

NOTEABLE QUOTABLE

"As the owner of Altieri's Auto Inc., I rejoined the chamber for networking with other businesses and getting to know other business owners and managers on a personal level that strive to make Montgomery County a great place to conduct business. I feel the benefits of being a member will surpass the membership fees".
Anthony Altieri

"SHOWcase Montgomery County!" Draws Exhibitors, Opportunity to Do Business

The Chamber's mission is to actively support the business community and this year we once again held an opportunity for members to promote their businesses through "SHOWcase Montgomery County!".

57 businesses of all types participated in this year's business expo with almost 200 people in attendance. "SHOWcase Montgomery County!" included a Motivational Seminar "Is Your Net Working? How to Start Conversations That Build Rapport and Grow Sales" with Juanita Ecker, Professional Image Management.

"Just wanted to let you know that we thought that the Business Expo was a wonderful success!!", states Margo Mormile, Adirondack Fireplace. "We were very impressed with the venue and the turn out. It was also nice to see the old mall so full of life. Our booth was extremely busy so we had very little chance to interact with the other business vendors. I firmly believe that the Expo generated a lot of buzz that way for us. I would recommend the Expo to any business as great exposure at a great value."

Feedback from exhibitors indicate that new business was generated. "I already had new customers come in from the Business Expo!", states Judy Cisek of Pakenas Cleaners.

Congratulations to exhibitor Engines of Creation, winner of the \$125 Seely Conover Gift Certificate. Rounding out the event was a Business After Hours Mixer sponsored by SEFCU and catered by PJ's Cafe.



The Chamber Newsletter

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

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The 2009 - 2010 Leadership Academy Participants include: Michele Marotta, Fulton County Regional Chamber of Commerce; Katrina Maas, Fulmont Community Action Agency; Casey Brower, St. Mary's Hospital; Brenda Pettit, St. Mary's Hospital; Miora Sanek, Fulton Montgomery Community College; Jamie Rulison, HFM Prevention Council. Missing from photo are: Carol Gottung, NBT Bank; Jessica Walker, Fulmont ECS.

The Leadership Academy Gears up for Another Exciting Year!

The Leadership Academy of Fulton and Montgomery Counties kicked-off the year with their first action-packed program at Noteworthy in Amsterdam. Participants heard from several area leaders on volunteering and board participation as well as the expectations of being on a board. The program also included a tour of Noteworthy's plastics division with Noteworthy's President, Carol Constantino.

Leadership Academy participants will be going on a business tour each month. The participants will get a first-hand look at the inner workings of some of our area's businesses and organizations.



Thanks to sponsors:



George Venner and Dave Dietz of Fuccillo's present the check for sponsoring the 2010 Annual Awards Dinner.

Save the Date!

Friday, January 29, 2010

Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation Dinner

THOMAS B. CONSTANTINO ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD

HERBERT T. SINGER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

EDWARD L. WILKINSON INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR

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YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

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MEMBER News & Events



Light Up The Sky With the AHS Marching Rams, December 4-23, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, 154 Brookside Avenue, Amsterdam. \$5 per vehicle. Also collecting Toys for "Toys for Tots" and canned goods for Catholic Charities Food Pantry. 100% proceeds benefit the AHS Marching Rams.

The City of Amsterdam winter parking rules went into effect, November 2, utilizing the "Odd-Even Regulations".

Odd-Even simply means that vehicles should be parked on the odd, (per house numbers), side of the street from 6:00 pm the night BEFORE the calendar day in question, and just the opposite for even days. For example, a vehicle would be parked on the odd side of the street at 6pm on November 24, and then moved to even side of the street at 6pm on the next night - November 25; in other words, the vehicle would be parked on the designated side of the street for the daylight hours.

In an effort to help citizens of Amsterdam comply with this system, Officers will be issuing Warning Tickets from now until the first plowable snowfall. In addition, citizens are reminded that the only streets that are NOT designated "Odd-Even" are those which are posted with current parking restrictions e.g. "No Parking This Side of Street".

Citizens who may be unsure of which side of a particular street to park, may contact Amsterdam Police Headquarters at 842-1100 anytime.

Noteworthy preps 7 major new product lines for 2010. Noteworthy will announce 7 major new product lines in the coming weeks. According to Chad Majewski, VP of Sales, "we're aggressively targeting some of the most established product lines in our industry. It will be quite a surprise once the curtain is unveiled. I'm honestly shocked we managed to keep our new developments a secret. Noteworthy will approach each of these new markets in a dramatic manner. The company believes it has the ability to upstage the incumbents in every regard". Anthony Constantino, General Manager, explains, "Every new product line we announce will be dramatically superior to what's currently available. We're not merely copying established products and adding them to our line. We're taking on some of the top suppliers in our industry and offering significant enhancements to their most popular products." Additional details will be announced soon. All new products will be on display in Noteworthy's 2010 Catalog and at the ASI Orlando Show (January 3 - 5, 2010). Noteworthy is a family-owned manufacturer of promotional products. The company was founded in 1954 when Tom Constantino invented the car litterbag. Today Noteworthy is preparing to revolutionize many of the most popular promotional products by leveraging advanced technology and a fanatical focus on customer service. For more information, visit www.noteworthy.com.

New station pairs with Mohawk Valley's AM 1570 WVTL. There's something new in the air in the Eastern Mohawk Valley, an FM station that is paired with longtime AM favorite, 1570 WVTL, and, they are playing Christmas music! Lite 104.7 on the FM band and AM 1570 WVTL, both broadcasting from the same location in the Amsterdam area, are part of the Roser Communications Network of top rated Mohawk Valley radio stations. "This new FM/AM combo is designed for in-home or in-office listening," said Roser Communications chief Ken Roser. The new FM/AM combo continues to carry local news, talk and music on the Bob Cudmore Show weekday mornings from 6-9 am. Jason Aiellio continues as operations manager of both stations.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town December 12-13 & December 19-20 at the Sanford Stud Farm, Route 30, Amsterdam. See horses from Trinity farms, moms and dads feel free to take photos with Santa! Donate a toy when you visit with Santa or you can use our drop off box at the Amsterdam Town hall and other locations. All toys are benefiting local charities. Contact Jennifer Pettys at 853-4355 for more information.

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TOURISM CORNER

by Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director

As the holiday season approaches I want to remind everyone of the resources we have available to make planning easier.

Whether you are staying home for the holidays or traveling the Chamber has many free resources that can assist you with your travel needs. If you have company coming or need to entertain your children while on school break, the Montgomery County event calendar can provide many ideas. Attraction brochures and county maps are great supplements to the calendar.

Several attractions are closed for their typical season, but many offer fantastic winter events such as Cornell Cooperative Extension's Winter Market and Schoharie Crossing's Winter Lecture Series. The event calendar and up-to-date tourism website calendar list upcoming concerts, light displays, and many other winter and holiday activities.

The Montgomery County Tourism website, www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com, offers information on shopping, dining and lodging locations as well. If you don't have extra room for your family and friends there are several lodging options from a hotel setting at the America's Best Value Inn to many charming bed and breakfasts throughout the County like Amsterdam Castle and a Stone Rose Bed and Breakfast. Holiday shopping can be done locally for party platters, baskets, jewelry, fashion, art, candles, trinkets and more. Don't stress over cooking, Montgomery County has several unique dining experiences.

The Fulton and Montgomery County Harvest Tour map is available. While the harvest season is coming to an end this map is a year round resource. Some farms listed on the map have Christmas Trees, kissing balls, and wreaths for sale.

If you are traveling out-of-town, the Chamber has a large supply of New York State maps and winter guides. Limited copies of the Central Leatherstocking Region's Simply Getaway magazine are still available featuring information and articles on romantic weekends, unique boutique and antiques shopping, winter break enjoyment, snowmobiling, and breweries along with the calendar of major events in the region. Adirondack Scenic Byway Map, which starts in Fonda, and pamphlets are also a sampling of regional brochures available at the Chamber.

Call 853-1800 ext. 12 for your free event calendar, maps and brochures. For more information on all of the wonderful things to do in Montgomery County go to www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com.

Thank You Notes...

Dear Chamber,
Thank you very much for bestowing the honor of 2009 Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Award recipient upon Fonda Speedway. We appreciate it and look forward to another successful year in 2010.
Thanks again,
Laura & Ric Lucia

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Chamber Receives Donation For Scholarship Fund



Denise E. Allen, owner of Allen's 19th c. General Store and Folk Art Gallery and Assistant Pastor of The House of Zion Ministries in Fonda, sponsored a Gospel Concert to raise money for the MCCC Scholarship Fund and The Stone Arabia Stone Church in Palatine Bridge. The many attendees had the opportunity to

hear Negro Spirituals sung during the mid-1800's by slaves as a way to survive and cope with life. The two guest soloists, Minister Travis Haynes and Evangelist Dee Adams of Allen AME Church in Jamaica, Queens performed wonderfully. "Had it not been for The Honorable Bishop Gregory Martin, Pastor of Temple Beth El in Brooklyn, New York, sacrificing his time, money and help, we wouldn't have been able to do it. I'm thankful for all his help" states Allen. "Seeing young people pursue their dreams and goals in life is the goal of a Scholarship. Working to raise funds for the MCCC Scholarship Fund is just one small way for us to reach that goal. Next year we plan on sponsoring another concert and would like to triple what we raised this year. I'm grateful to work to with the Fund". The Chamber thanks Denise for her efforts.

The Chamber is currently accepting donations toward the scholarship fund and encourages residents within the county that are interested in contributing to education to consider this program. Information is available on The Chamber 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 or call the Chamber at 853-1800.

Are You Missing Out?

There is still time to save \$ on your gas & energy bill. If you haven't yet, go to our website at www.montgomerycountyny.com to download your application to participate in The Chamber's Energy Savings Program. A few minutes of time could save you significant money! No-cost, No-obligation! Check it out today!



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

* ATM Location

www.nbtbank.com

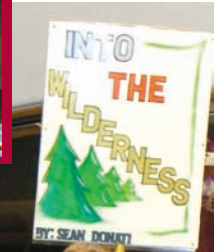
Member FDIC

Chamber Offers Professional Development Opportunities Through Leadership Academy



Leadership Academy participants tour Noteworthy in Amsterdam

Amsterdam Free Library Business After Hours Gives Members a Chance to Network and Participate in The Unveiling of the 2010 Amsterdam Reads Winner



WVTL's Bob Cudmore announces the 2010 Amsterdam Reads choice: Into the Wilderness



and hear from different community leaders on board participation.

Business Tours Offer Members Opportunities to Get Behind The Scenes of Local Businesses

The Chamber recently held our monthly Business Tour at Breton Industries, 1 Sam Stratton Rd., Amsterdam.

Breton is a leader in the design and manufacturing of custom sewn and heat sealed fabric items. Their products include all types of sewn and inflatable items as well as high temperature seals, tadpole gaskets, insulations, packings, and expansion joints. They are a leader in custom design serving high temperature processes, power generation and more. Their products include protective covers, vehicle covers, portable hyperbaric chambers, tentage, and all types of bladders for liquids and gaseous mediums.

They also are a recipient of the Prime Contractor of the Year Award from the Small Business Administration.



Breton Industries Vice President, Al Darmofal, explains the process of manufacturing fabric Hyperbaric Chambers.



A look at the new additional 20,000 square feet added to Breton's existing warehouse

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Business Expo Offers Professional Development and Business Connections



Guest speaker, Juanita Ecker of Professional Image Management, presents on how to network. This event was a complimentary Professional Development Seminar as part of the business expo.



Maureen Luci and Nate Phillips from SEFCU, sponsors of the SHOWcase Business After Hours.



Art & Margo Mormile of Adirondack Fireplace.



Assemblyman Amedore networks with businesses and attendees.

The Chamber thanks our sponsors and everyone who worked so hard to make this event possible: Alpin Haus, Miller Printing, SEFCU, Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Family Funeral Homes, Inc., Liberty, NBT Bank, New York Oncology Hematology, Quality Express Printing, Cranesville Block, Roser Communications, Sacandaga Advertising, LLC., Schwartz Law Firm, Seely Conover's Office Centre, Inc., Subway, The Recorder, Time Warner Cable Business Class

Want To Showcase Your Business?

On the First Friday each month, The Chamber holds a Member Orientation at a Chamber Member's location. This event offers a brief orientation on the many benefits The Chamber has to offer and also includes a tour of the location. If you are interested in hosting a meeting in 2010, please call Kathi at 853-1800. These tours are a great way to inform members of what your business has to offer!

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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

American Legion Post 701	2005
Charlie's Restaurant	2008
Cooper's Sports Pub	2008
Law Offices of Elmer Robert Keach III, PC	2008
Leo Zemaitis	2007
Southern Tier Grocery d/b/a Save A Lot	2007

5 to 9 Years

Bill Lake Homes	2000
Torell's Carpetland, Inc.	2002
Village of Hagaman	2000
WENT Radio	2003

10 to 20 Years

Arnold' Feed & Grain	1995
Career & Employment Network	1993
Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery	1992
Iroquios Lanes	1999
Sise & Sise	1991
Valley Rural Housing	1999
Winner's Circle	1995

Over 20 Years

Congratulations!

Alpin Haus, Inc.	1982
Congressman Paul Tonko	1982
Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs'	1983
Village of Palantine Bridge	1988
Wollman & Wollman	1983

Our Members have Longevity!

Investing in The Chamber is investing in Montgomery County!

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



"Ron The Boat Man"

Let me show you how to Discover Boating

Representing
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KNAPIK'S MARINE 842-8140

Welcome New Chamber Members

Visit www.montgomerycountyny.com for information on these and other business members!

Add www.montgomerycountyny.com to your favorites.

The Mohawk Valley Penny Saver
(518) 993-2525 Fax (518) 993-2535

The Moving Pictures Group
(518) 858-8785 Fax (518) 843-5204

Paladin Security Group, LLC
(607) 727-6761

Temper Corp.
(518) 853-3467 Fax (518) 853-4092

See enclosed insert on complete information on new members! Call and welcome them to The Chamber!

Buy Local and Use Local Services.

Know anyone in need?

Food Pantries in Montgomery County

AMSTERDAM

Catholic Charities

1 Kimball St. • 842-4202

Calvary Assembly of God

200 E. Main St. • 842-1261

Fulmont Community Action Program

1200 Riverfront Center • 842-0790

The Salvation Army

267 Market St. • 842-9941

FONDA

Fulmont Community Action Program

Montgomery County Annex Bldg.

20 Park St. • 853-8351

FORT PLAIN

Fulmont Community Action Program

74 Main St. • 993-3230

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.

Don't Miss This Exciting Opportunity!

Please call AAA at 684-0064 or The Chamber at 853-1800.

Preparing Small Workplaces for Pandemic Flu

The Chamber recently held an informational session with The American Red Cross on "Preparing Small Business Workplaces for Pandemic Flu". The seminar was informational and provided the following tips for business.

How Flu Viruses Spread –

The 2 primary ways in which flu viruses can be transmitted from person to person:

- **Droplet Spread**

A droplet is a tiny spray of moisture that is released from the mouth during coughing, sneezing, or speaking.

Droplet spread occurs when a person with the flu virus coughs or sneezes releasing droplets, which land on the mouth, eyes or nose of a person nearby.

- **Contact Spread**

Direct contact spread occurs when there is skin-to-skin contact with an infected person.

Indirect contact spread occurs when a person infected with the flu coughs or sneezes on his/her hand and then transfers the virus to a surface by touching an object.

Depending On the surface, the virus can stay active for up to 12-48 hours.

Business Continuity Plan –

When developing a plan, it is important that both the employer and the employees be involved in the process.

When developing a plan, consider how absenteeism, change in commerce and interruption to your supply and deliver chain would affect the daily operations of your business an plan accordingly.

Business continuity planning includes identifying clear job descriptions during a flu pandemic.

- Consider essential (critical) vs. non-essential personnel.
- Cross-train employees to serve in essential positions during an emergency.
- Practice how decisions would be made if specific senior managers/leaders were unable to come to work or were to become ill.

Instituting policies that allow or encourage employees to stay home when they are sick may stop the spread of flu in the workplace. Flexible programs that meet both employee and business needs will maintain productivity and promote a healthier workplace during the challenging time of a pandemic flu event.

- Allowing employees to make up lost hours.
- Telecommuting options.
- Offering alternative work schedules.

Provide a healthier workplace by reducing the spread of Pandemic Flu by:

- Stockpiling items such as soap, tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies and recommended personal protective equipment.
- Post signs to remind employees to clean their hands frequently and keep bathroom soap dispensers stocked.
- Supply alcohol based sanitizers at locations where staff and visitors gather.

- Stock not only items to prevent the spread of infection, but materials and supplies that may not be able to be delivered by vendors during a flu Pandemic.

Once the business continuity plan is completed, practice implementing the plan to reinforce how the business would operate during a pandemic.

For more information on pandemic flu precautions go to the Red Cross website at www.redcrossny.org or call the Montgomery County Public Health Department at 853-3531. The Chamber will also be sending pertinent links in our weekly eblast "The Chamber Buzz".

TVCC Focuses on Region's Growth

Newly updated portal, educational initiatives are key components

Since 2002, the Tech Valley Chamber Coalition (TVCC) has positioned the 19-county, Tech Valley region as a diverse tech sector with numerous opportunities for employment, scientific growth and economic development.

The TVCC is a collaboration among 24 Chambers whose goal is to promote Tech Valley as a region with rewarding career and business prospects, world-class educational and research facilities and outstanding quality of life, while also recognizing individual community assets throughout the region.

Recently, the Tech Valley Portal, www.techvalley.org, was updated with new information and links along with region-specific content for each of the four sub-regions within Tech Valley. The Portal is the primary marketing tool in recruiting a skilled work force to the region, providing descriptions of the educational, residential, professional and recreational opportunities that exist within the region.

Tech Valley stretches from the Canadian border near Montreal to just north of New York City and includes the following sub-regions and counties:

Capital Region

Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Washington

Hudson Valley

Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Ulster

Adirondacks/North Country

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren

Mohawk Valley

Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery

Chambers that belong to the TVCC represent more than 20,000 businesses, schools and organizations employing more than 531,000 workers. We encourage you to add the portal to your favorites and learn about your fellow business colleagues.

The Chamber

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 836 • 12 S. Bridge St.
Fonda, New York 12068
(518) 853-1800 • Fax: (518) 853-1813
E-mail: chamber@montgomerycountyny.com
Website: www.montgomerycountyny.com

Member

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Business Council of New York State
Center for Economic Growth
Chamber Alliance of New York State
Farmer's Direct Marketing Association
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
New York Business Development Corporation
Tech Valley Chamber Coalition
United States Chamber of Commerce

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Link to www.montgomerycountyny.com today!!!

UPcoming EVENTS!

✓ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE "DON'T MISS" EVENTS!! (Tell your staff too!)**
Call The Chamber at 853-1800 to RSVP

12/10 ~The Chamber's Annual Holiday Business After Hours, sponsored Bouchey & Clarke Benefits, Inc. and The GFWC Century Club, will be held at the GFWC Century Club's Festival of Trees, 130 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam. 4:30-5:30pm, new member orientation, 5:30-7:30 Business After Hours event. Come and "ring in" the holidays Montgomery County Style with The Chamber and the local holiday favorite, Festival of Trees. While basking in the holiday magic that only this event can bring, enjoy refreshments, networking, and the chance to personally offer your best holiday wishes to your fellow Chamber members.

Buy Local This Holiday Season!

The holidays and gift giving are fast approaching! Oftentimes people want to buy a gift locally but may not be sure where to shop or what's available. The Chamber is pleased to announce that we have put together a "Buy Local Holiday Shopping List" of where to shop in the area.

These are just some examples of where you can purchase gift items this holiday season that you may not be aware of. Visit our website at www.montgomerycountyny.com go to the homepage's and click on the "Buy Local" button.

We encourage you to try to patronize one new local location the remainder of this year. Why? When you spend your money locally it has a trickle down effect of generating sales tax, putting dollars back into our communities, and keeping our friends, neighbors and family members employed. If each chamber member patronized just one other member this holiday season and spent only \$50 you would generate tens of thousands of dollars in or community.



Don't Miss The Chamber Buzz!

Our weekly e-blast, "The Chamber Buzz", provides information on upcoming events, links to grants, legislative information, deadline reminders, member news and much more! Be sure to watch your inbox every Wednesday! If you are not receiving it, contact Kathi at membership@montgomerycountyny.com. Stay in touch with what's happening in business!

Now is the time to travel!



PLAN YOUR WINTER VACATION NOW

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