



## Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce recognizes community leaders

By Bill Purcell  
 President, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce

Photos by Fred Ortoli

SEYMOUR - One of the hallmarks of the Valley region is our strong sense of community, which is engendered and supported by a strong tradition of volunteer leadership and corporate engagement.

The Chamber was pleased to host its *46th Annual Gold Seal Awards Banquet* recently at Inn at Villa Bianca in Seymour. Nearly 200 Guests enjoyed an elegant evening in celebration of our region's business and community leaders who exemplify the spirit of selflessness and volunteerism.

Congratulations to Gold Seal Award Winners *Tom Haynes,*

*Ray Oppel and Joe Welsh;* Silver Medal Honoree, *Valley Independent Sentinel* and this year's Platinum Honoree, *Diane Stroman.*

The combined efforts of all of our recipients, both past and present, have resulted in lasting contributions to the quality of life that we enjoy in our Valley community.



## Homes for the Brave receives \$30,000 grant from Newman’s Own Foundation



BRIDGEPORT – Newman’s Own Foundation, Inc. has awarded a \$30,000 grant to Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute (ABRI) / Homes for the Brave.

Newman’s Own Foundation made the award as part of their broader commitment to support military personnel, veterans, and their families.

This funding will support the ABRI Training for Success program, allowing Veterans to access short-term educational and training programs that will allow them to utilize the skills they have already acquired in the military to increase their employability and earning potential.

“With improved access to educational opportunities, the Veterans we serve will be better able to secure and retain employment that will enable them to support themselves and their families,” stated CEO and Executive Director Vincent Santilli.

ABRI is dedicated to providing the housing and services necessary to help homeless individuals, primarily Veterans, return to a productive and meaningful life.



“The freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as Americans cannot be taken for granted. The men and women of our military, veterans, and their families deserve our enduring gratitude and support,” said Bob Forrester, President and CEO of Newman’s Own Foundation. “We are pleased to fund this organization in its work to help improve the lives of those who serve.”

Newman’s Own Foundation recently provided grants to 26 nonprofit organizations that assist veterans and their families as part of a \$6.7 million commitment to honor those who serve.

### About ABRI/Homes for the Brave:

Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute (ABRI), doing business as Homes for the Brave, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing safe housing, life skills coaching, and vocational training to homeless individuals, most of whom are Veterans.

Since 2002, ABRI has served over 1,100 homeless men and women through its four programs: Homes for the Brave, Waldorf Permanent Supportive Housing, the Veterans Service Center, and Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes, Connecticut’s only transitional living facility for homeless female Veterans and their young children.

For more info, contact Kathy Beardsworth, Director of Communications & Outreach at 203-338-0669 or [kbeardsworth@homesforthebrave.org](mailto:kbeardsworth@homesforthebrave.org)

### Save the Date! Route 8 / Waterbury Line Study



#### TOD Workshps/Charrettes, 6-8 p.m.

- Wednesday, Nov. 8 - Derby  
Derby City Hall, 1 Elizabeth St.
- Thursday Nov. 9 - Ansonia  
Ansonia City Hall, 253 Main St.
- Tuesday, Nov. 14 - Beacon Falls/Seymour  
Seymour Town Hall, 1 First St.
- Thursday Nov. 16 - Shelton  
Shelton City Hill, 54 Hill St.

For more information, see [www.rt8corridorstudy.com/](http://www.rt8corridorstudy.com/)

## Thursday, November 9 7am - 10am



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AT



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