

Press Release: January 26, 2010

The Charlestown Chamber of Commerce regrets to announce that the Big Apple Circus will not be performing at Ninigret Park this summer. Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Big Apple Circus in Charlestown. The economy has hit non-profit organizations hard, and the Big Apple Circus is no exception. Management at the circus stated:

“This year, after many seasons, the Big Apple Circus is sad to announce that it will not be able to return to Charlestown in July. The not-for-profit circus has not been immune from the impact of the national financial crisis, which has sent ticket sales plummeting this year, greatly decreased donations for our community outreach programs, and increased operating costs. The Big Apple Circus has already sought to reduce expenses and limit losses wherever possible, with layoffs, furloughs, wage reductions and canceled programs and venues. These actions were difficult measures, made to ensure our continued viability and vitality. We shall miss the wonderfully enthusiastic audiences in Charlestown, and hope to return some day in the future.”

President of the Charlestown Chamber Board of Directors, Kara Kayarian, says “We are certainly very sorry for these circumstances: the Chamber and the Circus have had a supportive and beneficial relationship for 25 years. We hope to see the Circus return next year, and in the meantime, our Chamber is planning some new and exciting events to benefit the people of Charlestown. Recent successful events include a Wine Tasting sponsored by the Charlestown Package Store and a Comedy Night, featuring great local artists. Look for new event announcements in the newspaper or on our website (www.CharlestownRIChamber.com) soon: we expect a fantastic summer with lots of fun, family events.”