

Meineke comes to the Lakes Region

LACONIA — Meineke Car Care may be new to the Lakes Region, but the owners are not.

Barry Williams, a resident of Alton and owner of three other New Hampshire based Meinekes (Hudson, Nashua, and Concord), has had his eyes on the Lakes Region for many years. Knowing the region he lives in, he has seen that the greater Laconia communities offer the potential for small business owners to provide quality service and build relationships with their customers.

Partnering with John Skehan, a long time car care business owner, colleague and friend, also a Lakes Region resident that was returning home to the Lakes Region this year for family purposes, Williams knew this was the year to bring Meineke to the Lakes Region. Successfully ranking in the top percentage of Meineke franchise ownership, Williams began looking at expansion to Laconia a number of years ago; howev-



Meineke's two new technicians stand with owners John Skehan and Barry Williams outside the new Meineke Car Care center on Union Avenue in Laconia.

er, the location or timing did not always line up.

Skehan owned a Billerica, Mass. car care company that he sold in 2004, earning him the vast knowledge and experience of home town management and customer service. Together, both being Certified Master Automotive Technicians, success business owners, and sharing the same small business management and customer service philosophy, opportunity

knocked when the 1022 Union Ave. location, of what was once a Midas, appeared available early in the year. Timing, location, and partnership

combining the owners more than 60 years' experience presented the right mix to open the doors on Union Avenue, Nov. 12.

Meineke is not your everyday car care shop - Meineke specializes in all kinds of automotive services: brakes,

batteries, exhaust systems, tires, and more - even transmission work. Laconia Meineke gives you the quality and low prices of a respected national name, with the customer service you'd expect from local business ownership in a convenient location.

Meineke Car Care on Union Avenue is offering great specials and a willingness to honor the previous Union Avenue Midas warranties. Both Williams and Skehan invite all to stop by and check out their revitalized facility. You will want to know them by face as you will begin to see their Lakes Region engagement grow (Williams has always been a longtime supporter of the infamous WLNH Children's Auction and Patrick's Pub Mania), as they bring the Laconia Meineke alongside all the other local small businesses providing great service, driving the quality of life that the Lakes Region is known for.

SBA names Bank of NH an "Outstanding Partner"

LACONIA — The New Hampshire district office of the U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced Bank of New Hampshire as an "Outstanding Partner" in its 2012 lender awards.

Bank of New Hampshire was awarded for its long-term partnership with the SBA, partnering with SBA to provide "Bank on SBA" sessions, customer educational opportunities and for consistently providing financing to small businesses through the use of SBA programs.

"Bank of New Hampshire

is committed to bettering the community through providing financial assistance to small businesses," stated Louis Guevin, Jr., EVP - Commercial Services for Bank of New Hampshire.

For more information on SBA loans through Bank of New Hampshire, call 1-800-832-0912.

Bank of New Hampshire, founded in 1831, provides deposit, lending and wealth management products and services to families and businesses throughout New Hampshire. With 21 banking offices throughout New

Hampshire and assets exceeding \$1 billion, Bank of New Hampshire is the oldest and largest independent bank in the state. Bank of New Hampshire is a mutual organization, focused on the

success of the bank's customers, communities and employees, rather than stockholders. For more information, call 1-800-832-0912 or visit www.BankNH.com.

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Pike employees dig deep for local charity

BELMONT — The employees of Pike Industries raised more than \$4,000 and collected more than 1,000 pounds of food for local charitable efforts in New Hampshire and Maine.

Employee financial contributions and food donations were matched by Pike Industries, which contributed \$2,500 to the effort.

"I am proud of our employees for many reasons," said Christian Zimmerman, President of Pike Industries, "but their unwavering commitment to their local communities is a source of great pride for me and our entire company."

Charitable organizations throughout the state of New Hampshire and Maine received contributions of money and food. Contributions were made prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The organizations include Ecumenical Food Pantry - Berlin; Madison Church Food Pantry - Columbia; Helping Hands North, Inc. - Madison; New

Hampshire Food Bank - Manchester; Tilton Northfield Sanborn Santa Fund; Southwestern Community Services - Claremont; Seacoast Family Food Pantry - Portsmouth; SCCA Farmington Outreach - Farmington; and Good Shepard Food Bank - Maine.

"We are pleased to be able to partner with each of these organizations, and help with their mission of assisting those people in our communities in need," said Lindsey Mills, coordinator of the Pike donation effort.

Pike Industries Inc. was established in 1872 and has evolved into one of the largest asphalt and aggregate materials producers in New England. Pike currently operates over 30 asphalt plants and 15 crushing facilities throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Pike Industries is a subsidiary of Oldcastle, Inc.

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