

Ron's Market – YOUR local market for food, wine & spirits!

*United Way of the Tri-Valley Area launched its Corporate Champion Circle (CCC) in the summer of 2018. CCC members partner with United Way for one year, support their community, and receive unique marketing benefits. Corporate Champion Circle members contribute at one of three giving levels - Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$3,000), and Silver (\$1,500). To recognize CCC members, and to get to know those who are passionate about United Way, we have started a series that profiles these dedicated businesses. **Please welcome Ron's Market owned and operated by Jon and Lois Bubier, located in Farmington, Maine.***

Jon Bubier was raised in West Farmington, ME and Lois Bubier in Farmington, ME. The two met at the local fair in town, which happens to be right across from Ron's Market, coincidentally. Jon was a home builder and carpenter and Lois in retail. The couple have been married now for 44 years, have one daughter, a grandson and four rescued fur babies.

Ron Burton, who owned Ron's Market, approached Jon and Lois when he was ready to sell the store. After some consideration, they decided to take on the new adventure, so in 2005 Jon and Lois took ownership. Currently Ron's Market is managed by James Beane (Jon and Lois' son-in law), they employ sixteen people, have a deli (where you can purchase fresh cut steak), the largest selection of specialty beer in the area, a wine room, and bottle redemption. Until the pandemic hit, Jon and Lois would host wine tasting events, which they are hoping to continue, possibly this summer with an outside venue for safety.

When asked about challenges and opportunities they see as a business owner and within the community, Lois said, "It is a challenge recruiting and retaining skilled, dedicated, and motivated employees, despite a friendly, flexible, and incentivized work environment. "We are in a time where work ethic is suffering." Jon chimed in and said, "We have seen more prevalent drug and alcohol use, making it hard to attract fitting employees." Lois went on to say, "even in the challenging times, we all have the same opportunity to better ourselves." Jon chimed in sighting that, "We live in a good community, when I travel to other communities, Lois and I are blessed to come back to ours."

When asked about becoming a CCC member, Lois said, "we have always given back to our community through many organizations, Jon has been a Rotarian, he helped start the Neighbors Helping Neighbors organization and has been with the Lions Club for a long time." Jon went on to say, "we like how United Way is able to reach many people in our community."

The final thing that Jon and Lois Bubier were excited to let everyone know was that in 2024 Ron's Market will be 100 years old! So, be on the lookout for the centennial celebration to come.