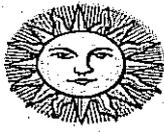




Final Edition



Today: High 55, Low 30
Forecast, Page B6
Weather anytime:
MassLive.com

The Republican.



PATRIOT
Home Imp
We will match your
Call for
VINYL SIDING
Call 1-800-
www.patriot

The Republican, Wednesday, March 26, 2008

• METRO EAST PLUS •

EP5

Work behind scenes helps restaurants

By **JOHN APPLETON**
jappleton@repub.com

BELCHERTOWN – Jon E. Daskam has always been interested in restaurants.

He has never owned one but his corporation, Cobalt Industries, Inc., has built dozens of restaurants throughout the Northeast and Daskam recently was named to the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association.

In that role he said he will work to help the hotels and restaurants of Rhode Island and work behind the scenes to support them.

The organization deals with issues like the minimum wage, smoking bans, bringing employees to the region for summer seasons and the pros and cons of bringing casinos to the area.



Jon E. Daskam

Daskam has been running the association's network for allied vendors.

"I am pretty active in the association," Daskam said.

Originally from Attleborough, Daskam moved to

Western Massachusetts to attend Springfield College, where he majored in physical education and health and fitness.

While still in Springfield he became involved in sales opportunities with an artist who was designing restaurants.

They got together with a third partner who was building high rise buildings in Boston.

Together they formed Cobalt Industries, Inc. which is based in Warwick, R.I.

Cobalt is a construction management business that hires subcontractors for the

actual construction work.

Formed in 1999, the corporation has built more than 50 restaurants in the last five years.

Restaurants account for about 65 percent of their business, but Cobalt also works on retail buildings and buildings for college campuses.

Daskam said they work throughout New England, New Jersey and New York.

Travel throughout this region is a big part of Daskam's work.

A typical week can see him visiting Boston, Maine and New Jersey as well as com-

muting from Belchertown to Warwick.

Daskam said his corporation has been involved in the construction of a real estate company building and a salon in Belchertown.

He said he would love to find more projects closer to home.

He lives in Belchertown with his wife, Jeannine, and their three sons, ages 8, 5 and 2.

"We love the town and the community," Daskam said.

He and his wife have lived in Belchertown 12 years and plan to stay.

LIBRARY NOTES

BELCHERTOWN

Clapp Memorial Library, 19 South Main St., (413) 323-0417, www.clapplibrary.org

Call Jennifer for details.

MOVIE GROUP: Movie discussion group, second Monday each month, 7 p.m., call Ann for details.

WIFI: The library has free

"There's so much to do, and there's no other place like it. I just think it's marvelous!"

Dottie loved her home and had no desire to move to a retirement community. But one day, with some time on her hands, she discovered The Gardens of Wilbraham and figured she'd just take a tour. By the time the tour was finished, Dottie's new life had begun. She decided right then and there, that The Gardens of Wilbraham was where she wanted to live. Dottie's thrilled about her decision, and it's really no surprise. From the beautiful homes that offer worry-free living to the exquisite natural setting