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TR THAMES RIVER INNOVATION PLACE

NOV 2018

What's Happening at Our Programs:

COMMUNITY CONCIERGE

Community Concierge, which was formed as a program of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, released a new resource for welcoming new and current thinkers, workers, and innovators to our region. The five-minute long video showcases the strong communities, unique amenities, and beauty of Connecticut. This resource is available for regional businesses such as General Dynamics Electric Boat as they introduce new employees to the Thames River region or share with existing employees to raise awareness of everything our region has to offer. The full video can be found [here](#).

In addition to a new video, Community Concierge has launched a new program to save local businesses money while encouraging investment in the Thames River economy. The Community Concierge Discount Card provides a 10% discount on goods and services at participating businesses in the region. For a full list of discounts, and to purchase discount cards for your or your business, visit [here](#).

NAVAL & MARITIME CONSORTIUM

The official Naval & Maritime Consortium officially launches on November 8, and the Consortium would like to invite regional industry leaders and stakeholders in the Connecticut maritime economy to join them for their launch event at UConn Avery Point, Branford House, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. This launch will be the official kickoff event and membership drive with the new resources available through the Naval & Maritime Consortium.

Additionally, the Naval & Maritime Consortium made tremendous leaps forward in September as they supported Southeastern Connecticut's global maritime presence at the USA - Australia Defense Trade Summit in Mystic, CT on September 17-18. The summit consisted of workshops and talks with commercial maritime leaders to discuss the economic outlook and potential of private Australia - U.S. partnerships.

This event was designed to foster strong trade relations between Australia and the U.S. and creates opportunities for international partnerships and innovation. As we continue to build business relationships within our community, it will remain important to be a key part of the global maritime supply chain. Through partnerships and programs such as this, we are ensuring that the Thames River region remains on the map as the submarine capital of the world.

IGNITE

In September, Ignite hosted the Accelerator for Biosciences in Connecticut (ABCT) workshop to help local bioscience innovators have the resources they need as they apply for the ABCT program. ABCT is a competitive entry, 6-month long program designed for entrepreneurial research students and faculty, MBA's and MD's interested to form new ventures in biosciences.

Ignite, in partnership with Project Oceanology, hosted the first Marine Makerfaire on September 29. The full-day event provided students in grades 7 – 10 to the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with emerging marine technology. Activities included time on the water on one of Project Oceanology's research vessels, and a session learning Arduino programming and building a sensor. Another, larger Marine Makerfaire is currently being planned for the spring.

Upcoming Events:

Women & Girls in STEM Mentoring Dinner: Friday, November 16 at 4:30 PM at the BioCT Innovation Commons.

NAVAL & MARITIME CONSORTIUM LAUNCH

The Naval & Maritime Consortium kickoff event is Thursday, November 8 at the UConn Avery Point, Branford House, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The event will be the official launch of the Consortium and its resources, including networking opportunities with other members of the undersea and offshore wind supply chain. It is important that anyone attending the launch event register their car [here](#).



What's Happening at Thames River Reconnection?

The Cities of Groton and New London selected Ninigret Partners to assist in planning the Thames River Reconnection project, a program designed to collaboratively develop economic opportunities in New London and the City of Groton. In the City of Groton, the Ninigret team will define redevelopment strategies to better inform the future Tax Increment Financing District's creation for Thames and Bridge Street from the I-95 interchange to Eastern Point Road.

For those unaware, Thames River Reconnection is designed to reunite the residential and business communities in and around Connecticut College, the United State Coast Guard Academy, and The Williams School with the downtown districts of New London and Groton. With recent news of a new multi-use pathway over the Gold Star Bridge, we are anticipating a resurgence of foot and bike traffic that has not been seen in the region for many years.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TRIP has experienced incredible growth in its first year, with our collaborative, industry driving programs hard at work to build a business environment that fosters innovation and drives new ideas and partnerships in Southeastern Connecticut. We are beginning to experience the fruits of our labor as we receive responses to year two funding and see our programs grow as resources in the community.

I am pleased to announce that TRIP has officially received year two funding from CTNext's Innovation Places Program to continue expanding our programs and strengthening our commitment to the Thames River business community. Securing this funding means the near future looks very bright for TRIP as we work to establish Southeastern Connecticut as a center for innovation and economic growth.

Our maritime economy continues to be one of the most valuable and underutilized resources for our region. Though the dedicated work of the Naval & Maritime Consortium, formerly the Undersea Supply Chain Consortium, we have taken great steps toward unifying the maritime business community and improving the way we do business in Southeastern Connecticut. We are looking forward to the launch of the rebranded Consortium on November 8, and the

many upcoming events and programs that will further reinforce the Thames River region as the submarine capital of the world.

In addition to investment in our maritime economy, we are also in the early planning stages of creating the Thames River Business Exchange, a new platform where businesses can sell and trade equity in their respective businesses. More information on the Thames River Business Exchange will follow in the coming months.



David McBride,
Executive Director

Year two is shaping up to be a big year for TRIP, as we continue our momentum of growth through the end of 2018. We are looking forward to the continued expansion of our programs and to at last execute the many projects and events that have been discussed over the past year. To keep up with TRIP and get involved, I welcome you to visit our website or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

What's Happening at TRIP?

Earlier this year, TRIP submitted an application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for their 2018 Regional Innovation Strategies Program, a leading national initiative designed to support regions and programs that foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Previous grants have led to the creation of new schools for entrepreneurs, the development of new business centers, and the creation of innovation focused programs throughout the country.

A combination of 14 businesses, organizations, and municipalities supplied letters of support for the application, a clear indication that Southeastern Connecticut is well positioned as a center for community growth and business development.

TRIP plans to support the Maritime Entrepreneurial Collaborative, a new businesses accelerator designed to link startups within the maritime industry with the business acumen, technical and physical support they need to succeed.

TRIP in the News:

Thames River Innovation Place Secures Second-Year Funding

The Day, September 24, 2018

Students Test the Waters of Marine Technology at 'Makerfaire'

The Day, September 29, 2018

DOT To Study Adding Second Gold Star Bridge Path for Bikes, Pedestrians

The Day, October 24, 2018

Federal Funds to Boost Efforts to Revitalize Hodges Square

The Day, October 28, 2018

Startup Success: Taking Artificial Intelligence a Step Further

The Day, October 29, 2018

Looking Forward to Year 3

The Board of Advisors for TRIP is reviewing its strategic direction as it prepares for year three projects and priorities. Entrepreneurs who are interested in partnering with TRIP in the future should contact David McBride, Executive Director, at into@thamesriverinnovation.org.

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