

Untitled Note

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00:07

All right, let's see here. I'm gonna call this meeting to order at 531. How's everybody doing tonight? Thanks for coming. We got a great crowd tonight. It's awesome. So, as always our meeting and we don't have a person that takes minutes so our our meeting minutes are available on our website. You can always preview them there, review them there if you want to for any reason, but they're recorded so they're there. There's nothing really the review. So we have a couple of new members here tonight, AJ manufacturing and you guys are already members. But what we're going to do is I'm going to ask everybody stand up and we're going to do the code of ethics. Okay. It's on the agenda. Just got to get there. Hold on one second.



01:01

Competitive time you did? What's that for you the time you're sure.



01:05

I will be fair and honest, fair, honest, impartial, respectful and professional and act in good faith and all of my business relationships with my clients, trade partners, suppliers, the public and other members of this association. I will I will, I will provide my services and or products as as I have advertised or presented them for the prices that I have quoted, I will I will establish goodwill and trust among members and referrals I received from this association. I will I will follow up with the referrals I received from other members and through this association in general, I will I will maintain a positive and supportive attitude with this association and its members, I will I will uphold the ethical standards of my present my profession. I will thank you okay, back to the agenda



02:13

Okay, and I already asked everybody has signed in and all members have put their card in the box. Okay, good. Then we're going to start the 45 second business pitches and we'll start right here in the front lobby to pull that up. Give me the time we're going



02:29

for technical so it



02:32

can you know anything you could tell you if you tell us what your business is about, you could need in a new employee you could need help with something whatever you want to spend your 45 seconds talking about.



02:44

So I'm Diane Patterson Patterson Insurance Services



02:48

with my husband Alan and my daughter, Amy, family business we do individual health insurance on the exchange Medicare insurance. Pretty much it we're getting super busy. Okay, well that starts right there together



03:13

Hi, everyone. I'm Maria. Thomas. Normally, I think USC David Doughty. He's the assistant manager at the Thompson bank hometown, but I have a nother meeting last night so that's why David usually comes by and I was for tonight so I can start work at the big hometown and Thompson I've been there I just celebrated 10 years 12 years and you and we are doing a Customer Appreciation Week next week. So if you're around feel free to stop in. I'm probably overtime



03:46

no nine seconds.



03:51

CD special, that same 5.12 annual percentage yield. So that's kind of pretty cool. What's the minimum deposit? \$1,000



04:04

Tierra Terrapin, Director of Planning and Development town of Thompson, not here as a member of the association strictly speaking but dear to be liaison to the town for you guys answer whatever questions you have. I'll be talking about the 65 main project in the time slot.

They hit me on the agenda. And that's it just here for you. Sir. Like a typewriter



04:37

flawlessly the painting services we played in paint special for the month of October if you're looking to have a room painted, we are running a promotion that we're throwing in a ceiling. We're paying for the paint and the labor to paint your ceiling with a room that we're painting up to 500 square feet. So



04:55

if you guys need your own painted living room, bedroom, whatever can be a chat. We'll run that special with you guys. We did our first one yesterday actually. Sure, boy, Hi, Bob.



05:09

Sorry, Julian use primerica financial services. We do full financial planning and will plus the the products and services behind that help people become financially independent out of debt. And then this one thing probably protected properly protected. Yes. So we don't charge for what we do. Thanks, Bob.



05:39

Thank you so last



05:41

August was Nelson from dry Insurance Services. I do everything from claims to connect you with the correct sales associate that you need to write your insurance policies. I want to share a little bit of information with you tonight. As of October 1, the state of Connecticut has put in two new laws number one law is if you have a dead decaying or disruptive tree, something's falling off of it. Something's happening to it on your property and you have been notified by your neighbor by certified mail. Your neighbor also has the right now to have an arborist to look at your tree and if they deem that the training is to come down and they'll notify you. If you do not do anything with said tree and it falls on their property, their home anything. You are now held liable for that damage that happens to that tree that when that law just came into effect October 1, it used to be to notify them. And maybe their insurance company might do something but it was where the tree fell. That's where the plane went. And the next one that just came into effect and when it was broken because Chris usually run out of time or he runs out of time is there's going to be new lights and new cameras put up on a lot of the intersections in the state of Connecticut. They will be two signs at the intersections notifying you that cameras have been put into place and they are watching for red light runs speeding and you will receive tickets in the mail. Oh boy. Wow. So that is why they have to two signs at

that intersection to notify you that so we haven't seen them in the car yet. But I know that on candy drive. They've been doing a lot of work at that intersection. So I wouldn't be surprised if one's going up real soon. So a lot of those things are happening now. Yeah, oh, wow. Yeah,



07:32

it's fun to get a ticket in the mail. But it's not your face and stuff promoted.



07:37

Well, that's the hard part is



07:38

all right. We're moving on to the next person. You're up Matt.



07:46

She's a typewriter.



07:49

sign shop, basically is a one stop shop for all your signage and clothing needs. Yes. Don't really have an aspect of the watch. Now this mask so I'm sure this happens with jewelry too. When it comes to doing logos and such but if you already have one designed, the greatest thing you can do is actually have the original file for that logo. Now. The toughest thing as a designer, like I had to catch at the top for you to see you have your logo and they give you their business card say this is the only version of the logo at some point somewhere someone has designed a logo for you or you get yourself online. So somewhere there is an original file format for that. There it is not impossible, but it's kind of impossible sometimes to be able to blow up your logo from this to this. You want to pay to have it redesigned by professionals. So please, when you go into these situations, please please be prepared to have your logo in a format that is easily used by the person you're working with. Thank you



09:05

sir I'm sorry. I didn't get your name



09:13

revolution Morgan. Weekend changed companies. In the meantime, that's okay. Here we have a lot of new products and also next year the forecasting as much as 40% of his own mortgage is going to be new construction loans. So keep that in mind isn't built for excited stuff. Not only

can you buy the way in which you can also go the house and everything all wrapped into one bubble one set of closing costs. As little as 5% I actually have a program that is 0% 100% financing. No downpayment, by the way and can build a house. So yes, if you've tested programs that are exempted from mortgage



10:04

awesome. AJ sorry, I don't know you I forget your name. Jim.



10:13

Vance, a manufacturing for 28 years. We're located right in time so we manufacture flood protection tablets, those pellet stoves gas appliances. We make fire pit covers, we do all kinds of custom metal fabrication. We're getting ready to launch a new product line and Jeremy has been involved in it that's been involved in it and interested in giving anybody that we want to do some YouTube ads is something really out of our realm, whatever. But if anybody's got suggestions on youtube things and whatnot



11:03

but that's what we do. Oh, very cool country



11:06

and visit Jim's website at [AJ Kurth originals.com](http://AJKurthoriginals.com) AJ hood. [AJ Hirth originals.com](http://AJHirthoriginals.com) Heather.



11:14

Hi, I'm Heather Connors, marketing specialist for day Kimball healthcare. Most of you probably know we are hospital healthcare. System. So I'm gonna take my time. Thanks, Chuck. Well, I think that we have right here in Thompson and so November 11, Saturday, raising money for hospice and palliative care. It's doing panels event, we have the UN panels team that works at Foxwoods coming. It's really very, very, very fun. event. So I just put some fliers up there, there's opportunity for you to attend to sponsor. That's really great cause and really funny, so we'd love to have you guys.



11:51

So Heather, I just wanted to say you the Facebook page is open for you to just post on as long as you put if you can't just put the flyer itself you have to put at least 10 characters to go with it. And then it'll get approved. And on the website. There's a member Submission tab where you can drop that PDF in and usually within minutes it's on our website. So Chris



12:15

My name is Chris shoppingtown Read More and run for five years so you guys need to pay on the last treat shop in town. Pretty much last paid shop in the tri City area. I also run a small welding fabrication shop at my house so



12:30

anybody needs anything to create liens, chairs I can pretty much fire fire bids. Bells



12:42

pump it's made out of propane tanks



12:46

No Man's snowman so people



12:55

introduce some local Rhode Island now.



13:02

Don't get me. So take some courses against blacks and stuff like that. So opportunities are always pretty much crazy. That's fun. Ali



13:19

Ali Ali back and review God consulting on your one stop shop for all your marketing needs. If you need content written for you advertisements or social media management give me a ring we can talk and I can get you all setup. And additionally if you'd like to learn how to do it so you can sustain it yourself. I'm open to showing you how to do it teaching you how to do it and so you always are empowered to have control over your own media's what I see often is people will get involved with marketers or marketing agencies and that person retains control of your page, your ads, everything with your name on it and then when you separate ways that nothing and you started over, I did not lead you in that position. So when you come to me, I empower you. I strengthen your presence. And I also give you the knowledge to do it. God



14:06

everybody, so I have two seats here so I'm gonna do two quick commercials. My first one is I own your page today LLC. Custom website design and development company been in business

for 22 years. So I custom design websites develop websites, optimize them for Google search. And provide ongoing support and maintenance. Great your phone for me right now would be if you know anyone who has a really old or outdated website, you know, was a really old content management system on really old technology and they really want to revamp it. Bring it into the 21st century haven't give me a call your page today.com We're always on the same page. That's how my next one is. Hi, I'm Jody Erickson, and I'm a performer with reptile shows in New England. A family business going strong for more than a decade. Let's see. Fun fact. Snakes and the word cute can actually belong in the same exact sentence. They really can't. If you've ever seen a hognose snake and they're actually from around here, a hognose snake has a really cute tiny little pushed up nose. It looks like a hog and Hognose Snakes are awesome because they're amazing performance just like one of them on stage with a big 50 pound boa constrictor actually. They're really cool because they play possum when they get scared or feel threatened or actually roll over play dead stick out their tongue. They're absolutely amazing creatures. And yes, snakes can be cute if you want to learn more visit or book a show and reptile shows of new england.com cold blooded catch it and see



15:34

me oh what am I just confused? Because I don't know. Okay, my name is Sandy. I'm the treasurer and I own Caribbean tax service. And for probably the last two weeks straight. I've been working probably 16 hours a day because extensions are due on Monday. So today I told my team I'd much rather eat worms. than talk about taxes so I'm gonna pass this on to Brian I know



16:02

we have a we have snakes we get



16:05

whatever I wanted. Oh texts



16:10

I'm trying to see you know, I'm the membership person. Also chair Economic Development Commission. I have a couple of businesses that don't do either one of them. Because I am too busy doing things that don't pay me so damn. All right.



16:26

I'm Dan Ben, and I'm the owner of DVC solutions where we transform the space you live into a place you'll love to be in and today I need help. I am looking for a carpenter looking for really somebody that is looking to build their career and you know younger person that wants to as they need to have some experience preferably like trade school graduate or something like that. But, but yeah, that's where we're at right now. We need help. So that's about it. Thank

you. And then I'm just gonna stay up here because now we're gonna do our networking presentation which is me tonight. And no, no projector nothing I'm just gonna talk so we all come here basically for referrals really right? We look for to you know, get work get business from other members and stuff like that. But there's there's a lot of other advantages of being a member of a networking group or a business business networking group of any type. So I just want to talk about some of them. One of them is shared knowledge polling the audience, you know, being able to talk to other business owners. Tell them about problems that you might be facing. Guaranteed somebody's already crossed that bridge before and they're more than willing to help you so we're actually in the process. I just talked to Ali about this for the first time this morning briefly. We're going to set up a new Facebook page, a separate Facebook page is going to be private for members only. And we're considering opening it up to the other business associations in the area. And we haven't finalized that yet. But this will be like a safe space where you can come and ask those questions. Type it in and say you know, this is what I'm dealing with right now. Who else has dealt with this before? I happen to be part of a Facebook community like that a coaching group for specifically for contractors and it's it's amazing like the help that you can get there is really amazing. So I think that's going to help us all here a lot. Just increased visibility. I mean, that goes along with the networking or with referrals, I guess, but you know, being here and then and then eventually maybe being on leadership because that even increases your visibility more hidden. Increased, just kidding. For now. Increased increased business confidence coming here talking to people meeting people gives you build confidence, you know, I know when I first joined BNI, five years ago, I had I had no idea like I wouldn't I didn't even know they were going to ask me to talk and when they did I was like stumbling over myself. I didn't know what to say. And that's changed a lot in the last five years. So that's a big advantage of coming to groups like these and getting to know people. More Resources, trusted vendors and partners. That's another thing that the Facebook group will help with collaboration opportunities, businesses getting together and collaborating on projects. Smoke support system again, back to the Facebook page. That's a lot of a lot of work. This is all I mean, I keep saying the Facebook page because that's just going to be a great resource for us to go to to get that help but but ultimately I'm you know, being a member of the association is coming here and asking for that stuff. skill development and then we're going to talk about this interior is going to talk about this a little bit more to but exposure to seminars, workshops, training, and like I said there's there's a whole thing that we're going to talk about the Small Business Development Center that we're working on here in town, and we're going to ask for some input on you know, what kind of workshops and seminars and stuff like that, that that would be a help to you guys. Increase credibility. You know, being part of a organization like this builds builds credibility, if somebody looks you up and finds you in a group of all these other businesses. And that's, that's why we implemented the code of ethics, because previously, we didn't have that and it's nothing super formal, but it just gives everybody an idea that we give a shit about who's here and that we don't just accept any businesses and we make sure that they're credible and that the you know, they're, they're good community members and stuff like that. Cost effective advertising. We already do that in the forms of like our mixers or you know, you can choose to host a mixer and then you get a bunch of people to come to your place or or an establishment that you used to host it, whatever, but you get a lot more exposure for your business by doing that. And then the other ones that we're working on is billboards and radio advertising. And because we can come together as a group, we can reduce the cost for everybody over NASA. I don't have any more information about either one of those at this point, but they're both I'm actively working on both of those opportunities for us. And is social benefits, hanging out with a group of other like minded people that will, you know, being around the right people and stuff like that, so And speaking of that, we all typically leave at the end of the meeting. We all pick a restaurant here

in town, and a group of us go there and hang out and have some food, support the restaurant and be social. So if anybody's interested in that and I think that's about it. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. All right. Jody, you're up.

 22:04


So my report isn't much different than the last report. I'm always consistently adding new members and meeting minutes and email archives events, business for the month. All that stuff is being added to the website and Facebook regularly. I've updated the TVA page, the join page or visit page with some new perks for joining those new perks. Are the new member spotlight which we have on Facebook, we have on the homepage of the website now. So that's a new truck, the back of the truck and the weekend warrior food truck so your business will be advertised on the food truck for the month which is awesome. So there's a lot of new exposure and a lot of new really awesome perks and benefits to joining How do you become how do you get in the Business Spotlight? By becoming a new member then you're automatically featured as a New Business Spotlight. Oh. So new member of IBA you're in the spotlight automatically? Oh good. You also have an opportunity to win the featured business of the month. Spotlight when you come to the meeting to drop your business card and then you have an opportunity to win that as well with the drone. So there's just a lot of new great perks and I always say all new members, email me directly if you need any anything updated or changed on your business listing on the website because I'm in charge of that. So let's see website search visibility. So in the past 20 days, we had 1.6 8000 impressions website views in over 90 click throughs in it that's up from last month. So every month I'm seeing some consistency in our visits and click throughs and visibility going up. So and I have our top queries right here at Thompson Business Association is always number one. Thompson fair came in second. Thompson days 2023. Does anybody know what Thompson dazes

 23:52

Community Day is? Today? They just they probably didn't know what it was called. Yeah.

 24:00

So a lot of your days was like events like local events. Okay.

 24:03

It's usually so that people started typing in like what's going on today in my area? No, actually Google that place your area and just the word pay pocket, just because

 24:13

that's cool. That's awesome. And then of course coming in fourth is Hometown Bank, Thompson, Connecticut. And then at Thomson, local business directory, we're coming in for that. Business Insurance. Thomson, Connecticut. We're coming in for that, too. So it goes

What's going on is what this means is when someone types in these search keywords into Google, they're seeing Thomson business association.com And they're clicking through to it and landing on our website. These are actual results that are landing them on our page. Whether they're on landing on the homepage, or they're landing within a member directory on a member listing. It's actually working for us. So yeah, we're getting some visibility and some traction and keep up the good work and we're gonna reach 100 Guys, no way. Oh, yeah.



24:55

Easy. Nice. Thanks, Jody. Okay,



25:00

Brian, you're up. Okay, my my focus on this course is membership and doing the things that are essentially Facebook related. I do things like see people in prison



25:23

to the TVA some of the things as because I look at everything that we do from an EDC is the airport to economic development commission, trying to get Thompson seen trying to get our businesses seen trying to be you know, a presence in the, in this corner of the world. So, one of the things I did being on the community de little planning group is suggested, geez, I know a snake for us and they get all excited and Jody got a gig out of it. With snakes around us. And she was happy and they were happy and it was such a good time. And they wonder about next year. So that's a simple word of mouth thing to promote a business thing we did. We used to do a pizza contest in town years ago and I suggested bringing that back. And of course, when you suggest it, you get you get stuck with it. So that's how the TVA ended up doing the pizza contest, and we invited all of the restaurants in town. We ended up with five saying yes for what TBA members and the fifth promise to be a member and hasn't yet hasn't yet.



26:43

Done. Oh, are you yelling?



26:45

Yeah, I'm yelling at the camera.



26:51

Sharon, hi, Ali. I just happen to be taking your picture. Ali's a good one. But it not only promotes our TVA businesses, but it promotes Thompson Thompson restaurants people come from Dudley Webster, Woodstock Putnam, where we're doing more and more in our community day to get the surrounding people and we have the classic car cruise. We have music we have

snakes you know and you know the pizza contests and weekend warrior gave away free ice cream and so there's a bigger picture here than just TBA. But TBA TBA is an important part of it. Anybody wanted to set up this year could set up we tried to be all in close proximity to each other you could cover for booth if you want to walk around that kind of stuff. One other thing. We did raise money from the pizza this was a best pizza contest not a pizza eating contest. That's in the future. What what people didn't know they said no what is you know, how much can I eat? That could be something for later but that wasn't. So we did raise some money and we're actually gonna have sandy write a \$200 check and we'll talk we're gonna give it to Thompson rec to Amanda. For the sub program with the seniors. They do a lot with the seniors and have a very small budget. So it can provide them a lunch. They do so many things for this town and for the seniors and for the kids. So that's where that money is going to go. And on the list as of today, we had 76 members. That's not counting aging manufacturing. So we're doing well I'm still trying to reach 100 By the end of the year so so keep talking. Bring in one new member we got oh yeah, you're right. Oh, I did that community day again. It's I don't do Facebook well, but I do talk. Somebody came to the TVA booth and said, you know, my father, he's he's older and doesn't drive he's not an invalid. She said, You know, I have to pick them up. We have no transport. We have no livery in this area. We have no cabs. We have no buses. Looking in our little sharper guide there. Was an advertisement for somebody who does pickup and delivery. So I call them I did I am going to send him some TBA information. He lives in Woodstock. But he does portal to portal service. He does a charges per mile seniors get a discount. He'll take you to Logan. He'll take your animal to the vet. Cool. It goes to the major airports Bradley TF green, he goes to Mass General. He'll take you shopping. So he's one that I'm going to follow up and hopefully get him as a member of this group because we don't have that nice. No, that'd be awesome. So I'll keep you informed on that. I'll be talking to him some more. No, no, no, no. No. His name is Shawn Maddox. And his grandmother tells him the Shawn is spelled the right way. With five letters.



30:17

Like Shaun Cassidy.



30:18

Yeah.



30:20

All right, Sandy, you're up. All right. Well, I'm gonna go a couple different segments here.



30:24

But I wonder just got taken away. It was gonna talk about community. Oh, nice. Yeah. All right. So I'm gonna go over our boring Treasurer's Report. And in our main account, we have \$1,161.46 We have an outstanding check to wn i ny for \$80. Renewals will be going out I'm supposed to do it in November renewals start in January. So those will be kind of heading out. Your way. The Weekend Warrior account has currently \$3,287.39 in it. There is an outstanding

check to Cargill picked it up today his brand new tire so we feel a lot safer for community day. I just wanted to kind of like I just wanted to let you guys know where the big hunk of money went for that came out of that account. We started stockpiling our school deliveries and our senior deliveries are next week next week starts the school delivery so we stocked up on like our basics peanut butter, tuna, stuff like that. We caught it on sales, we bought a bunch of it. And then every year, Walmart had helped us and donated the bags that we stuffed to give to the kids and the seniors. But they did not donate it this year. So we had to buy them so that was like another 400 and something dollars and then we bought ice cream 400 And something pieces of ice cream that was get handed out on community day that was awesome. Um, some of these expenses also had to do with the truck we got it lettered the alternator went so we had to have it towed and an alternator put in it and some gas. So what just wanted to break down those larger expenses. For you guys. The backup account for the weekend warriors has currently \$10,827.12 The thing. Thanksgiving account has \$298.80 and the golf tournament account has \$500 in it. That's our standing money for next year. I was going to talk about nuts. It was boring numbers. If anybody has any questions about numbers. Yeah, okay, good. I was gonna talk give a recap about community day. A Brian kind of wrapped it up. It was successful with so much fun we gave out to give a Frisbee speech. Balls, bunch of candy. Kids loved it. parents came over and talked we had less sign or stand with everybody's business card. People ask questions about different businesses. It was like a really, really like, Community Day was wonderful. It was really wonderful. We signed up new seniors for the weekend warrior program, talk to some people who didn't know about it. Like it was just a lot of fun. We were trying to keep all the TVA people sort of together. So we like all just helped each other. It was just super, super fun. So that's the community day thing I totally see like encourage people next year, set up your own booth. It's really a lot of fun.

 33:21

If you don't want to do a booth volunteer,

 33:23

or Yeah, yeah. If you don't want to do come help us because yeah, we were there all day like we were helped. Yeah. Another thing every year TV I don't know. The new members probably don't know this but every year well actually for 32 years. The quarterback Fire Department has been sponsoring or offering Thanksgiving dinner free of charge to anybody who needs a place to go. A couple years ago when Charlene Lange boys took was the president of TBA. So like in 2016 17 She brought it on board and we've TBA started helping her so I have some fliers about the Thanksgiving dinner, anyone can go we can deliver, have just no place to go. There's no questions asked. Just show up and have Thanksgiving with us. So that'll be coming up obviously on Thanksgiving. today. We've got some help from some of the local farms Blackmer farm is helping the new Woodstock tavern that's going to be opening at the end of the month. They help us get like all our supplies. Table Talk pies donates to us every year. Us and the Winnipeg fire department so if you know anybody or know someplace, you can post this so that'll get like some traffic. Please come grab one. We'll advertise in the shoppers guide and we're going to be on the website. Yeah. Yes, God designed this. So it made the website. Okay, yeah,

 34:49

yeah. Let me ask, are we going to go back to the Thanksgiving Eve prep?

 34:54

Yep. We always have that. Well,

 34:56

we didn't have it last year. We didn't need it. Or we didn't need enough.

 35:00

We had you know what? Yes, usually we holler out to TBA and say hey, we need people. Last year what happened is an A it was we had to turn people away because we had too much help. The Little League sent out a notice that we were looking for help and we got hundreds of I was getting calls that morning Thanksgiving morning, Thursday the night before for PrEP. But yeah, we always need volunteers. I'm saying we always need volunteers, but I'll be honest, that's what happened last year. We had to turn people away. There were so many. Another quick Amanda from rec could not be here tonight. But I've talked to her a bit about the Chris if you were here last month we talked about the Christmas bazaar thing that's gonna happen. There's gonna be like a tree raffle inside here. We've got the date change. So I wanted to tell everybody it's now going to be Friday, December 8 from four to eight o'clock. The VFW ladies are going to be serving food inside. They're going to be horse and carriage rides that we got permission to shut down the entire Main Street from all the way from I know I just got goosebumps. It's gonna be so much fun from Riverside Park all the way down Main Street to Duhamel ponds at the entrance to Duhamel pond. This is going to we're gonna start with the horse and carriage rides in the park. Take you here get another one go back kind of like something like that. There'll be spots for Sarah and I kind of counted I think there's going to be spots for like 55 vendors on the on the library parking lot in the library parking lot. We only can put nonprofits so for instance for I'm going to set up a booth that does with wrapping paper so we will wrap presents if anybody buys anything we'll wrap presents but have also cocoa selling cocoa for 50 cents, but like so TBA members who are just going to like offer service can set up here in front of like the library door. But then if you're selling stuff or know people who want to have things wares to sell, they will go all the way around the library up until Duhamel pawns um, we're looking for carolers and there she's gonna find somebody who can play like instruments. He has an accordion friend who's gonna go around and like just play music we're gonna have like lights. Someone told me that ever source will help us hang lights if we get a hold of them which would be cool. We just have to present them with the item so we'll talk to rock about it, but I don't care if I have to donate them but we're going to have Eversource help us hang lights like it's just nice.

 37:41

What about asking the school we're just there yesterday, the music department they taught us to get to do Karolina



37:48

because they do that that modern music group does that. White people that were playing and you have a group I haven't Well, I have made



37:57

guitar. So the thing is, is that there's going to be that's a lot of space, right but that's a lot of space to cover from Riverside Park. too. So we could have somebody down that ends where it starts where the horse is going to be and stuff and then have open in different spots or they could be walking around or we can have a lot of music like it doesn't have to be



38:17

just to be inside



38:24

it's not gonna be that cold. This is the issue never know. That's not nice on Halloween. Um, yeah, so he knows somebody who sells stuff. Um, I think it's going to start being posted soon. I didn't get I just measured everything or sort of measured everything for Amanda. She was supposed to come to her daughter was sick. But that's going to be a super fun thing. So if anybody you know anybody who sells stuff or you want to set up a booth and just kind of give stuff away to be Christmassy or just want to come to the community and help us like Get ready, like, definitely reach out. Oh, and then but I was supposed to it'd be better if we had a little community committee. So real quick, if there's anybody want to be in the committee with me. Just raise your hand, like more people raise your hand. All right, so I guess Ali and I are gonna be starting and sour is gonna be Brian all committees. Yeah. So So Sarah, Brian, Ally and me. Awesome. Yeah. Cool. We will meet with rep and we'll get like all the details. Okay. Yeah.



39:29

That's it. Okay. Cool. So we're moving on to the Teague report and and, or Joanne couldn't be here. Tonight. So I just have a very short little email from Anne says they are very busy within their three markets with deliveries, senior benefits counseling, youth service programs, playgroup and more. And we are we are meeting many households who need our heating assistance programs. We are anticipating a very busy year in many areas, and our new Youth Advisory Board has begun to meet weekly we had over 20 middle schoolers at the first meeting. They will be identifying things they want to use. They want to see for youth in the committee and working together with Teague and the school to make it happen. The first area of interest are incredible are increased bike racks base at the schools. That's the Teague report. Okay. That's done here.



40:22

So the big news that's relevant mostly to this group, is we kicked off the 65 main street planning project last week. For those of you who haven't heard all of this going back for years, the townhomes the building at 65 Main Street on the three years that they've been for 12 years. And I was able to write for and get some grants for both renovation and for planning of the future facility which has been proposed as some form of Small Business Support Center and one of those grants made a planning grant involves a year long public engagement workshop process. monthly meetings for 12 months. The first one was last week, so we've got 11 to go. Now, there were members of TVA. There, Dan was there Brian was there and Stephanie was there for a little while. I would like to see a lot more involvement from this group because the small business community that exists or will exist in the future, and Thompson is the one whose needs we want those to meet. So the next session is going to be Thursday, the ninth of November here. From six to 8pm. And what we're going to be doing is something that we've done before, which is an interactive planning card game. Card, there's topics on cards, you get placed on a team, you distribute the cards and then you use those as thought prompts to talk about what's important to you. And that will include concepts like how the business is going to operate. What about the design of the building and the design of the site? There's an element of this project that involves landscaping part of the site which includes three, between three and three and a half acres of Riverside Park, which is currently inaccessible for a very novel sustainable landscaping theory that actually took up a lot of last week's meeting because the consultant that we hired was here and was kind of a shiny new object in the room and it's super cool. But anyway, so the, the concepts for all of the project will be there for people to look at me decide this is important to me. This is not important to me. This is kind of interesting, but not important until we come up with consensus we've done these these interactive sessions before people love them. They they really do generate high quality conversations. So I encourage you all to market calendars. I'll be sending Jody and Ally flyers to distribute to all of you. I do need to have RSVPs for this one. Because I formed the teams ahead of time. But anyway, so last week, we went over the whole project, the purpose, the history, the landscaping element. And then there was an hour of open discussion, how's it going to connect to the school community, the career pathways that they're putting in place there, how can we create a synergy? So over the course of this year, what we hoped we would the information we're able to gather together in this discussion process. I my project partners will then write the master plan will go out for more grants, and then you know within a couple of years, we hope to have that thing up and running so that we can have things like Office share space, meeting and event space like what are the needs that you guys can't fulfill for yourselves, working off your kitchen tables, right because we have no inventory of storefronts or office space that exists now so how do we how do we bridge some of those gaps? So again, it's Thursday night six to 8pm here, please email your RSVP if you'd like to be part of it planner at constant ct.org and blasting through this because I don't want to take up a lot of your time. And I also always like to include a little time for q&a, any questions you have about what's going on in town, I will do my best to answer whether it's directly related to the business association or not. Always happy to try to be a liaison that way.



44:39

If you send me an email with the then I can distribute it to everybody to I sent it yesterday. Oh, yeah, right. Yep. Got it.



44:51

In fact, I think Jody and Allie also both already happened.

 44:56

I mean, I just I just want to say well, we're on this topic because I have it on the agenda talk about a little bit later too, and there's really no need for that. Really, the only point that I want to make is anybody please think of things you know, what kind of program like like Jared just said, You know what, what kind of how could you use that space? As in the Small Business Development Center? And also like what kind of programs like what kind of programming would you like to save? I mean, I was talking about it before click classes and stuff like that, and and or what kind of program could you host if you have some knowledge that you'd like to share with the community to might get you exposure for your business, but also, you know, bring opportunity to all the other members that need that that program? So I think I think that about about covers it.

 45:50

Yeah. And it is going to be a key component is that community participation? And I mentioned this all the time, when I talked about this, I can sit down at my desk and generate ideas at an alarming rate. I mean, I'm a planner by profession and by nature but all of those ideas mean nothing, if they are not taken up by the actual community that it's meant to serve. Right? I am not a small business owner or entrepreneur. So what I imagine you may need may in fact, not be what you need. So that is what your contribution is and then and we've got something ultimately that has the potential to be very innovative. Really model for for other communities. And you see incubator spaces and workshare spaces in metropolitan areas all the time. There is no reason why one cannot succeed in a semi rural suburban area, right in fact, there's probably a greater need for it in a semi rural suburban area because there are not other resources. a five minute walk down the block, right? We have greater gaps and needs to fill. So there's alternatives in life, you can accept that those resources don't exist, in which case, this is not a community of opportunity, or you can create the community of opportunity. So that is really what we're after here. So again, just RSVP to me for the ninth planner at Thomson ct.org and I will get you on my list. You can take part in one session or in the remaining 11 As your interest. You know, interest or time allows the more voices and perspectives we get in this the stronger the project is going to be.

 47:59

I also thought of thought of this as she was talking I wouldn't we have a few of us here. We're at the school yesterday for the ribbon cutting. They just opened up culinary arts program. So there if anybody doesn't know this, the Thompson school high school has like a pretty incredible career paths program, which I didn't realize until we went there yesterday. Um, it's not like high school when I went where you got to woodshop at home at class. I mean, they've got a bunch of different career paths like the the new culinary arts program is a beautiful new commercial kitchen completely brand new with a little cafe, which they haven't they haven't announced any actual hours at the cafe will be open yet but they're working on that so and then we went around the whole school and looked at all the other pathway programs and it's it's amazing what they're doing up there and then to be able to take that and tie it into the

Small Business Development Center. So that when there's students that are coming out of high school that are like, I want to start a business but um, the first thing I'm going to do is get out of Thompson because there's nothing here for me. So we want to create that opportunity to benefit the community.

 49:11

Okay, moving on to Brian, again for the Economic Development Report.

 49:17

Yeah, one of the things I was going to touch on was the the ribbon cutting for the culinary arts because TVA was invited, of course EDC Dan, and I represent EDC here was the plan that we had a pretty good showing there and that is something that I've been kind of liaison to that Pathways program for a few years. If you remember, a year or two ago, I was asking everybody who would be interested in speaking to the kids because I had gotten there and now they were polling the kids who would you like to hear from in the business community, somebody to go in and speak I've gone in and spoken to them about franchises small business working for a big company. You know, there's a lot of experience I've had over the years, Dan's going in, because they wanted to talk to somebody who works with their hands in construction. And I'm still open to keeping our TVA group involved as they asked for it. So keep that in mind. If you are interested in sure it's a nice, they only get the kids, the ones who were interested. If you're going to talk about insurance, then I can have somebody who wants to be a brick mason, General, unless he really wants to know about insurance, too. You know what I mean? You'd have an audience that might would actually ask you questions. And actually not be falling asleep. So yeah, like Dan said, it's amazing what they have. They have an ad program with a green screen has everything. I told them when I was a kid, you know, he was two guys with a big camera and they had a lot of keys for some reason. And I also shared with the kids I got suspended from school for signing up for home. Oh yeah, because it wasn't Yeah, the girls could take wood but the guys were not allowed to take home back.

 51:14

Then you got suspended.

 51:16

I got suspended.

 51:17

As a joke, right? No, oh,

 51:18

11 51:19

no. Why would I not want to cook unless I was 17 in a hurry to get married

51:25

while I was trying to figure out why you got suspended?

51:27

I thought Yeah, no. My boys too. It's changed this. They have a CNA program. They have a firefighter program. They have wood and metal. They're expanding the welding program. This is an opportunity for you and your business. Maybe mentor somebody, maybe take on summer health, depending on what you do. Yeah, future business owners. Of America

51:53

marketing immediate department up there like, yes,

51:57

yeah, the reason we talked about this is because yes, it can involve itself. Anyway, on with the rest of EDC we had. We had reported one new business putting in a cert even though they had already registered in March. That was Casey carpentry on Blake Road. We did agree to pay for bolts. The ribbon cutting at Milltown grill was part was part of our agenda. Because that's one of our TBA businesses. It's very visible in town. He wanted to show off the landscaping at the corner and also celebrate its 50th year in business. It's the end raining. So EDC had voted to help pay for advertising package the landscaping materials. We just showed Donahue landscaping brought the mulch another one of our businesses. We did talk about the community day business we had to pick Business of the Year which by the way was American rental. He was almost fluid with gratitude and humility. It was really cool. We talked about the Olympians village village progress which of course you know those three sheds are going away. They will be used in other areas in town though, so they're not going to waste it's just because of the lack of sincere interest. We just couldn't continue with the 11th village project progress or project. I think that I think that covers it for now.

53:41

Okay, thanks Brian. When you radio report, Gary Pragna from pesky dead and Sarah James. From flowers cleaning or going on the radio with Gary Oh, and Missy next Tuesday morning and for next month. Chris has signed up but he's that's it. So we have an opening for next month for anybody that wants to go on with the radio. Does everybody know about that opportunity? You can go right on our website under the members area. Click on any radio and select a time we take to businesses on the radio every month it's the third Tuesday of the month. And you just

go on there and talk with Gary and have a good time and it's not it's a lot of people are like nervous about it. They don't want to go on the radio but it's really Gary's a master and he just like leads you through it and you have a wonderful time and it's great. So



54:39

and I remind people you can go to our website and see actual footage of people being interviewed. Because when we say it's easy made, maybe you won't believe it. It's like yeah, I don't like talking to people. But he really does make it and I've done it and I do really enjoy that especially, you know, three o'clock in the morning whenever



55:01

you carry a little index card or something like the talking points on things that you do and don't want to talk about. So that's that's always good. It's helpful.



55:08

I know the first time I went I showed up like 25 minutes early.



55:13

Think we all get into



55:15

but now I love it. I go as much as I can. So it's so fun. Okay, I'm Ali, you're up.



55:26

So our data is phenomenal for the group and for the page so far group for the first time in months, that you are not the top step has been five five koku Vicki



55:52

passing the imaginary trophy trophy we need we need something



56:00

pretty Yeah, I was pretty excited. So there is a little bit of



56:05

a young guy that can make that right. We need



56:08

to so for the top posters of the month it was Vicki denmat solely and we got to knock them a little bit further down. It's actually between flawless and your page today. You guys are actually catching up to Vicki. Oh, wow. We got like a little race going on.



56:27

I'm gonna have to talk to my marketing team



56:31

right now. So 213 People from September 13 to now have actively been posting that's accrued that's anybody who's posted once or commented, and it's counting how many times they're engaging in the group. So there's 213 people actively engaging for viewing which is anybody looking up our group along with our page we have hit 6505 People who are looking at Thompson business socation and clicking on our group as well as looking at our Facebook page for our engagement, which is you know how many posts are coming out in the month. We had 192 posts that excludes any spam any like anything that came through that may have not been a member all that has been out but that's 192 posts that are being viewed and engaged with that's up 18% than where we were last month. For some reason Tuesday 8am seems to be the best day everybody's active are our most active son. I don't know why maybe everyone finally the most engaged posts are actually from Wallace your posts about helping people with an event that was coming up for the suggestion for someone with a birthday got the most views along with your posts in general actually driving a lot of people to look us up cleaning is one of the main things strapping people to our group right now along with networking, and then our mixer posts. So the mixer that was held at Donahue lawncare actually is driving 32% of our searches right now. That photo we took with LD with our hands like this keeps popping up in the search engine and is leading people to look for us and we're now being recognized by Mehta for the business mixers, which means people know they can come join this group look at us and have fun. We are trending in the following areas. Thompson Connecticut 239 People look us up daily on Facebook and Thomson connect kids 34 are looking at stuff and Putnam 25 are looking at stuff and Woodstock and Western Dudley both are sitting at 21 per day of how many people are looking at stuff in those areas. So we're doing phenomenal as far as exposure goes. So I definitely would keep recommending keep sharing keep posting and we're probably only more business so



58:53

businesses too because my my business Facebook page is starting to get more followers and more traction because they're coming there from the TVA so yeah, it's really good. All right,



59:02

and shares especially but any of that stuff shares likes comments, Facebook loves that. So as you're going through it you see somebody's post in the group, take a second to just at least like it but if you share it or comment on it on Facebook,



59:18

where the association has a physical Facebook page when you post a photo on your own wall, you can choose to tag somebody, you can tag the Facebook page, and that will actually put you in the feed automatically on the Facebook page, which is viewed more than just a group that's actually viewed by Facebook publicly. It's the same as like a public bulletin and they don't need to be in the group to see that and it's sharing you to the audience in the areas that we are in.



59:43

Nice. Thank you Ali. Yeah. Okay. Um before this room have a great night. Thanks for coming to the website. Thank you for coming. Next week.



1:00:07

Thursday thank you oh,



1:00:16

yeah, yeah, absolutely. Anyway,



1:00:21

I'm sorry, me Wait a minute. I own System Solutions, LLC. I built the Virginia troubleshooting networks whether they be commercial, residential and do the same thing with computers. I also build computers and I got a referral from Sandy today. This will be my fifth computer are ready for October October that I'm running to build a high end to medium to high end computers. And if anybody wants to talk to me, I guarantee you I can make a big computer. Probably better than anybody out there. So but if you have any computer problems, just give me a call. Then.



1:01:01

We'll talk a little much.



1:01:02

Thanks, Chris. Yeah. Okay, Sandy weekend



1:01:04

warrior report. Um, okay. So I write anything down but I can tell you that the school we received the list of families from the school and our the need has, or at least the families who signed up has increased by over 10%. The total number of families that we have now is 48 families and the total number of people because keep in mind we also feed their family members is 206 which is a lot and our senior citizen families went up dramatically, like we learned at community day that we really are not. There are a lot of seniors out there that didn't even know the program existed. We signed up some that day and since then, we've must have given out a bunch of applications because they keep coming in right now. We're up to 81 families to deliver to and I had this idea and I'm just going to throw it out there because Sarah and I have been talking that we are not hitting a certain group of people people do not know people don't know that we're there and there's people that don't go on social media. So I've been saying that what we want to do I know these people that don't go on social media do open shoppers guide every week. But I've been afraid I've been afraid to post something to put an ad in the shoppers guide because I'm afraid of how many people will get calls from and I certainly don't have the time to feel those calls. I will make sure they get fed but I don't have time to sign them up. They don't have time to answer the phone. So I came up with a plan. Charlene Lange Loise her mom Jackie I don't know if anybody knows Jackie. She is I have an extra phone line that I use just during tax season. I'm going to give her that phone use that phone number. put an ad in the shoppers guide. She's going to have the application I'll get out man her with an app applications. Set up a spreadsheet for her envelopes stamps. I'll give her everything and she's gonna feel those calls. The only time like I'll have to get my hands in it is when the applications come in. They'll come to me and I'll put them on the routes that they fit. So



1:03:11

yeah, make your life easier if I do some kind of online sign up for weekend work



1:03:16

but that I think people that don't use social stuff. I know this phone might smile. Yeah, that's a good point. Yeah, yeah, that's what that's what from talking to the people during community day and the people that we did sign up that's what we've determined that they don't know they get the if they had social media, they would have known by now because we're sharing everything everywhere but shoppers guide Yeah, you're right. They open that



1:03:39

every week wire in their bags every week because there's a you know a friend and then they can refer Yeah,



1:03:44

that's actually a great idea. I'll put something together post something so crazy if anybody can help next week. I just want to tell you, uh, you know, already know like, I already explained how like crazy I've been working. But next week is the first delivery of to our kids for the school year. It also falls on the same day. as our senior deliveries. And and yeah our pickup day just because the way the week's fell. We are not picking up food until Tuesday. And we have to pack. What's that? 42 and 81 or 48 and 81 229 bags between Wednesday, Tuesday evening and Thursday morning we have literally less than 48 hours to get everything packed. And that means also shopping if we have to fill in some blanks. So I am looking for help next Tuesday between four and seven. And then I'm also looking for help on Tuesday. I mean on Tuesday, four to seven, Wednesday from noon to until we're done. So anybody can help even for an hour somewhere in that period of time or if you can help at any other time. Like just tell me I'll it's after extensions are done. I feel like I'm gonna have 40 million hours in my day at that point. So I will go down even if we get a few of the few filled i that will be an accomplishment because there's only so much time in the day and we have a lot to get done. So I would appreciate it and



1:05:11

where's everybody meeting? For that because



1:05:12

it's at the mill across across the street. Tower three are weekend warriors headquarters is on the second floor. Go up the tower three call ahead of time there's an aisle make sure that the door is open because there is a code on the door so definitely call call me call Sarah. Email the TVA page. What are posted on Facebook, anything any any way you can get a hold of us. Get a hold of us we'll add as Ali is taking



1:05:41

cares as an email to you. It's the weekend the weekend warrior at Gmail if you email them directly and when we know you're gonna volunteer I got through to the sheet you can get into Sandy and let her know. You can also if you saw an email that wrong sign up for the newsletter that we put out all information relating to the weekend warriors,



1:05:58

right. And I'm only she's got a great handle on it all and the only reason I'm making this please because we've got literally less than 48 hours calling or



1:06:08

texting before you show up hussars shit service so



1:06:12

yeah like zero yeah run out.



1:06:16

The door open it's hard because the mill is so secure. There's a door and the there's a lock on the outside coded lock on the outside our doors locked, but I'll make sure that night I'm gonna try and make sure that stays open. And so people if they want to just come in and I'll post signs showing them how to get to our room. So if you've got free time, we'll take you



1:06:36

well she's on the weekend warrior thing the school sent to let this letter thanking everybody for their participation in the weekend warrior program and how much all of your help is appreciated. So this is a copy of it. I'm gonna I'm going to frame the original and put it up in the weekend warriors headquarters. Yeah,



1:06:54

make a huge difference. Huge, huge difference in people's lives. So we're going to be talked about doing like a couple pop up experiences. One in June after school that's out and one closer to Christmas time where I spoke to the pastor creation sheriff's church and we're going to partner with them. They do coat and blanket drives. So we're going to do a cold blanket and like warm stuff drives like hats and gloves and stuff like that. So for our pop up in December that we're trying to coordinate beard right before Christmas. We'll bring the food they'll bring the warm clothes and we'll set up locations to get that way too. Nice. I think so.



1:07:41

Exactly. So we brought it up I think couple months ago about doing a basket for the seniors for Christmas. Sandy and I were talking this week about it. Black Friday has amazing deals as we all know I love what I do. But I would like to see and this could be monetary this could be whatever you wanted to do. I would love to see 10 businesses in Thompson say I'm gonna give \$100 so that I can shop on Black Friday and get them new toasters, new many dashes because there's something like \$10 items. There's 85 people and everyone puts, you know, we've got \$1,000 that we can buy at five somebody dashes or 85 toasters or blenders or hearings, whatever, whatever we can do. So if anybody wants to volunteer for that, or donate funds, or whatever that looks like get a hold of me and we're gonna try to get that figured out. Yeah.



1:08:38

Cool. All right. Kristen Celeste, you have a all the awesome stuff that happened at the golf tournament last week. Two weeks ago, three weeks ago, whatever it was. More than that. I



1:08:50

was almost a month goes by so I was born.



1:08:57

We had another successful very successful golf tournament. We raised \$16,279. All that. All that goes to the weekend warrior project, to buy to purchase food. We've had incredible feedback from people as far as you know. The holiday like the tournament, and we're already scheduled for the third Friday of September of next year, which is September 25. And you're already pretty weak. The purchase give you an idea, the first the first year that we had a golf tournament. We had a loving foursomes this year we've had we have 28 And the most you can have is 36 So we're almost maxed out as it is and even even the pro with the the Thompson raceway says we want an incredible golf tournament and it shows so that's about it. I mean, we thank everybody. We have an incredible group of people that work on it and we have incredible group of volunteers that also want you know that help us help the healthier the 20 succeed. And like I said, we look forward to doing it again next year. Thank you. Awesome, thanks. Thank you.



1:10:27

I was fielding some calls when we returned from vacation, some of our some of the vendors that I work with every day so insurance. I talked to some of the other marketing reps for some of the carriers that I write for and then our agency writes for and they're already asking for the information for next year's tournament.



1:10:45

Nice. That's awesome. All right, cool. That's about it for tonight. So we just have to draw the business of the month. Brian, if you wouldn't mind grabbing the ballot.



1:11:01

I'm also on the board of Thomson together. I just want to remind you all that the first of the two candidates writes for the municipal elections is tomorrow



1:11:10

torium. Meet the Candidates just tomorrow.



1:11:13

Meet the Candidates, the candidates night it's essentially a debate so there's two of them on tomorrow. And there's one one that at next Wednesday. That's right thanks.



1:11:25

I can't do that one. That's but i What time tomorrow night where?



1:11:29

Six to 915 up at the high school auditorium. They're gonna do two of the major boards each night. Tomorrow night is board of selectmen and Board of Education. And then next week we'll be planning and zoning and board of finance. So it's an opportunity to hear the candidates speak their positions, based on questions posed in writing by the audience. So



1:11:53

thanks for sharing that. I didn't know elections



1:11:55

are the most important elections that you vote in.



1:12:00

All right business of the month.



1:12:03

As you know you could not have won within the last six months to make it fair. It's a rolling six months ever. For kids just if you want a year ago, six months ago, you can win



1:12:30

name is David. Systems solution.



1:12:44

Bagnet Okay. Does anybody does anybody? I'll be able to do that. Does anybody have any announcements they would like to make



1:12:57

can you make one? Okay,



1:13:00

that's it then I will. The meeting. Our next meeting is on November 8, same time, same place, and our meeting is adjourned at 644. If everybody could just move their chair back on the pile in the back, we'll make everybody's life easy.



1:13:22

Thanksgiving crier put up a seminar publicly.