



# Farmington Chamber of Commerce



## Message from the President

Dear Chamber Members,

Happy New Year! Really? Well yes, I for one, am very happy to see 2008 behind us! I am looking forward to a revived Spring housing market when the mid-20 somethings become first time buyers and infuse our economy with a much needed jolt.

Now more than ever it is important to support your local fellow chamber members. If we can keep our micro economy going (by micro I am referring to our Greater Hartford and Central Connecticut Chambers), we can hold out and keep our member companies alive. We are all tightening our money belts, but when it comes to paying your dues to the Chamber - what a great value - grow your relationships, grow your business!

Despite the economic struggles, our Chamber continues to grow and strengthen its membership base. Our annual membership drive this past fall brought in a record 10 percent increase in membership. Many members are leaning on support from their



**Carol Presutti**

Chamber in areas of networking, marketing and new business opportunities. You can too!

Take time out to honor a fellow business person or neighbor for the Farmington Chamber's Business Person of the Year and Citizen of the Year Award. This kind gesture goes along way within our community. We are asking all our members to submit their nominations by March 2 for these local honors. Think about it this way. Who do you know that you respect their energy and contributions to make our town a great place to live and work? Who do you know who has handled business challenges and come out ahead of the game? Which business person do you think of when you think of the word "integrity"? Visit [www.farmingtoncham-](http://www.farmingtoncham-ber.com)

[ber.com](http://www.farmingtoncham-ber.com) to find the nomination form and send it in today!

Thinking of getting involved? We'd love to have you involved in one of the many areas that are in need of help and new ideas, including our Signage, Trade Show and Fundraising Committees. Our Signage Committee is working on their presentation for change in response to our member's disapproval with current sign regulations. Fundraising is underway for our Annual Silent Auction and Annual Scholarship drive. And planning is underway for our next Trade Show. Volunteers are most welcome and needed!

I look forward to what lies ahead for our Chamber this year. Have a sparkling 2009!

*Carol Presutti is Broker-owner of Q Real Estate. She resides with her husband, son, daughters and English Springer in Farmington. She loves all facets of real estate, traveling, reading a good book and ballroom dancing. She can be reached by e-mail at [carol.presutti@qrealestate.com](mailto:carol.presutti@qrealestate.com).*

## Chamber Welcomes New Officer, Board Member and Town Liaison

The Farmington Chamber welcomes a new board member, officer and Economic Development liaison to its organization.

Carter Foltz has spent the past five years as the general manager of the Farmington Inn at 827 Farmington Avenue. In addition to his newly appointed Chamber position to its Board of Directors, he has served the boards of the Connecticut Lodging Association and New England Inns & Resorts Association. Carter is a South Carolina native and earned his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston. He resides in Avon, CT.

Carter will serve his term on the Board through May 2011.

Robert Perry, Jr. has been appointed to Vice

President after serving as a board member for more than a year. He is the owner of FASTSIGNS of Bristol and was recently named Farmington Chamber of Commerce member of the year by his peers. In addition, Robert holds a board position with the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce and is the co-founder of the Bristol Business Network International. Robert earned a degree in Economics from Bucknell University. He and his family live in Farmington.

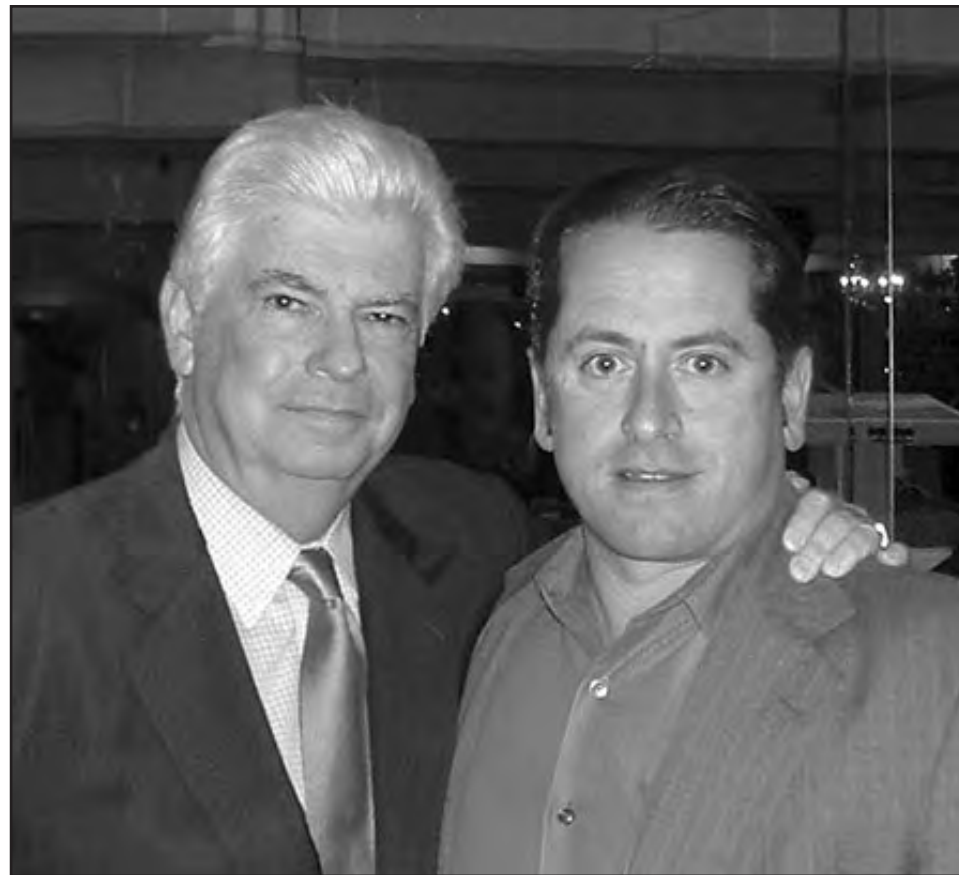
"We welcome Carter to the Board of Directors and Robert to serve as an Officer," said Carol Presutti, president of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and broker/owner of Q Real Estate. "We look forward

to their active participation as that is the strength that makes the Farmington Chamber successful."

Courtney Hendricson will serve as the Chamber's economic development liaison. She will be responsible for keeping the Chamber updated on economic development initiatives within the Town of Farmington and be an advocate for membership in the Chamber. Courtney is a Cheshire resident.

"We are thrilled to have the town's new economic development director join us," said Presutti. "We intend to work with Courtney to develop new initiatives that support our towns' growth."

## Member Spotlight:



Jules Poirier, right, with U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) at Chamber Function:

## Jules Poirier Co., 2nd generation businessman

As a second generation business owner, Jules Poirier sticks to the same principals his father did when starting the business in 1955 - superior craftsmanship, quality products and excellent customer service.

Although the company's motto "covering your homes for generations" speaks to its old school principals, Jules Jr. has modernized the company through its work with its preferred use of energy efficient products and the development of the company's award winning website.

With a focus on new construction and remodeling of residential properties, Jules Poirier Co. home improvement specialties include roofing, windows, doors, vinyl siding and gutters. In fact, more than 75 percent of the companies business comes from families wanting to remodel their homes

exterior.

Jules prides himself on his outstanding reputation in the community he serves - The Farmington Valley. His website [www.jpoirier.com](http://www.jpoirier.com) has multiple customer testimonials and referrals from happy customers.

"Since 1955, we have not received one complaint from Consumer Protection or Better Business Bureau," says Poirier. "There's not a contractor alive that can say that." Additionally, Poirier is one of few that provide a lifetime warranty on his labor.

In addition to testimonials, the website is an excellent tool for him to refer potential customers to when traveling or working on site at a job. Without the office staff, the information portal acts as a resource and cuts his questions in half with many customer conversations - thus, saving valuable

time.

Since launching the website three years ago, Poirier has been recognized by the Connecticut Business Bureau for the past two years as the best website for his size business in the state. They credit its ethics and navigation.

Poirier joined the Farmington Chamber in 2008. He is a regular attendee of Business After Hour and says the networking "works" after receiving several leads and jobs from his involvement. In addition, he believes in doing business with and referring fellow Chamber member companies stating, "we're all in this together".

*Jules Poirier Co. is conveniently located at the Riverdale Farms Shopping Plaza at 124 Simsbury Road in Avon. For more information visit [www.jpoirier.com](http://www.jpoirier.com) or call 860-674-9565.*