how much?](#)

[Stonington PZC expands residential mixed-use projects into new zone](#)

Regional News:

'Most modern sub in the world' is commissioned

Courtney: Navy picks EB for USS John Warner maintenance

Lawmakers eye 2,000-megawatt offshore wind power buy

Mystic tourism anchors dig into their own pockets

Costco developers break ground in East Lyme

Connecticut's Great Depression May Be Over



MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

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Montville | New London | North Stonington | Norwich | Preston | Salem |



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