

**NOTEABLE QUOTABLE**

"Being a member of The Chamber has not only allowed us to network within the business community, but has given us the opportunity to showcase what we have to offer. The printing industry has evolved so much through the years, and providing The Chamber with their monthly newsletter has allowed Chamber members to see first hand our talents and capability on a monthly basis."  
 Brian Louer, Quality Express Printing

**Recorder Team Claims Trophy for Time Warner Cable Mohawk Valley Open**



Chamber President, Deborah Auspelmyer; Bill Brzezicki; Geoff Dylong; Kevin McClary; Vito Greco; and Executive Director of the United Way Lauren Bibby share a photo op while congratulating the team on the win.

Summer finally arrived for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and United Way Time Warner Cable Mohawk Valley

Open that was played at the Canajoharie Country Club.

Nearly 100 golfers participated in the annual tournament, enjoying spirited camaraderie amongst business leaders, on-course refreshments, and golf on one of Montgomery County's fabulous courses. The tournament, a major fundraiser for both organizations, is played the third week of July on an annual basis.

Claiming the trophy for the year was the foursome from the Amsterdam Recorder: Kevin McClary, Geoff Dylong, Bill Brzezicki and Vito Greco with a Low Gross of 59. *cont. pg. 7*

The Chamber Newsletter

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

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The "Chamber Business Buzz" Eblast

**You Are Invited to Celebrate Montgomery County's Workforce and Volunteers**

Chamber holds first VIP Appreciation Celebration, Wednesday September 24, 5 pm, at the Perthshire, Rt. 30 N. Amsterdam, Sponsored by **benchmark**

Join us as we celebrate the people that make the foundation of our community: our workforce and community volunteers. The Chamber will recognize the nominees and present awards at an upcoming VIP Celebration, showcasing the people and volunteers that work so hard to ensure the continued growth and success of our communities.

This year especially, the workforce and volunteers of Montgomery County need to be recognized. Montgomery County as a whole has dedicated and proactive people that work hard and give their passion, energy and expertise to the success of our businesses and organizations. The Chamber would like to recognize these individuals within our workforce and volunteer groups.

Awards will be presented in the following categories: Employee of the Year Small Business (Less than 100 employees); Employee of the Year Large Business (100 employees or more); Employee of the Year Non-profit; and Volunteer of the Year. *cont. pg. 7*

**Don't Miss Out On The Chamber's Business Expo "Showcase Montgomery County!" Thursday, October 29**

Join The Chamber for THE one-day Business Expo. that puts the spotlight on YOU! See the enclosed insert to sign-up for your opportunity to promote your business, products and services to your colleagues and the community! "Showcase Montgomery County!" offers you the opportunity for business-to-business marketing and personal contact with other Chamber members and the general public.

Registration is \$100 per booth. Reserve now space is limited!

"As a first time participant, we were very pleased at the event. The set-up and turn out were very good. Everyone had enough space and was provided with adequate help if needed. Great job!" Christine DeSantes, Empower Federal Credit Union

Thanks to sponsors to date

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Sponsorship opportunities still available! Contact The Chamber for details!

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# MEMBER News & Events



The Century Club is partnering with Northeast Vascular Imaging Group, Inc., Guy Park Ave., September 15, 10am-2pm or 3-7pm to receive 2 potentially life saving exams for only \$99.00. Come be part of the men and women around the world who care about their health. The ultrasound screening tests we offer may help save your life. Ultrasound screenings have proven to be accurate in detecting vascular disease prior to active warning signs and before a major medical incident such as stroke or sudden death from aneurysm rupture. Please join them and take full advantage of their 3 potentially life saving tests. All these tests are painless and noninvasive. These tests do not require you to remove your clothing and should not take more than 10 minutes per exam. Add an ABI test for an additional \$10.00. This is more than 20 % less than the lifeline screenings being offered. Call 605-1276 to let them know if you will be attending either the morning or the afternoon session. Walk-ins welcome.

Mountain Valley Hospice, 108 Steele Ave, Gloversville holds a Memorial Walk Celebration for the Whole Family, Sunday, September 13. Mountain Valley Hospice (MVH) will host A Celebration of Life, their first ever memorial walk, at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. This event, fittingly on Grandparents' Day, will offer an opportunity to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died and to support MVH's mission of providing the highest quality hospice care and grief counseling to the communities it serves in Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Saratoga Counties. Festivities will begin at 12:00 p.m. with walker check-in, children's activities, entertainment and music. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. followed by the walk. Snacks will be provided during the event, and raffle opportunities will be available. The event concludes at 3:00 p.m. Although this event is free and open to the public, participants are encouraged to register as walkers and collect pledges to support MVH. All registered walkers will receive a t-shirt and will be eligible for prizes. **Advance walker registration is required at [www.mountainvalleyhospice.com/registration](http://www.mountainvalleyhospice.com/registration) or by calling the MVH office at 725-4545. Additional information is available by calling the MVH office or by email at [alk@mountainvalleyhospice.com](mailto:alk@mountainvalleyhospice.com). A Celebration of Life is sponsored in part by Stewart's Shops, Frontier Communications, WBUG, WVTL and Miller Printing.**

St. Mary's Hospital at Amsterdam, Center for Complementary Therapies is pleased to offer "The Labyrinth, A Meditative Walk." This process is a form of walking meditation and is an effective tool for those who seek a grounded and imaginative spiritual journey and deeper self-knowledge. The next program will be held **Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.** The Labyrinth design is a geometrical pattern that has one well-defined path that leads the walker inward to center and then back out when followed. The process of moving the body along a meandering yet purposeful path allows for a quieting of our conscious/thinking mind, helping us open to other levels of awareness and inviting our intuitive and creative nature to emerge. Participants are asked to arrive no later than 6:15 in the Carondelet Pavilion Auditorium, 380 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam. The fee is \$15.00 and pre-registration is required by September 15. **For more information please contact Sr. Rita Jean DuBrey, Director of the Center for Complementary Therapies, at 841-7146.**

**Sunmark Federal Credit Union Lauded for its Newsletter.** Sunmark Federal Credit Union was recently recognized for its membership newsletter. The award, given by the Marketing Association of Credit Unions (MAC), recognizes the credit union for providing its membership with a detailed newsletter aimed at creating positive discussion and addressing financial platforms. Companies were evaluated on a summary of results and strategic success. The awards were presented by MAC at its 2009 Awards Competition in San Antonio. Sunmark federal Credit Union is a chartered credit union serving 47,000 members and businesses in the Capital Region. It has assets of \$400 million. *Congratulations!*

**Saint Mary's Parish presents International Festa Night Saturday, September 19, 4-9pm, celebrating Italian, Spanish and Polish cuisine.** The event includes a mass at St. Mary's Church, Amsterdam, and dinner & Polka dancing at St. Mary's Institute. Tickets must be purchased by Sept. 12, and are on sale at Junes' Hallmark Shop, St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's Institute. For more information contact Onnie Nappi at 842-4500 or Jeanette Constantine at 842-4100.

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## **TOURISM CORNER**

*by Gina DaBiere-Gibbs, Tourism Director*

### **Tourism Nominations Sought**

The Chamber is now accepting nominations for the fifth annual Barbara V. Spraker Tourism Award which is given to an individual, event, business, or attraction that has done an outstanding job the past year in bringing tourists to Montgomery County.

Tourism is an important part of our community. Promoting Montgomery County and attracting worldwide visitors is a significant role these individuals and organizations take on each year. The award puts the spotlight on the tourism industry's hard work throughout the County which is worth celebrating.

The award is named in honor of Barbara Spraker for her innumerable efforts in support of Montgomery County and tourism. Her noteworthy accomplishments include spearheading initiatives such as the Canajoharie Information Booth and the Bicycle Path in Montgomery County. Mrs. Spraker is also a commissioner for the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission. Her passion for the Mohawk Valley and Montgomery County and its promotion is the creed she lives by.

Anyone is eligible to nominate an individual, event, business, or attraction related to tourism. The entry deadline is September 28. The recipient will be announced at The Chamber's annual tourism dinner in October. Each nominee will be announced and recognized, although there will only be one recipient.

The 2008 Volunteer Award Recipient was Light up the Sky with the Marching Rams. Light up the Sky has been drawing thousands of visitors to the county for 10 years with their sparkling holiday tradition. The volunteers have devoted time, energy and commitment to hosting this event annually and making it bigger and better each year. They start preparing months ahead of time and when the event comes they spend more time outdoors in freezing weather.

The 2008 Barbara V. Spraker Award Recipient was Holding Down the Fort, The Fort Plain Museum. Holding Down the Fort celebrated the 225th Anniversary of George Washington's trip to the Mohawk Valley. The event held August 1-3, 2008 brought Dean Malissa, prominent George Washington historical actor, several reenactment groups, history buffs, and families to Fort Plain last summer.

I would like to thank CDPHP for sponsoring this year's award. If you would like to make a nomination please call Gina for an entry form at 853-1800 ext. 12, email [tourism@montgomerycountyny.com](mailto:tourism@montgomerycountyny.com), fill out the enclosed insert, or log onto the Chamber's website at [www.montgomerycountyny.com](http://www.montgomerycountyny.com) and download the form located under "forms and applications", on the homepage.

## **Montgomery and Fulton County Chambers Seek Leadership Applicants**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, The Fulton County Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Fulton-Montgomery Community College have partnered to host the third edition of the Fulton Montgomery Leadership Academy. The Fulton Montgomery Leadership Academy is an eight-month long program with an emphasis on strengthening leadership skills, networking techniques, balancing work and family, and community dedication.

Leadership Academy offers monthly workshop sessions for participants to learn from nationally-recognized presenters, and local executives and elected officials who specialize in leadership and management. Classroom/workshop sessions are generally held on the first Thursday of the month beginning with a tour of a regional business, organization or an Academy participant's business or facility. The workshops follow and most classes will end by 3:00 pm.

Leadership Academy kicks off with an overnight retreat at the Rensselaerville Institute in Albany County on Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16, 2009. The kick-off session will be lead by Reid Smalley, Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Fulton-Montgomery Community College.

Fulton Montgomery Leadership Academy sessions will include "How to be a Leader" on November 5, "Professional Image & Networking" on December 3, "Communicating: Getting your Message out", on January 7, 2010, "Regional Economic Development & Our Place in Tech Valley", on February 4, "Interacting with Government", on March 4, "Education & Workforce Development", on April 1, "Leadership Ethics and Doing the Right Thing" on May 6, 2010. The Leadership Academy culminates with a Graduation ceremony held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College on June 3, 2010.

Prospective Leadership Academy participants are required to submit an application for acceptance into the program. They are required to attend the mandatory kick-off retreat and all classes to receive credit for the program. A \$750 fee is payable prior to the start of the program (October 15); discounts are available for two or more participants from within one company. Applications are available from the Fulton County Chamber at 725-0641 or [info@fultoncountyny.org](mailto:info@fultoncountyny.org) or the Montgomery County Chamber at 853-1800 or [chamber@montgomerycountyny.com](mailto:chamber@montgomerycountyny.com). Applications can also be downloaded from The Chamber's website homepage at [www.montgomerycountyny.com](http://www.montgomerycountyny.com) under "forms and applications".

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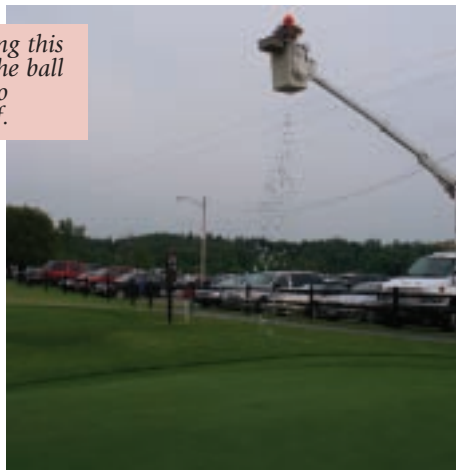
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# The Chamber Provides Opportunities to Meet Your Colleagues & Potential Customers

## 2009 Mohawk Valley Open Golf Tournament

An exciting contest during this year's tournament was the ball drop. Congratulations to winner Mark Rettersdorf.



Jason Rattray of Alpin Haus dons a sombrero to go with the theme "Life is a Beach!"



Larry Jordan of PCT, Attorney Charles Schwartz of the Schwartz Law Firm, Andy Heck of Alpin Haus.

Howard Samuels of Founds receives congratulations after winning the Putting Contest.



## Fonda Speedway Hosts Chamber Business After Hours

A group of Chamber members, their families and friends had the opportunity to enjoy races at the Fonda Speedway in the VIP tower. Guests were treated to beverages, food catered by the Winner's Circle, and the opportunity to see the race! The Speedway is one of the area's largest summer attractions.



L to R Olin Bassett, Feature Race Winner, Matt DeLorenzo, Kathi Bassett, Membership Assistant, Renee Carmen-Ayers, LinStar, Joshua Ayers, and Harry Yurgans, Charlie's Restaurant.



Al Auspelmyer, Brian Auspelmyer, Ron Phillips and Mark Auspelmyer enjoy the race.



John Spak, Joey Then and Robert Polin from Liberty enjoy the race from the VIP Tower.

Tourism Director Gina DaBiere-Gibbs (left) with Speedway Promoter Laura Lucia .



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# Chamber Partners With Schenectady County to Promote Area

## The Alpin Haus Lock 7 - 12 Canalfest Kicked Off with Barge Bash!



Attendees mingle at River Stone Manor.



Chris Vose of NYS Canal Corporation, relaxes with friends and colleagues.

Montgomery County Chamber President, Deb Auspemyer; Schenectady County Chamber President Chuck Steiner (right); with President of Alpin Haus Andy Heck (left).



Team Alpin Haus poses with plaque they were presented in appreciation of their annual support of Canalfest.

People gather at Riverlink Park listening to the bands and waiting for the fireworks during Canalfest.



## Friends of the Sanford Studfarm Fundraiser



Over 50 people attended the Friends of the Sanford Stud Farm Fundraiser at Saratoga Raceway. Pictured here are: Carol Constantino of Noteworthy, Former Sanford Jockey Lou Hildebrandt, Grace Gilbert and event organizer Tom Foster.



Also in attendance were Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors, John Lesniewski and his wife Christine.

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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

Ag Ventures	2005
CAM Business Services, LLC	2007
Fidelis Care New York	2005
Fraiser's Florist & Greenhouse	2007
Glen Animal Hospital	2008
Lowe's Home Improvement	2006
Mead Plumbing & Heating, LLC	2008
Mohawk Sign Systems	2006
New York Oncology Hematology	2007
Online Notary/Signing Agent	2008
Stone Rose Bed & Breakfast	2006

### 5 to 9 Years

Elma's Tax Service	2003
Karen Chaplin's Studio	2003
The Garden Bug	2001
Town of Amsterdam	2001
Walter Elwood Museum	2004

### 10 to 20 Years

Canjoharie Library & Arkell Museum	1991
Hospice of Amsterdam	1995
Montessori School of Amsterdam	1997
Old Peddlers Wagon	1996
Putnam Insurance	1990
Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte	1994

### Over 20 Years

Anthony's Dog Grooming	1983
Raindancer Restaurant	1980

*Congratulations!*

### 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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**(518) 882-9701**

**See enclosed insert on complete information on new members!**

**Call them and welcome them to The Chamber!**

**Buy Local and Use Local Services.**

## Attention Restaurant Members!

In a recent survey of our new website, restaurant menus are one of the top 5 downloaded features!



Don't miss out on this wonderful advertising opportunity. If you have not yet submitted your menu to The Chamber to be added to the website please send it today! Call The Chamber at 853-1800 for more information!

## 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.

## **Golf Tournament Continued from Pg. 1**

Second place with a low net of 62 was a tie between two teams of Tom Wind, Kevin Cushing and Fred Quist; and John Fingar, Allen Reed, Patrick Reidy, and Bob Travis. Other notable mentions include the putting contest winner, Howard Samuels; Ball Drop Winner, Mark Retersdorf; Women's Longest Drive, Carol Shineman; Women's Closest to the Pin, Lindsey Hinkle; Men's Longest Drive, John Salls; Men's Closest to the Pin, Bob Minkler and Paul Jankowski.

The Chamber and United Way congratulate all winners and sincerely thank everyone who participated: golfers, flag/hole sponsors, event sponsors, volunteers and the golf committee, and everyone that donated prizes. "The community support for this tournament is greatly appreciated," state Chairmen of the Golf Committee, Fred Quist and Tim Salls. "Both organizations support Montgomery County in a variety of ways. This tournament assists them in fulfilling their missions."

Sponsors of the event included: Time Warner Cable, National Grid, Hays & Wormuth Insurance, The Recorder, Subway, Alpin Haus, eNable Business Solutions, Breton Industries, Inc., NBT Bank, Partyka-Star Vending, St. Mary's Hospital, Schwartz Law Firm, Bouchey & Clarke Benefits, Inc., and Canajoharie Country Club, John P. Woods Owner.

We thank our sponsors, golfers, donors and volunteers for their support. We couldn't put on such a fun event without your assistance. It is greatly appreciated.

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## **Workforce & Volunteers Continued from Pg. 1**

"Benchmark is pleased to partner with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce to recognize the individuals within our community that truly do lay the foundation of our growth and success," states Bob Kozinowski, CEO of Benchmark Printing.

Everyone has personal and professional benchmarks they strive for to reach success. The Chamber invites you to celebrate those efforts and successes with us at this very special event. The celebration includes a pasta station, antipasto station, carving station with beef and turkey and a dessert station. Attendees will also receive a complimentary anniversary program from The Recorder commemorating the Chamber's 25th Anniversary as the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Cocktail hour begins at 5 pm, stations will be set at 6 pm. Reservations are \$25 per person, see insert for more information. Thanks to premier sponsor Benchmark, and award sponsor Hannaford for supporting this event.



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## **"Women of Worth" Committee Meets with Workforce Development**

An energetic group of women managers and business owners recently met through the W.O.W. (Women of Worth) Committee of The Chamber to hear about "Best Hiring Practices". Presenting at the meeting were Executive Director of the FMS



Workforce Development Board, Gail Breen; and Business Service Representative with the FMS Workforce Solutions System, Nancy Reccio. Topics of discussion included an overview on workforce solutions and some of the programs they provide, a summary on how to screen and interview for the best job candidates, and a section on how to retain good employees.

W.O.W.'s mission is to bring like-minded, innovative businesswomen together through forums to learn and share common challenges and expertise. "Through my experience I have learned that women really do network differently," states W.O.W. Co-Chair Carol Constantino, President of Noteworthy. "The Chamber has recognized that there is a significant number of women managed and women-owned businesses throughout their membership and is offering them the opportunity to have this committee as a sounding board to share their experiences and ideas, as well as address the challenges they face. The commonality of a desire for lifelong learning expressed by the attendees at the last meeting demonstrated the need for these opportunities."

Attendees of the meeting represented a variety of business types including manufacturing, health care, education, human services, and travel; and their experience ranged from the new office manager to women that have owned and operated businesses for decades. The sizes of the business varied as well from businesses with 2 employees to over 1,000. "The WOW connections for me are invaluable as I tackle challenges in the manufacturing sector," states Bettina Dill, Vice President of Mohawk Sign Systems in Amsterdam. "Female colleagues' perspectives have opened my eyes to alternative ways of thinking in our historically male-dominated family business."

Kelly VanDusen of New York Oncology Hematology added, "As a relatively new manager, I appreciate having a forum of this type to continue to learn and share experiences about hiring practices." The committee will continue the focus of employment for the year and is looking for speakers on topics such as "Best Practices in Management and Retention" and "How to Evaluate and Motivate". Impromptu, informative networking sessions will also be held.

"I'd like to thank the Chamber for facilitating this meeting," states Sylvia Raczynski, Manager of AAA Northway's Amsterdam Travel Center. "I found the presentation by Gail and Nancy informative and valuable. I'm sure it would be beneficial for any business and helped me reaffirm many practices that our company has put in place. The additional interviewing hints and handouts were helpful and gave me some pointers for the next time I need to interview."

Offering opportunities for professional development and making community connections is a significant part of what The Chamber does and how we support the business community. Business owners and managers are encouraged to get involved and utilize this Chamber resource. Call the Chamber at 853-1800 for more information on W.O.W. and other opportunities the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce offers to assist business owners.

# The Chamber

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

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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**

9/10 ~ HFMBEA Website Launch, FMCC, Johnstown. Details to follow

9/11 ~ **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. "Our unique voice directed selection system has improved customer satisfaction and brought about increased productivity, important components in the competitive environment that we are operating in. We look forward to demonstrating to Chamber members how our voice deployment system works." - Larry Bascom, Director of Operations, Quandt's Foodservice.

9/17 ~ **The Garden Bug Business After Hours, 5-7pm, 844 Fort Hunter Road, Amsterdam.** Join The Chamber for networking and socializing with other business professionals while enjoying homemade treats and beverages. Visit their old barn stuffed with many country and primitive treasures. Something for everyone: candles, wreaths, pictures, valances and wallpaper. The Garden Bug also features all of your fall needs for decorating: mums, pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks, squash and fall wreaths. Take a stroll through the hay maze or a hay ride and visit the animals.

## Chamber Announces The Chamber Business Buzz Eblast!

Beginning Friday, September 4th Chamber members will have a whole new venue to receive Chamber events. The mini newsletter, *The Chamber Business Buzz*, is a new and improved way to receive information on Upcoming Chamber events! The easy to read format will allow our members to view events by category. Ribbon cuttings and grand openings will be in one area, Business breakfasts and mixers will be in another. Let us know what you think of our new format! Member input is greatly appreciated! Please forward to your staff as well.

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