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**Southern Berkshire Chamber Business Person of the Year Celebration  
September 10, 2025, at Catamount Mountain Resort**

**Southern Berkshires** - The Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce this year's Business Person of the Year: Erik Bruun, of SoCo Creamery.

The Business Person of the Year celebration in Bruun's honor is on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 5:00pm, at Catamount Mountain Resort, 17 Nicholson Road, Southern Egremont, MA. All community members are welcome. Tickets are \$70/ person and are available now through the Southern Berkshire Chamber's Business Office. Event sponsorships are available at \$1,000 and \$325 levels. Call 413-528-4284 or register online: [www.southernberkshirechamber.com](http://www.southernberkshirechamber.com)

Erik Bruun was the founding board president of the youth-empowerment organization Railroad Street Youth Project for ten years as well as the founding president of the former native-plant nursery Project Native. Most recently, he was the principal owner and president of SoCo Creamery for nearly ten years.

A former Berkshire Eagle reporter, he was the original co-publisher of The South Advocate newsweekly in the 1990s, before it was eventually acquired by The Berkshire Eagle. Erik then served as staff director for the Massachusetts Committee on State Administration, while working for former State Rep. Chris Hodgkins.

That experience gave him a strong understanding on how to partner with state agencies to support numerous local initiatives with millions of dollars including the Great Barrington downtown revitalization project in the 1990s, the remediation of chemicals from the former New England Log Homes Project, the Housatonic River Initiative and distribution of Natural Resource Damages fund from General Electric for PCB damages to local environmental organizations.

He also co-founded the Berkshire Youth Development coalition for youth-serving organizations that secured and distributed several million dollars over the course of two decades, as well as the South Berkshire Youth Coalition whose mission has been to reduce underage substance use in South County and continues to support young people in our community.

Erik served on the board of the Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School (now Berkshire Waldorf School) for many years, including two three-year stints as board president during the 2008 financial crisis and the recent pandemic.

He now serves as a board member/trustee for the Railroad Street Youth Project, Community Health Program and the Community Development Corp. of South Berkshire. A freelance writer for many years, Erik has authored several books. The best-selling book was an oversized coffee table book entitled *Heavy Equipment*.

Erik lives in Great Barrington and has three adult children--Elizabeth, Andrew and Rebecca.

The Southern Berkshire Chamber advocates for business prosperity and promotes a healthy, inclusive community by providing information and services for its members. Contact Betsy Andrus, Executive Director, for more information on membership at 413-528-4284; email [betsy@southernberkshirechamber.com](mailto:betsy@southernberkshirechamber.com). Website: [www.southernberkshirechamber.com](http://www.southernberkshirechamber.com)