

NOTEABLE QUOTABLE

"We are excited about being new Chamber members. Since our AAUW branch represents Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown we are hoping that by joining The Chamber we will be able to attract more Montgomery County women to join our organization and experience the excitement that is AAUW! We look forward to participating in The Chamber's functions and networking with the members."
Helen Martin, A-G-J AAUW Branch President

**The Chamber Announces
2009 Scholarship Award Recipients**



L to R: 2009 Scholarship winner Brittney Lasky; Chamber President, Deborah Auspelmyer; and 2009 Scholarship award winner Holli Hanson.

The Chamber is pleased to announce that we have selected two local students as recipients of The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. The recipients, who are planning to enroll at Fulton-Montgomery Community College this fall, were chosen based on a combination of their merit, community and school services, and their essay.

The Scholarship program was initiated in 2005 to provide an opportunity for local students to gain access to higher education. To date, The Chamber has presented over \$5,000 to local high school students throughout Montgomery County including the Amsterdam, Canajoharie, Fonda-Fultonville, Fort Plain and St. Johnsville school districts. One of the committee goals is to be able to award a scholarship to one student from each high school in Montgomery County in the future.

Brittney Lasky, one of this year's recipients, attends Fonda Fultonville High School and plans to pursue a career in Radiology. cont. pg. 4

**The
Chamber
Newsletter**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Actively Supports The Business Community!

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italy MONDO!

Leadership Academy 2009/2010 Seeks Applicants

The Montgomery and Fulton County Chambers of Commerce with Fulton-Montgomery Community College are seeking applicants for the 2009/2010 Leadership Academy. The Academy provides opportunities for participants to enhance their leadership network, learn more about the area in which they live, and offer individuals the opportunity to resolve personal and professional issues in order to create a better future for the area. Academy covers community operations, explores issues, identifies opportunities for involvement, establishes contacts, and strengthens leadership, team-building, and decision-making skills.

The Chamber thanks sponsors of the event KeyBank, Nathan Littauer Hospital, and St. Mary's Hospital. Fulton-Montgomery Leadership Academy is open to anyone who is a member of the Fulton or Montgomery County Chambers of Commerce and their employees. Those who wish to enroll in the Academy must complete an application and prepare a short essay. Call The Chamber at 853-1800 for an application.

**Chamber Seeks Business and Community's Best!
To Be Presented Award at VIP Appreciation Event**

The Chamber is currently accepting nominations for the 2009 Employees of the Year and Volunteer of Year Awards. Traditionally The Chamber has presented an Employee of the Year Award at the Staff Appreciation Luncheon historically held in April. We have changed the timing of this event to make it more of its own celebration, showcasing the people and volunteers that work so hard to ensure the continued growth and success of our community.

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MEMBER News & Events



The City of Amsterdam launches new website www.amsterdamny.gov. The format of the site is simple, featuring a white background and pastel accent colors. Also featured is a constantly changing band of images reflecting the talents of some of the city's most acclaimed photographers. There are demographics, information about city schools, voting registration, licenses and permits, businesses, a city directory, information about the city's comprehensive plan, and much more. With the branding of Amsterdam as a "Small City. Big Heart," Thane said "we wanted to be sure it presented the community as welcoming, loving and a nice place to live." The website was designed by Chamber member, Engines of Creation.

Arkell Museum Presents The Joey Thomas Big Band. Saturday, August 8, 8-11 pm at the Arkell Museum, 2 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie. The cost \$25.00 per person and includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Tickets are available at the Arkell Museum, Picture Perfect and The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. You can also call and charge by telephone 673-2314

FMCC's Diane Palmateer Receives Award. SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher announced the 2008-09 Academic Year recipients of the Chancellor's Awards or Excellence in Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities, Teaching and Classified Service. Diane E. Palmateer was presented with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service, the first time a clerical member of FMCC was presented with such an honor. Ms. Palmateer is Secretary to President Dustin Swanger and Co-Secretary to the Board of Trustees and is in her 36th year as a member of the FM family as both an employee and alumna. "Diane has been a stabilizing force in the President's Office," says President Swanger. "Her dedication to the College, organizational skills, and professionalism have served several presidents well; I would not be able to do my job without her." The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are system-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY's commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction, and serving the public good. Through these awards, SUNY publicly proclaims its pride in the accomplishment and personal dedication of its instructional faculty, librarians and professional staff across its campuses. The awards provide SUNY-wide recognition in six categories: Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities, Teaching, and Classified Service, which is a new category this year. **Congratulations Diane!!!**

Montgomery County Office for Aging sponsors 12th annual Senior Picnic on Friday, September 18, 9am - 3 pm at the Fonda Fairgrounds. Exhibitors will have information about their services and products. Bingo with prizes is on the agenda for the morning. At noon, a chicken barbeque, prepared by their meals contractor, will be served. For your entertainment OFA is proud to present "A Nostalgic Day with Sammy and Friends" starring Amsterdam Native Louie Velez. Montgomery County residents 60 years and over are invited to attend. Tickets will be available for a \$7 donation until August 28 at the OFA. **For more information call OFA at 843-2300.**

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TOURISM CORNER

by Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director

Don't Miss

Alpin Haus Lock 7 - 12 Canalfest

August 8 & 9

The August 8 and 9 Alpin Haus Lock 7-12 Canalfest at Riverlink Park in Amsterdam will feature a farmer's market, a historic tug boat, carnival rides for kids, the Joey Thomas Big Band, the Barefoot Boys, MedRock, and the Terry Adams Rock & Roll Quartet followed by fireworks! This is an exciting day for the whole family!

The Barefoot Boys a Hudson Valley stringband specialize in renditions of regional folksongs, mountain ballads, square dance tunes, and instrumental medleys. Traditional music from the Hudson, Catskill, and Adirondack regions along with sea songs, ragtime tunes, novelty numbers, and even more are preformed by this trio.

The popular MedRock, comprised of local medical professionals, features Sean Ryan, Peter Capobianco, Vic Giulianelli, Bill Mayer and Noy Militar will perform classic rock hits.

The Terry Adams Rock & Roll Quartet brings Terry Adams' (New Rhythm and Blues Quartet) piano pounding party to Riverlink Park with one of Chicago's finest musicians, Scott Ligon on guitar, Pete Donnelly on bass (The Figgs, Graham Parker), and Austin's Conrad Choucroun on drums (Banana Blender Surprise, Damnations). Four-part harmonies provided by this energetic and enthusiastic live band include an eclectic mix of country, jazz and rockabilly.

On Sunday, the party continues with the ever-popular Joe Thomas Big Band nineteen-piece orchestra specializing in classic Big Band arrangements as recorded by the original hit makers along with a Frank Sinatra tribute show. The Joey Thomas Big Band is committed to the perpetuation of this American treasure.

Stay close to home and enjoy fabulous entertainment for the whole family! Lock 7-12 Canalfest is a partnership between Montgomery and Schenectady Counties sponsored by Alpin Haus. The weekend is all about the Erie Canal - rediscover history, experience an adventure, enjoy first class music and dance, and have a chance to celebrate our canal heritage with fireworks and river activities! The Schenectady County Canalfest sites are Mabee Farm and Freedom Park with additional programming. For a complete schedule of events log onto www.lock7-12canalfest.com.

Canalfest is just one exciting event taking place this summer in Montgomery County. For more event information log onto www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com or call Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director at (518)853-1800 ext. 12.

CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLITE



Sacandaga Magazine

By Dave DelFonso

Great News...Sacandaga Magazine will now be mailing our magazines to the Caroga Lake, Speculator, and Wells Zip Codes. We have been the largest print media in this region for years and we have had many requests to mail into these areas. These zips will be included in the Sacandaga Magazine. We are the print media for small business! We highlight many different businesses throughout this area. Many business that people would have never heard of without our magazines. People keep our magazines for more than 2 weeks...which gives you great advertising shelf life. Our rates are the lowest in the area, but we have the most circulation in the area. Watch for our new set of magazines coming out. Many readers have told us they want more coupon offers from local business. This makes sense during these economic times. If you have an offer...offer it! We are local people like many of you just trying to make a decent living for our families. Won't you join our family? If we can help your business please let us know. If you have any questions call some of the people we do business with. We now have a new office location on Route 30 in Amsterdam (Across the street from School House Pools)...Stop in and say hello.



Don't forget about the kick-off to Canalfest ~

Barge Bash!

Ready for more summer fun?

Join us at Barge Bash,

Thursday, August 6, 6-10 pm

at River Stone Manor.

Reservations are only \$35 in advance and include a casual dinner buffet, dancing, music and more!

Call The Chamber today to make your reservation!



Amsterdam, 106 Hannaford Plaza*, 842-2123
Canajoharie, 24 Church Street*, 673-3243
Fonda, 34 West Main Street*, 853-4621
Fort Plain, 41 Canal Street*, 993-2393
Palatine Bridge, 44 Dutchtown Plaza, 673-3201
St. Johnsville, 16 West Main Street, 568-7612

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Scholarship Winners Continued

"I'm really excited to be attending Fulton Montgomery Community College's Radiology Program," states Brittney. "The scholarship money will be used to help purchase books for the upcoming semester." The second recipient, Holli Hanson is also a student at Fonda-Fultonville High School and plans to attend FMCC for Business Administration. "I'm anxious to be starting something new and I'm looking forward to a new environment and meeting new people," adds Holli.

"We are thrilled that two students from Fonda-Fultonville Central School received The Chamber's Scholarship this year," states James Hoffman, Superintendent of Fonda-Fultonville School District. "We see it as support for our efforts to increase the number of students striving to attend college, as well as a demonstration that our students are proving themselves ready for that challenge. As a long-time member of The Chamber, F-FCS recognizes the importance of the link between education and the local business community."

Each student will receive a \$500 scholarship, to be awarded for the 2009/2010 academic year. "I am pleased with the continuation of this scholarship program", states Scholarship Committee member, Julie Pierce. "Congratulations to both Brittney and Holli, their applications are commendable."

The Chamber is currently accepting donations toward the scholarship fund. "We encourage residents within the county that are interested in contributing to education to consider this program," concludes Aupselmyer. Information is available on The Chamber's website, www.montgomerycountyny.com. To make a donation you can stop by Citizens Bank on Route 30N in Amsterdam and ask for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund.

Thank You Notes...

Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. I am very grateful to receive it. I will use the money to pay for books and tuition for school.

Thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Holli Hanson*

NYSERDA Support Now Available for NYS Hospitality Owners/Operators

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is pleased to provide direct support for hotel, motel, and inn owners/operators interested in reducing their energy costs and increasing their "green" operations.

Whether you're looking to a few pieces of commercial kitchen equipment, upgrade your lighting, doing a property upgrade, or building a new site, NYSERDA has technical assistance programs, incentives, and informational services that you can use.

Hospitality owners have their own specialized support called the NYSERDA "Focus on Hospitality." A dedicated webpage is available that makes it easy for you to check out what NYSERDA has to offer – take a look at www.nyserda.org, and click on "Incentives For...Hospitality" right on the middle of the page.

For existing property owners, NYSERDA programs can provide cash support towards hiring a specialized energy engineer who can assess your site and recommend cost-effective upgrades and replacements. Check out the link for "Flex Tech" for more details. For those owners with properties that have \$75,000 or less in annual electricity bills, the "Small Commercial Audit Program" provides a building energy assessment with only a small and fully refundable fee.

Focus on Hospitality can also set up an Energy Star benchmarking score and password for any hotel/motel with 20 rooms or more. This benchmark can give you a sense of how energy intensive and efficient your facility may be, and can be updated by you anytime. Energy Star also offers public recognition for high scores and those property portfolio owners who show a steady improvement on their scores.

NYSERDA serves to reduce the cost of investment for high efficiency, too. The "Existing Facilities Program" offers pre-qualified and performance-based incentives on a wide variety of energy efficiency lighting, cooling systems, foodservice equipment, and more. The NYSERDA "Loan Fund" can also be used to capitalize upgrades with an interest rate buydown.

NYSERDA is the non-profit public benefits corporation that provides energy efficiency programs, services, and incentives to eligible electric utility customers in New York State. Programs are funded by the System Benefits Charge (SBC), which is a small charge for those customers served by major New York State utilities. Customers served by municipal utilities and cooperatives who do not collect this fee may still be eligible for some services.

For further information, visit the Focus on Hospitality webpage. You can also call Focus on Hospitality hotline at 1-866-904-8027 or e-mail at hospitality@nyserda.org.

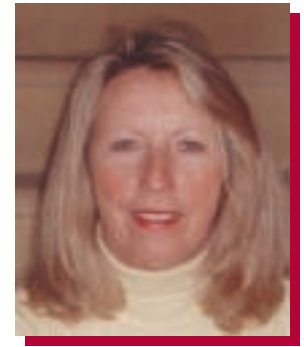


8 Chamber Cruise Success



Several area Chamber of Commerce presidents were in attendance. L to R: Tom Nolte, Colonie; Kathy Burbank, Guilderland; Deborah Auspelmyer, Montgomery County; Peter Aust, Southern Saratoga; Linda Hillman, Rensselaer County; Mark Eagan, Albany-Colonie; David Colby, Columbia County; and Charles Steiner, Schenectady.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce was pleased to participate in the first collaborative networking cruise on the Hudson. Over 500 business members were on board to enjoy networking, fabulous food, prizes and great entertainment. Next years cruise will be Thursday, July 8th, 2010! Hope to see you there!



Congratulations to Chamber Board Members Andy Heck who was the recipient of the Rotary Citizen of the Year Award and Judy Phetteplace who was the recipient of the Rotarian of the Year!

It is wonderful having such community-minded individuals that are dedicated to Montgomery County on the board and Team Chamber!

Business After Hours at NYOH



Don Massey and Sister Danielle of St. Mary's Hospital chat at the Business After Hours at New York Oncology Hematology.

Chamber members braved the hail warnings and attended the July Business After Hours at New York Oncology Hematology. Attendees networked and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres provided by the Raindancer.

New York Oncology Hematology provides a high level of comprehensive care. Bringing together the latest scanners, most sensitive diagnostic tests, newest radiation treatment, and everything in between. The 40 doctors of NYOH pool their collective knowledge and experience on both an informal and formal basis. New York Oncology and Hematology is located at the Riverfront Center in Amsterdam.

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Member Anniversaries

The following businesses realize the value of their Chamber Investment and have renewed their membership. Please note these members and the year they joined.

Thanks to all of our renewing members!

Less Than 5 years

Citizens Bank	2005
County Waste	2007
Five Corners Mobil, Inc.	2007
Flannel Horse LLC	2006
Harkins Consulting Group, Inc.	2005
Parkside Drive-In Inc.	2005
Two Star Graphics	2008

5 to 9 Years

AAA Northway	2001
Amsterdam, Town of	2001
Chatterbox Boutique	2000
Empower Federal Credit Union	2003
Halcyon Farm B&B	2003
IKON Office Solutions Member	2001
J.R.'s Home Improvement	2001
Mohawk Towne & Country Realty	2003
Open MRI of Amsterdam, LLC	2004
Pakenas Cleaners	2000
Triple A Appliances	2001

10 to 20 Years

Add Life Kitchens	1994
Amsterdam Pathology Assoc.	1999
Bartyzel, Inc.	1999
Breton Industries	1999
Countryside Fuels	1999
Cranesville Properties	1999
DWL Brand	1996
Egelston Oil	1999
Kaczmarek, J. R. Home Improvement	1994
Longhorn Trucking	1997
Montgomery County Home For Elderly Women	1996
Power and Composite Technologies	1999
Time Warner Cable	1999

Over 20 Years

Brown Coach, Inc.	1983
F&E Brandl Electrical Contractors	1988
Fulton-Montgomery Community College	1970
Liberty Enterprises	1982
Norbert Sherbunt, Attorney at Law	1983
NY Central Mutual	1989
Stewart's Shops	1983
The Recorder	1966
United Way of Montgomery County	1976
United Welding	1966
Wollman & Wollman	1983

Congratulations!

Our Members have Longevity!

Investing in The Chamber is investing in Montgomery County!

We invite you to get involved!! Ask us how!!



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Welcome New Chamber Members

ADIO Chiropractic

Phone (518) 842-1828 Fax (518) 842-8841

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch

American Association of University Women

Phone (518) 762-7638 Fax (518) 725-4002

Glenmare Farm, LLC

Phone (518) 853-8519 Fax (518) 853-8519

Marck Industries, Inc

Phone (518) 762-5600 Fax (518) 762-5602

Russo's Grill & Catering

Phone (518) 842-2630 Fax (518) 843-1696

Tender Loving Day Care

Phone (315) 823-0303

SEFCU

Phone (518) 452-8183 Fax (518) 464-5277

Upstate Office Equipment

Phone (315) 853-4111 Fax (315) 853-6731

See enclosed insert on complete information on new members!
Call them and welcome them to The Chamber!
Buy Local and Use Local Services.

Enjoy The Summer ~ Play Miniature Golf

The Chamber is pleased to announce that



August 7 - 16

is Chamber Week at

Adirondack FUN FACTORY

Members, their employees, families and guests are invited to play miniature golf at Adirondack Fun Factory throughout this time frame at a discounted price of \$5.

Partial proceeds of the ticket sales will also be utilized as a fundraiser for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Coupons are included in this newsletter. Need more? Download them at www.montgomerycountyny.com under "forms and applications".

Call The Chamber at 853-1800 for a PDF to eblast to your employees or include in your paycheck stuffers.

**St. Mary's Hospital Honored with
"Community Pride Award"
by Hispanic Outreach Services**



Shown displaying the Community Pride Award are (from left to right) Rosemary Negron, Hispanic Outreach Services; Julie Pierce, Community Education Coordinator at St. Mary's Hospital; Victor Giulianelli, President and CEO of St. Mary's Hospital; Elaine Escobales, Executive Director, Hispanic Outreach Services; Sister Chris Mura, Hispanic Outreach Associate at St. Mary's Hospital; and Nilda Giraldi, Hispanic Outreach Services Associate Executive Director.

St. Mary's Hospital at Amsterdam has been recognized by Hispanic Outreach Services (HOS) for their dedication and accomplishments as an outstanding community supporter and advocate.

Presented during the annual HOS Annual event, the award "recognized the hospital for making a difference within Hispanic Outreach Services and the community that it serves". St. Mary's Hospital was deemed to be "instrumental in helping to deliver quality services through direct support and in-kind contributions that were used towards the betterment of Latino/Hispanic community in our region". The first of its kind, the Community Pride Award/Premio Orgullo de la Comunidad, was formally accepted by John Daly, former Chairman of the SMH Board of Directors and current Board member.

St. Mary's is truly honored to receive this recognition and will continue to assist Hispanic Outreach Services in their outreach and services to the Latino/Hispanic communities in Albany, Amsterdam, Schenectady and Troy. The award, a particularly beautiful artistic rendering, will be proudly displayed in the main hospital.

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Want to get away?
Discover Tuscany with The Chamber!



The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Fulton County Chamber and AAA Northway to offer a 10 day trip to Italy!

Discover Tuscany will give you the opportunity to explore Rome, Assisi, Basilica of St. Francis, Montecatini Terme, Siena, San Gimignano, a winery tour, Florence, a Tuscan Feast and the Pitti Palace.

This fabulous trip will take place October 5 - 14, 2010 and includes 10 days, 13 meals and air from New York City.

The price is only \$2899 per person based on double occupancy rate. Call The Chamber at 853-1800 for more information or AAA Northway at 684-0064 or see newsletter insert for more details.

VIP Appreciation Event cont. from page 1

Everyone has personal and professional benchmarks they strive for to reach success. The Chamber invites you to celebrate those efforts and successes by nominating your deserving employees and community volunteers you know. This year especially, the workforce and volunteers of Montgomery County need to be recognized.

Nomination forms for the following awards are included in the newsletter.

- Employee of the Year (Small Business)
- Employee of the Year (Large Business)
- Employee of the Year (non-profit)
- Volunteer of the Year

Awards will be presented at a VIP Appreciation Celebration in September. Watch for more details on this fun and exciting event sponsored by Benchmark printing!



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Website: www.montgomerycountyny.com

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New York Business Development Corporation
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UPcoming EVENTS!

✓**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE "DON'T MISS" EVENTS!! (Tell your staff too!)**

Call The Chamber at 853-1800 to RSVP

8/4 ~ **The Chamber Fun Night at The Fonda Speedway, South Bridge Street, Fonda.** Join The Chamber and hosts Fonda Speedway, for a night of networking and fun! The networking event will be held from 5 – 7pm in the VIP Room. Seating is limited and includes hors d'oeuvres, beverages and the race. Attendees will enjoy the chance to socialize with professionals and their families in a fun, casual environment. **Fonda Speedway will be offering discounted tickets to members interested in the race only. The race begins at 7pm and admission for Chamber members, their employees, and their families will be discounted to \$7.50 for the evening.**

8/6 ~**Lock 7-12 Canalfest Barge Bash, River Stone Manor, 1437 Amsterdam Road (Route 5), Glenville.** Celebrate summer and join the Barge Bash fun from 6 to 10pm for a casual dinner buffet with dancing and music provided by PARTY TOONS and mingle magic by Magician Alan Edstrom and a 50/50 raffle. Reservations are \$35 advance sale available through the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Amsterdam Family YMCA, and the Chamber of Schenectady County, or \$38 at the door. Please make checks payable to the Amsterdam Family YMCA. **Thank you to Alpin Haus for sponsoring the Lock 7-12 Canalfest.**

8/20 ~ **Infrastructure Update Business Breakfast, Winner's Circle, Fonda, 7:30 am.** Join The Chamber and representatives from the NYS DOT and Montgomery County for an update on infrastructure projects taking place throughout Montgomery County, how it might impact your business and how you can prepare. Reservations are \$16.00 in advance for Chamber members and their employees; \$20.00 at the door and include breakfast.

8/20 ~**italyMONDO! 3rd Anniversary Ribbon Cutting & Italian Night, Villa Italia, Broadway, Schenectady, 6-8pm.** Join the Chamber as we help Peter Farina celebrate italyMONDO's! 3rd anniversary. Italian Music will be provided by Brian Scavullo and his Italian band. Stop by and congratulate Peter and enjoy pastries, coffee and other Italian treats!

8/7 ~ **Quandt's Tour and Benefits Meeting,**

8 am at Quandt's Foodservice, Inc., Amsterdam.

Don't miss the chance to tour one of the area's businesses that has been in existence for decades!

A brief informational session on how to utilize your Chamber Membership will also be offered before we tour the Quandt's Foodservice facility. Coffee will be served. New and current members are encouraged to attend. Current members, if you bring a prospective member to the meeting and they join, you will receive a \$25 credit towards your membership dues! Don't miss this opportunity to see behind the scenes of one of our area businesses and discover the many benefits The Chamber has to offer!!

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