

CHAMBER NEWS

*A Focus
On Our
Business
Community*

**EAST PROVIDENCE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
est. 1897

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A PUBLICATION OF THE EAST PROVIDENCE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WINTER 2007

2007

Calendar of Events

Please check the
Chamber's Web site
for regular updates

MARCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Statewide Business After Hours
at Rhodes-on-the Pawtuxet, Cranston

APRIL

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Business After Hours
at Thrifty Car Sales and Rental,
Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence, RI

MAY

**TUESDAY, MAY 1 AND
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2**
2007 Business Expo
at the RI Convention Center,
Providence

SATURDAY, MAY 5
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

First Annual Touch-a-Truck
Parking lot of 362 Taunton Avenue,
East Providence
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

SATURDAY, MAY 19
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
**Fifth Annual Historic
East Providence Bus Tour**

AUGUST
**3rd Annual Sailing Away
on the East Bay**
Details TBA

SEPTEMBER
**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12**
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Business After Hours
Hosted by Radisson Hotel
Providence Harbor, Providence

NOVEMBER
**EPACC Annual Meeting and
110th Anniversary Celebration**
Details TBA

DECEMBER
EPACC Annual Holiday Party
Details TBA



February Business After Hours

(l-r) Christine St. Hilaire, East Providence Medical Center and Helen Piravoo, Coastway Credit Union, welcome guests at the Chamber's February Business After Hours. The event was hosted by both businesses and held at Coastway's Pawtucket Avenue branch.



Family Service of RI Receives \$27K grant

(r-l): Officer Aguiar, EP Police Dept; Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO of Family Service of RI; Richard Brown, EP City Manager and EP Police Chief Paquette at the press conference announcing a \$27K grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

East Providence Area Chamber Joins the RI Chambers of Commerce Coalition

In January 2007, the Rhode Island Chambers of Commerce Coalition welcomed the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce as a member of their organization. The Coalition is now comprised of thirteen Rhode Island chambers of commerce and represents 12,500 businesses throughout the state.

There is strength in numbers and the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce is now represented by the Coalition lobbyists who will focus on issues that concern EPACC members and other chambers of commerce represented in the Coalition. They are: Central Rhode Island, Cranston, East Bay, East Greenwich, Narragansett, Newport County, North Central, Northern Rhode Island, North Kingstown, Pawtuxet Valley, South Kingstown & Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck.

The most important value of this membership is that it enables the East Providence Area Chamber to work collaboratively with other chambers to create change regarding legislative agendas and other issues affecting the business community in Rhode Island. Each chamber has equal voting rights and has the option of not participating in certain issues. The Coalition's lobbyists also keep the members

of the organization informed of bills being introduced that may affect the business community and they report on bill tracking.

The executive directors/presidents of the chambers also share ideas and concerns with one another. They work in a congenial manner in an effort to help all chamber members, regardless of the chamber to which they belong. They recognize and respect that each chamber serves their individual communities. Many of the issues affecting businesses are shared by other chambers.

The Coalition meets monthly (or more frequently) and has a full agenda for this year. Visit the Web site of the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce for a complete listing of the issues that are currently being addressed. There is also a link to the Coalition's Web site.

At least once a month, EPACC members will receive news via e-mail relating to the efforts of the Coalition. The Coalition's publication, *Under the Dome*, will be emailed and available on the EPACC Web site. This publication will keep chamber members apprised of the activities at the State House as they relate to the business community.

The Coalition's Annual Legislative Reception will be held

on Thursday, March 1, 2007, at the rise until 7:00 p.m. in the Governor's State Room and State House Rotunda. The event provides chamber members with the opportunity to meet their legislators and discuss issues with business owners and other elected Rhode Island state officials.

If you are interested in local and state government affairs issues, contact the East Providence Area Chamber office to find out how you can get more involved. This is an area that the chamber is focusing on; now and in the future. Due to the Chamber's membership in the Chamber of Commerce Coalition, we can now provide our members with an opportunity to be more proactive; as well as strengthen the East Providence Area Chamber's commitment to assisting businesses.

If you have a concern or situation that involves legislative issues or any other issues that may affect business owners, please contact Laura McNamara, executive director of the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber now has the means in which to address these concerns and the time to devote to possibly remedying them.