



Flash E-Fax

News & Information

January 12, 2008

Save the Date: Biz Buzz~January 22 in the lounge at Ricciuti's from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Rise N' Shine! Olney Wednesday, January 28 7:30-9:00 a.m.

In the Community Room of the RE/MAX Building

Join your fellow Chamber colleagues for breakfast and a few rounds of "Speed Networking." It is just like speed dating only there is no obligation to buy dinner afterwards! Don't miss this valuable networking opportunity. You never know when that next contact may be YOUR next big account.

Cost for attendance is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. RSVP by January 26 to the Chamber office or register online at www.olneymd.org.

Announcements:

► **Winter Clearance Sale:** Stop by Paula's Boutique's WINTER CLEARANCE SALE! and receive an additional 10% OFF the markdown price! Sale ends January 31st. For more information call 301.570.9431.

► **Note of Thanks:** I would like to thank the Olney Chamber of Commerce and our other elf-partners for making this the most successful Toy Drive our Olney Weichert Realtors office has had, with over 843 toys, game and books donated. Thanks go out to Greenwood Elementary School, Belmont Elementary School, North Chevy Chase Elementary School and the Aspen Hill Club for joining us in collecting the gifts, which were distributed by the Montgomery County Child Welfare Services. Additional help was provided by Carl M. Freeman Company and other local merchants in promoting the Toy Drive. Thank you to all of them and the community for so many donations. I am sure that the generosity shown by our residents helped make the holidays a lot brighter for these children. ~Rick Murdock

► **Help Wanted:** The 2010 Census operation is actively recruiting office support and field staff now to fill hundreds of positions in central and western Maryland. The jobs offer flexible hours, good wage, and an opportunity to work near home. Full time and part time positions are available and all jobs are temporary. Call toll free 1.866.861.2010 to start the application process.

► **Superbowl Special:** Why watch the Superbowl on the small screen, when you can watch it in the big screen . . . on the beach . . . in Barbados! Almond Beach Resorts presents its 4th Annual Big Game Party from Jan. 29 through Feb. 1. Spend 5 days/4 nights in the tropics, playing basketball and kicking back with former NFL players. Hurry, this package must be booked by January 19! Call Globetrotter today at 301.570.2600 to book this special trip.

2008-2009 OCC Member Plus Sponsors

Aspen Hill Club, Maryland Sports Medicine Center with Dr. David Higgins, Sandy Spring Bank, and Quinter Design

Message from the President

As a stakeholder in the Olney community, I see the challenges the business community is faced with on a daily basis.

My goal this year was to provide members with opportunities and tools to grow their businesses. This plan included sponsoring four educational seminars: Understanding Your Health Insurance Options, The Legal Aspects of Running a Small Business, Understanding and Reducing Credit Card Processing Fees and the Creating Contracting Opportunities in Montgomery County for Small Businesses. Each seminar was presented by a representative of a member business and was well attended. Of the sixty plus members who attended the contracting for small business program, two have already been awarded contracts.

Coupled with our schedule of production of the business directory, the National Night Out program, the annual Community Night showcasing local businesses, Monthly Biz Buzz Networking Opportunities, participation in the Shop Olney Program and a Holiday Social, the Chamber has worked diligently to achieve our mission to support, promote and represent the business interests of our members.

The chamber was the driving force in obtaining the Police Substation in Olney and contributes a portion of our fundraising to its maintenance. Having police presence in Olney is a tremendous benefit to the security and safety of your business, employees and homes.

Of equal importance, the Chamber provides you with a legislative voice advocating on behalf of your business and its interests to local, county and state officials. Today I will be attending the Legislative Breakfast to speak with our district representatives prior to the beginning of the new session in Annapolis. Their support is crucial.

2009 promises to be a challenging year; we need to help each other. Montgomery County officials have indicated a strong push to allocate additional funds and programs to support small business. Take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to grow your business. We are available to assist you with greater exposure on the Chamber Website, introduction to a SCORE member who can provide no cost business advice, labels for mailings, and increased networking opportunities.

On Wednesday, January 28th, we will hold a Speed Networking Breakfast at 7:30 in the Remax Community Room. I want to see that room full. Please call me to share your comments or concerns.

I thank the Board of Directors for their support this year and each and every member for their confidence, participation and continued involvement.

'You have to have confidence in your ability and the toughness to follow through' Roslynn Carter

~Ellen Coleman, President