

This is in response to Matt Meskill's Letter to the Editor which appeared in the September 19, 2009 issue of the Guilford Courier.

Mr. Meskill states that "Unfortunately, merchants on the Green had to finance their own organization to advertise the Guilford Green, rather than our Economic Development Commission assisting them with their effort".

Currently, EDC exists as an advisory committee and thus does not maintain a pool of funds from which organizations can draw. EDC expressed full support of the Green Merchants Association and maintains a positive relationship with the group.

EDC has supported and/or spearheaded the following goals and objectives to assist Guilford businesses:

- *EDC hosts an annual commercial property owner/realtor breakfast, the goal of which is to discuss economic and business issues specific to Guilford and includes attendees from the Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning staff members.*
- *EDC hosts an annual energy forum which presents energy saving opportunities, alternative energy solutions and energy assistance programs to business and commercial property owners.*
- *EDC produces a quarterly Economic Development program on GCTV to keep the public informed about Economic Development Commission happenings and runs a monthly article in The Courier on the same topic.*
- *EDC produces the Economic Development Exchange, the first Economic Development newsletter published monthly and distributed to business owners, town employees, and surrounding town officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives. The newsletter shares business news on a local, State and national level and also includes links to local and State business resources.*
- *EDC maintains a database of all commercial properties and monitors vacant space. This information is shared with local area commercial realtors to fill vacant space as quickly as possible.*
- *EDC created new Economic Development / Town promotional materials which are distributed to those inquiring about Guilford.*
- *EDC co-sponsored a business workshop series through SCORE (Counselors to America's Small Businesses) that included the following topics:*
 - *Marketing Your Business*
 - *Internet Marketing*
 - *Managing Your Business*
 - *How to Build Customer Loyalty*
- *EDC created Economic Development web pages which provide economic and business information to the public, including links to local business websites, business related events, and visitor/tourist information.*