



Chamber Views

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Home Show will be 'strong' despite economic worries

By JACKIE MAJERUS

The recession could offer a new spin on the annual Bristol Home and Business Show, said Mike Nicastro, president of the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce.

Nicastro said now is an opportune time to think about improving a home or business.

People may even find they can get a better price on a job now if businesses and contractors are looking for work, according to Nicastro.

"At the same time there's a challenge, it creates opportunity," said Nicastro.

Nicastro said people have been responding to an economic downturn for a year and a half.

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economy have had people "hunkered down for awhile," said Nicastro.

"It contributes to the slowing of the economy."

But people will start to invest again at some point, and a winter

weekend at the home show is a perfect time to get out and see what's possible, said Nicastro.

"I think the shopping will be strong," said Nicastro. He said he's not sure how many peo-

ple will be buying, though.

Already, there are more vendors signed up for the show this year than at the same time last year, said Nicastro.

The show, scheduled

for Feb. 20 to 22 this year, will again be held at Bristol Eastern High School.

"We're looking for-

ward to it," said Nicastro.

This year's show will be along the same lines as the home shows of the past, said Nicastro, who took over at the chamber in January.

"The general theme, the general approach will be the same," Nicastro said.

But he said there will be some changes, and even more to come next year.

Livening up the weekend will be the fourth annual "Star Search" talent competition, hosted by Ken Ferris on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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