

NOTEABLE QUOTABLE

Joining The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce was a way for Mount Loretto Nursing Home to connect with the community. We at Mount Loretto feel that we are an important part of the business and health care community and we want to contribute.

Christina Trombley, Administrator,
Mount Loretto Nursing Home

The Chamber Newsletter

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

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**Economic Development
Topic of Last Business Breakfast**



Kenneth F. Rose, Director, Montgomery County Business Development, discusses his Annual Report.

"Montgomery County has a lot to be proud of," is how Ken Rose, Director of Montgomery County Business Development Center, began his presentation at The Chamber's recent business breakfast sponsored by KeyBank. The event featured Rose as well as Senior Planner Douglas M. Greene and Assistant Planner Randy Siver. Mr. Rose also gave an update on AIDA on behalf of their Executive Director, Frank Valiante.

"The Chamber has what they call "Ambassadors" that welcome businesses in the area. Each and every one of us is an Ambassador. When we are at meetings, conferences or just out and about and someone asks about Montgomery County, it is important that we promote the positives of our area. It's up to us to change the perception that is out there.

I've given examples of the tremendous opportunities and successes that can occur when working together collaboratively, we need to continue this effort because collectively we are all in this together," Ken Rose, Director of Montgomery County Business Development Center.

"We are getting recognized at the Federal level and have many things to be proud of," he added as he gave a summary of the County's successes including the \$1.6 Million grant through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for Infra-structure Development at the Florida Business Park. Mr. Rose also discussed the leveraging of over \$200 Million in private investment and creation of over 650 jobs and retention of an additional 350 at the Florida Business Park alone.

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New County Maps Available!



The new Montgomery County maps have arrived and are available at The Chamber and in various membership locations. The full color map, printed by Chamber Member Benchmark Printing, highlights the entire county, points of interest and business members. Maps are distributed via real-estate agents, tourism inquiries, business and relocation packets and throughout the area. We hope you will help us distribute this fabulous promotional tool. Stop by and pick some up today!

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Stimulus Resources

Looking for updates on the Stimulus Program? Following are helpful resources, bookmark them today!

www.recovery.ny.gov (submit proposals for funding, read rules and regulations, view stimulus breakdown, etc.), www.stimuluswatch.org/project/by_state/NY (shovel ready projects submitted by NY mayors), www.nysefc.org/GreenGrants (energy efficiency projects for school districts, nonprofits, municipalities), http://usny.nysed.gov/arra (State Education Department), and www.nystar.state.ny.us/stimulus.htm (federal general solicitation requests), FedBizOpps.gov.

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MEMBER News & Events



CDPHP® Life PointsSM Announces Pilot Partnership With Hannaford Guiding Stars®, CDPHP®, and Hannaford Supermarkets to help shoppers make more nutritious food choices. "This pilot venture is designed to engage our members in healthy activities, and we believe it will empower them to take an active role in making healthy lifestyle choices and enjoy a better quality of life," said John D. Bennett, MD, President and CEO, CDPHP. "The Life Points program rewards participants for taking advantage of the array of free CDPHP wellness programs and preventive health services available to our members, and now for purchasing healthy foods at Hannaford Supermarkets." Eligible CDPHP members can earn points through Life Points for purchasing nutritious foods at any Hannaford Supermarket. Guiding Stars, currently available locally only at Hannaford, evaluates all edible products and offers shelf-tag guidance on those foods that have the most nutrition for the calories, with one, two, or three stars indicating good, better, or best nutritional value. CDPHP members can earn \$1 in Life Points for every four Guiding Stars products purchased, and up to \$50 worth of points per family per year when they purchase food recognized by the Guiding Stars program. Members can verify how many Guiding Stars products they've purchased by registering at **myHannaford**, an online information source accessible via www.hannaford.com. Any shopper can use myHannaford to learn more about food product ingredients, to make shopping lists, or to explore local store specials. Life Points members can use myHannaford to determine the number of foods they purchased with Guiding Stars. They can then redeem their Life Points rewards for Guiding Stars purchases by visiting www.cdphp.com/LifePoints.

CHC Names Nurse of Excellence Award Winners. Ten nurses from health organizations in both Fulton and Montgomery counties were named "Nurses of Excellence" during the recent sixth annual celebration of the Fulton/Montgomery Nurses' Recognition Celebration. The evening honored professional nurses from Fulton and Montgomery counties with a night out, the chance to enjoy the well-known local band "MedRock", a local comedian and the presentation of 10 prestigious "Nurse of Excellence" awards. Award winners were: Marjorie Derrico, LPN, of Wells Nursing Home in Johnstown; Pat Eppolito, RN, NP, from Dr. Luz Alvarez's office; Amy Gagne, RN, of **Nathan Littauer Hospital**; Sheri Gifford, RN, of St. Mary's Hospital; Ursula Holley, RN, of **St. Mary's Hospital**; Kathleen Jones, RN, of **Wilkinson Center**; Kathleen Kane, RN, of Lexington Center; Anita Knapp, RN, of Community Health Center; Florence Kuebaugh, RN, of **Mountain Valley Hospice**; and **Kamla Singh, RN**, of St. Mary's Hospital. The annual celebration is hosted by the staff of Community Health Center. CHC nurses and other staff members started the event as a means to honor the agency staff, but then chose to extend the event to all the nurses in the region. Winners are chosen by a panel of area nurses from various sectors of the profession, as well as a non-clinical member of the CHC staff. The "Nurse of Excellence" awards are based on the qualities of excellence in patient care, leadership, empowerment, vision, motivation, innovation and professionalism in the field of nursing. For more information about Community Health Center, call 762-8215 or visit online at www.CHCHomecare.org.

Don't miss this event!

Shrine of our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville will host the healing services of Fr. Fernando Suarez, C.C. and Fr. Jeff Shannon, C.C., 136 Shrine Road on **Saturday, June 6**. This event is sponsored by Our Lady of Suffrage and Mary Muller. There will be a 1:00 pm mass followed by a healing service at the Shrine Coliseum. Thousands have been healed by Fr. Fernando's prayer and touch. His great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and his faith in the power of Jesus' healing love takes him throughout the world. For more information, please call 853-3033. You may also visit Fr. Fernando's website at www.fatherfernando.com

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TOURISM CORNER

by Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director

Amsterdam Mohawks Season Opener

Who's on the team this year, who is pitching, and who will be hitting those homeruns? Find the answers to these questions and many more at an Amsterdam Mohawks baseball game.

The Mohawks are one of fourteen teams in the New York Collegiate Baseball League playing upstate again this summer. Each team in the league will play a 42 game schedule during the months of June and July. The Mohawks have won championships dating back to 1988 comprised of current college stars from all over the United States and future professional players. Over 80 former Mohawk players have signed professional baseball contracts. Eligible to players in the NYCBL must have completed at least one year of college and must still have at least one year of playing eligibility remaining as well as be enrolled full-time at a college or university.

The Amsterdam Mohawks will face Little Falls for their first home game of the 2009 season on June 6, 7:05pm at Shuttleworth Park in Amsterdam followed by fireworks. The games, typically on Tuesday and Friday nights, are a great opportunity to keep it inexpensive, stay in the area, and make it a family outing. Each night has a theme such as Halloween Night. The stadium is equipped with box seats, a Party Deck, and an air conditioned Sky Box with television offering several options for booking your corporate and birthday parties.

The Mohawks are always adding new and improved amenities to the stadium. One addition in 2009 is "Friday Night Post Game Party on the Deck" complete with entertainment from bands and deejays such as DJ Tom Foster. Returning this season is Parkfest held July 5 from 2-9pm with baseball at 7:05pm followed by a fireworks display.

Shuttleworth Park is located at 65 Crescent Avenue in Amsterdam, for more information about the Amsterdam Mohawks game schedule and other summer events call me at 853-1800 Ext. 12 or log onto www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com.

You're The Best!

Congratulations to Chamber Members:
Crystal Ristorante for placing first in Capital Region Living Magazine's "Best Of issue" for Best Restaurant in Montgomery County!

Raindancer for placing first in Capital Region Living Magazine's "Best Of issue" for Best Restaurant in Fulton County!

River Stone Manor for placing third in Capital Region Living Magazine's "Best Of issue" for Best Reception Hall in the Capital District!

Please stop by our office for a free copy of Capital Region Living Magazine.

CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLITE



Excellent Training in Your Own Backyard

by Reid Smalley, Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development
Fulton-Montgomery Community College

FM's Business and Industry Center (B&I) frequently hears about one positive aspect of the temporary downturn in the economy - it affords companies and organizations an opportunity to "catch up" in training their employees. Several have already been taking advantage of this and setting up "soft skills", computer applications, and other training programs which conveniently meet their schedules. Recently, a company called to schedule a 10-hour OSHA safety course for 15 employees.

For over 40 years, FM has been the area's leader in post-secondary education and training. For ten years, the B&I has focused on helping companies and organizations with their workforce development needs. It has provided customized training, open-enrollment courses, and training services and facilities to businesses and organizations in Fulton and Montgomery counties. It has provided hundreds of training courses, served thousands of employees, secured tens of thousands in training grant funding dollars, and either worked directly with, or had employees participate from practically every large and mid-size employer, plus many smaller ones.

How can the B&I serve you? Customized B&I programs are designed to meet your needs and range from outdoor team building to Statistical Process Control. Training programs can range from one afternoon to several months. A series of a dozen 3-hour employee development and management courses provides the opportunity to pick and choose mini-courses and design a company's own distinctive training program. This list can be expanded into many more topics. Online training is globally becoming more popular and accepted. Online courses can provide immediate training and education in specific business topics (accounting, human resources, purchasing, project management, computer applications, etc.) or more in-depth training that prepares an employee to sit for a national certification. It is especially advantageous for employees having round-the-clock or constantly changing shifts, those who are home-based or telecommuting, or those who are always on the road. We now offer over 300 online courses that apply to business needs.

Contact Mark Retersdorf, Workforce Development Specialist, at 762-4651, ext. 7-8103 or mark.retersdorf@fmcc.suny.edu. You can also visit us at www.fmcc.suny.edu. Click "Workforce Training" at the top of FM's webpage, then choose "Winter and Spring 2009 Schedule."

You've been Spotted!!

- Congratulations to Members Adirondack Mechanical, and Riley Mortuary for being spotted! Adirondack Mechanical used The Chamber Logo on an ad flyer that they inserted in Amsterdam Magazine. Riley Mortuary has The Chamber website link on their home page! Remember to add "A Proud Member of The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce" or use our logo on your company's correspondence, emails, flyers, etc. You may be spotted next!



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

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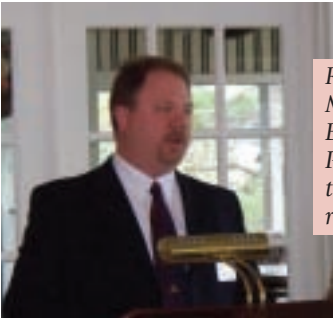
Chamber Hosts Economic Development Update Breakfast



Marilyn Smith of Cornell Cooperative Extension asks a question regarding agricultural economic development.



Randy Siver, Assistant Planner, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development and Planning, discusses the importance of the upcoming census and how the results can impact the county.



Douglas M. Greene, AICP, RLA, Senior Planner, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development and Planning, discusses the comprehensive plan and gives updates from the planning department.



Chamber Launches New Website!



Chamber members network during the new website launch party held at Alpin Haus on Rt. 5S. Thanks to Alpin Haus for hosting the event and thanks to Charlie's for catering the event!



Co-chairs of the Chamber's Website Committee, Kevin McClary of the Recorder and Brennen Parker of Rose & Kiernan, discuss the key features of the new website.



Bob and Carla Palmateer, proprietors of Charlie's, sponsored the wonderful hors d'oeuvres for the event! Thank you!

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Members Network and Learn About Natural Bridge Farm at Business After Hours



Chamber members Kenneth Krutz, Town of Amsterdam Councilperson, Linda Bartone-Hughes, Town of Amsterdam Clerk & Registrar and Fred Quist, Amsterdam-Florida-Glen Empire Zone, network at the Business After Hours hosted by Bob Wojturski and his daughter Susan of Natural Bridge Farms on Rt. 67. The greenhouses are full of decorative flowers, vegetable plants and herbs for spring! Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday all day. Stop by or call them at 843-1319 for more information. Chamber members receive a 10% coupon, download at www.montgomerycountyny.com.



Bob Wojturski and his daughter Susan stand in front of the beautiful hanging baskets they have on display. Natural Bridge Farm offers four greenhouses full of a variety of flowers, plants, vegetable plants, and herb plants.



Maurice Farhart, Committed to the Community; Alex Kuchis, Teal, Becker, & Chiaramonte and Chamber Ambassador; Bob Wojturski, Natural Bridge Farm; Susan Wojturski, Natural Bridge Farm; Deb Auspelmyer, Chamber President; Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director; Linda Bartone-Hughes, Town of Amsterdam Clerk and Registrar; and Kenneth Krutz, Town of Amsterdam Councilperson cut the ribbon for the season opening of Natural Bridge Farm.

Chamber Holds Monthly Meetings and Tours

In an effort to help our members receive the maximum return on their membership investment, The Chamber has been offering monthly benefit meetings and brief tours of several area businesses. These meetings and tours are for new and existing members. The second of these meetings was held at Mohawk Signs in Amsterdam. Tim Salls from Bouchey and Clarke Benefits, Inc. along with Terrance Mahoney from East Commerce Solutions were on hand to answer questions. The next meeting will be held at 8:00am on Friday, June 5, at Alpin Haus. We encourage all of our members to attend this informative forum, which will be held the first Friday of each month throughout the year.

Bring a non-member friend and receive a \$25 credit towards your membership when they join.



Bettina Dill, Vice President, of Mohawk Sign Systems, discusses the variety of products that the company manufactures to distribute nationwide, while presenting some of the customized signs that have been made by the company.



Attendees saw the process of how the signs are made including a demonstration of this process.

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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

Braasch Farm	2006
Coldwell Banker Arlene M. Sitterly, Inc.	2006
East Commerce Solutions, Inc.	2005
HHI Plumbing & Heating LLC	2007
LCS&Z, L.L.P.	2005
Southern Tier Grocery d/b/a Save A Lot	2007
Spin A Web Technologies	2006
Spinner Productions Disc Jockey & Karaoke	2007
TOPS	2006

5 to 9 Years

Blanchard Engineering	2003
Flying Dog Press	2001
Geesler's	2003
Glen, Town of	2002
Hardscrabble Farm	2000
Hear For You	2003
Millennium Medical	2003
The Greco Olinsky Wealth Management Group	2001
Trinity Farms	2004
Valley View Motor Inn	2002
ZONTA	2003

10 to 20 Years

Canajoharie Country Club	1994
Fonda-Fultonville Central School	1997
Quality Express Printing	1997
Tailwind Associates	1994

Over 20 Years

Congratulations!

Horigan, Horigan & Lombardo, PC	1987
New Paris Shop	1980

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"

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Phone (518) 725-3748 Fax (518) 725-3755

Mohawk Valley Design

Phone (518) 843-2032

Mount Loretto Nursing Home

Phone (518) 842-6790 Fax (518) 684-0209

Suburban Propane (Amsterdam & Fort Plain)

Phone (518) 993-3433 Fax (518) 843-8702

Trinity Fitness, Personal Training & Fitness Studio

Phone (518) 256-3127 or 848-8470 Fax 872-3050

Twin Rivers Council, BSA,

Sir William Johnson District

Phone (518) 725-3466 Fax (518) 725-3466

See enclosed insert on complete information on new members!

Call them and welcome them to The Chamber!

Buy Local and Use Local Services.



Watch for exciting news about a fabulous trip to Italy in the July newsletter!

Maps Continued

Thanks to the following members that advertised on the map: AG Ventures LLC, AIDA (Amsterdam Industrial Development), Americas Best Value Inn, Amsterdam - Florida - Glen / Empire Zone, Austin Financial, Baldwin Research Institute, Becker's Auto Salvage, Inc., Beckmann Converting, Inc., Breton Industries, Inc., Casa Bella Realty, Coopers Sports Pub, Fulton-Montgomery Community College, GAVAC, Hilltop Paintball, Liberty, Montgomery County A.R.C., Loopie's Pub, MCT Federal Credit Union, Montgomery County Business Development, Montgomery County S.P.C.A., NBT Bank, New York Central Insurance, Nicolino's Restaurant, Not Just Antiques, PMR Wordsmith, ServiceMaster by Integrity, Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Sikorski's Service Station, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Mary's Institute, State Farm Insurance - Nancy Perssee Langdon, Sunshine Gardens, Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, The Recorder, and The Shults Agency.

Erie Canalway Seeks Photos!

Winning entries to be featured in 2010 calendar



Capture the beauty, history, activities, and character of the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals and their surrounding communities for our 2009 Photo Contest. Winning entries will be featured in the 2010 Erie Canalway Calendar. Keep your camera

in hand as you visit the many great sites of the Erie Canalway this summer. Contest categories include: Bridges, Buildings, and Locks; For the Fun of It; On the Water; and Nature of the Canal. Deadline for entries: **September 10, 2009**. Official contest rules and an entry form can be downloaded at www.eriecanalway.org.

The City of Amsterdam is asking residents to get out their cameras to photograph the City!

We are looking for pictures that capture just how beautiful and community-oriented Amsterdam really is for use on our soon-to-launch website and in printed marketing materials. If you would like to participate, we'd love you to get creative with your shots - take pictures of your family, home, gardens, pets, activities and teams. Provide us with your interpretation of the beauty and close-knit nature of our City. Printed photos or digital images on CD with name, address and phone number may be submitted for consideration to the Mayor's office at City Hall, 61 Church Street, Amsterdam, NY. Please submit your work by June 8th, though photos will be accepted year round as we update our site.

Economic Development Update Continued

"Much of the new job growth and investment that is seen in communities of our size is through the expansion of current businesses over new business job creation," Rose continued. "We recognize this and are concentrating efforts in the retention arena in addition to our ongoing attraction efforts."

Mr. Rose distributed copies of his Annual Report (which is available on The Chamber's website homepage at www.montgomerycountyny.com under forms and applications) and highlighted some of the most recent successes with Carolina Clubs, Breton Industries, Northeast Home Industries, Beech-Nut, and Perrone Leather. The agency currently has approximately \$1,000,000.00 available for business loans.

"Non-farm jobs have been steady and we haven't seen any major closing announcements like surrounding counties throughout the Capital District," Rose continued touching on the current status of the economy. Future projects and initiatives the department is working on include the Town of Florida Business Park expansion with Hill and Markes, a collaborative marketing campaign with other economic development agencies and the Legislative Gazette, a food processing distribution project as well as green technologies (photovoltaics). Mr. Rose also touched on the possibility of an out of state company coming to the western part of Montgomery County and a major expansion project.

He stressed the importance of the continued growth on the Route 30 corridor, its impact, and the trickle down effect of the sales tax distribution. "The growth that we are seeing in the Town of Amsterdam and the sales tax revenue generated there helps every municipality and taxpayer throughout Montgomery County," he said.

News from Economic Development

Empire State Development recently released the guidelines and application documents for the Upstate Regional Blueprint Fund. This fund is available for a wide variety of entities including for profit companies. The funding is available for business investment, infrastructure investment, and downtown redevelopment. The funds will be provided in the form of subsidized loans, convertible loans, and grants. Please see the documents on the ESD website at www.empire.state.ny.us/UpstateDownstateFund/. If you are interested in applying, please contact Montgomery County's Economic Development Office at 853-8334 for assistance, questions or concerns.

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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

6/5~ **Business & Benefits Meeting and Tour, 8am at Alpin Haus, Route 5s, Amsterdam** Join us for an informational forum explaining how to utilize your Chamber Membership for maximum benefits. A tour of The Alpin Haus facility will follow the meeting to highlight one of this industry's leaders and the region's largest camping and RV retailer. Alpin Haus has been recognized by the Capital District Business Review for several years as a "Great Place to Work". They have also been recognized by the 2008 RV Business Magazine as a Top 5 dealer, and the 2006 National Top Quality Dealer of the Year. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and hear about some of the programs we offer including our scholarship program and micro loans for business start-up and expansion. Our Chamber's health insurance and credit card processing representatives will also be available to answer questions regarding those services. Members are invited to bring a non-member business, when that business joins The Chamber you will receive a \$25 credit towards your next year's investment. Coffee will be served.

6/18~ **Business After Hours, MCT Federal Credit Union, 39 Market Street, Amsterdam. 5 – 7 PM.** Join the Chamber and our hosts MCT Federal Credit Union to learn more about what a Credit Union can offer you. Tour the branch, meet the staff and directors, and enjoy hot and cold hors d'oeuvres on a warm summer evening.

7/23 ~ **SAVE THE DATE**

for the **Time Warner Cable Mohawk Valley Open Golf Tournament!**

See insert for more information – sign up today!

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www.montgomerycountyny.com

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The Chamber
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

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