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August 2008

Bethlehem
Chamber of Commerce

Your Business • Your Chamber

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Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce

News



What Does Tech Valley Mean to You?

On Wednesday July 30 join business people from suburban Albany County for a networking breakfast at the Century House in Latham. Sponsored by **Capital Region Living**

and the Bethlehem, Colonie and Guilderland Chambers of Commerce, the event features Albany County Executive Michael Breslin, CEG president F. Michael Tucker and CDTA's Executive Director Ray Melleady.

How will the expansion of Tech Valley initiatives affect businesses, community growth, transportation and development? Will high tech industries bring increased business to you? This informative panel of distinguished speakers will tackle these issues and more. RSVP required by phone or email: info@bethlehemchamber.com or 439-0512. Cost is \$10 with reservation.

Top Ten Things Every Small Business Owner MUST Know

...is the topic of Business for Breakfast at the Bethlehem Public Library on **Thursday, September 18 from 7:30-9:00am** sponsored by Capital Communications Federal Credit Union. \$5 donation at the door with a reservation. Call 439-0512 or email info@bethlehemchamber.com.

5th Annual Walk

The Pancreatic Cancer Research will present its 5th Annual Walk on Sunday, September 21 at Bethlehem Town Park, with registration beginning at 9:30am and the walk following at 10:15am. For more information contact Shari Piper at 475-1200 or 330-3895.



CHAMBER MISSION STATEMENT

The Chamber is a voluntary organization dedicated to meeting the needs of its members.

The Chamber promotes good business practices, a favorable business environment and community prosperity.

The Chamber is committed to good government relations and works to make Bethlehem and the surrounding area a better place to live.



PLEASE VISIT US
ON THE WEB AT
bethlehemchamber.com



Mark your calendar:

For the Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Fundraising dinner on Saturday September 20 at the Mansion at Cedar Hill. Contact henryhudson@bethlehemchamber.com for details.

An after hours **Mixer for Bethlehem** business people under 40 (and everyone else too)! Thursday September 25 at Berkshire Bank in Delaware Plaza . Plenty of food and networking.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Y.E.S. (Youth Employment Service), part of the **Town of Bethlehem's Parks and Recreation Department**, is a free

community service designed to help youths aged 14 to 21 find work, and community residents find help for odd jobs, seasonal work and

temporary or part-time employment. Contact Julie Sasso at 439-4955, ext. 1608 or jsasso@townofbethlehem.org.

A recent issue of the Capital District Business Review featured **Bruce Whiting, owner of Whiting Insurance Agency** in Glenmont in a two page spread. The focus of the article is on Bruce's firm belief in a strong personal relationship with customers. Bruce was the first in the region to painstakingly videotape clients' homes, room by room, thus preserving a permanent record. Bruce confirms that eight out of ten people who walk thru the agency door become clients, a higher than normal percentage. Right from the start Bruce became involved in Chamber activities, and he now heads up the Business Referral Group that meets in Glenmont every month. To see the full article, contact www.whitinginsurance.com



Weichert Realtors adds realtors Michael Benardo and Kristen Ruella to their Delmar Branch, offering a full range of real estate services to clients in the Capital Region and surrounding areas. The Delmar branch is located at 318 Delaware Avenue and can be reached at 439-1900.



Matchless Stove and Chimney reports that when most people think about air conditioning bills, many others are also thinking about winter and the potential for high heating bills. Home heating oil prices are nearly double what they were last year at this time. In June, Matchless Stove and Chimney usually has a handful of customers, but this year over 30 customers stop in each weekend at their Glenmont or Clifton Park outlets. For some great tips for alternative heating solutions, go to www.matchless.info

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Business Council of New York State advises that paid time off programs (PTO) can reduce absenteeism. Do your employees sometimes “call in sick” when they have a parent teacher conference or have to wait for the plumber? Maybe giving workers some flexibility in scheduling PTO can help. Tom Minnick, vice president of human resources at the Business Council says surveys show only about half of unscheduled absences are due to personal or family sickness. The rest are for more discretionary reasons, such as appointments. Of course none of us can know when we are going to be too sick to come to work, but a PTO program could help minimize a last minute crisis. Example: An employer that previously offered 10 vacation days, 6 holidays, 3 sick days and 3 personal days to employees might provide a pool of 20 days to use as needed during the year. That way, plans can be made ahead of time for appointments.



Congratulations to Peter Staniels, co-owner of **Weichert Realtors**, and Karen Hendry, business manager of Cardiac Services at Albany Medical Center on their recent marriage on June 7.

Bethlehem Police Chief Lou Corsi announces **Citizen Observer**, a new internet based program to assist the police department, businesses and residents control crime. When you log-in to CitizenObserver.com, you will be able to see local content from law enforcement agencies near you. Visit the site to review cases posted by your local law enforcement.



Bethlehem Area YMCA adds new programs, one for four year old pre-schoolers, and one for school aged child care before and after school, held at the Y at 900 Delaware Ave in Delmar.

Preschool is Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am until noon. Before and after school program will be from 7am until bus pick-up and after school until 6pm. For more info call 439-4394.

Community Caregivers is now located at 2113 Western Avenue in Guilderland –the same building as the Foundation of New York State Nurses. For information on volunteer opportunities contact: Diane Cameron 456-2898 diane@communitycaregivers.org

Skip Parsons' Swing Quartet will play a concert on The Green at the Bethlehem Public Library on Delaware Avenue with special guest drummer Giampaolo Bilgy on **Wednesday, July 30**



TD Banknorth is joining together with Commerce Bank, and will soon be sporting their new name of **TD Commerce Bank**. They will offer the same great service with the same friendly faces, plus more ATM access. We'll keep you informed of their progress.



Bethlehem Cemetery Association dedicates an American flag and monument 4pm on Sunday, August 10 in memory of Robert A. Jackson, a longtime Delmar resident,

World War II veteran and 32 year member of the Board of Directors for the Bethlehem Cemetery Association. Jackson was active in the Delmar Rotary Club as well as the consistory of the Delmar Reformed Church. Refreshments will be served at Delmar Reformed Church following the dedication. RSVP to Valerie Newell at 439-2394.

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