



Flash E-Fax

News & Information

February 23, 2009

Keyboard Keen

The Olney Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Brenda Egeland of Red Letter Design for bringing chamber members out of the typewriter era and into the keyboard era. Brenda's 10 tips for Microsoft Word and 1 tip for Excel were valuable tools for any computer user. If you attended and still have questions, or if you missed Brenda's valuable program, you can reach her at Brenda@redletterdesign.net.

The Olney Chamber of Commerce would also like to thank Jose Vasquez at the Olney Tavern for donating lunch. Everything was delicious! Thank you also to Re/Max Realty Center for the use of the Community Room.

Biz Buzz This Thursday

The Olney Chamber of Commerce's Biz Buzz will be held this Thursday, February 26 in the lounge of the Olney Tavern from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Biz Buzz is an informal networking opportunity for Chamber members. There is no cost to attend and reservations are not necessary. A cash bar is available for drinks and appetizers. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards and conversation.

Message from the President:

Wanted to share some exciting information.

Recently Montgomery County has centralized their procurement program to include all goods & services provided to Montgomery County Government, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools & HOW. This new initiative called "Intra Agency Central Registration Program", allows vendors to register once and participate in all four agency procurement programs. If you have already registered with one of these programs, you should have received a postcard or email notifying you of this change. If you have not, please go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lbrp and you will be directed to the appropriate registration page. During 2008, prior to the combined program, a staggering \$699,000,000 in contracts was awarded through the Small Business Initiative and the MFD (Minority, Female and Disabled Persons) Business Program. In scanning the list of registered vendors, I was pleased to see at least a dozen Olney Chamber members. Congratulations on taking advantage of this program to gain more exposure to potential customers.

On February 6th, Ike Leggett's Eleven Step Plan to support small business was implemented. You can view the contents of this plan by visiting www.montgomerycountymd.gov and clicking the 11 point plan on the lower part of the home page.

Very shortly you should receive information on the annual chamber scholarship program. Olney area school counselors will receive the requirement packages & applications by March 1st. This year, one of the scholarships has been earmarked to specifically recognize a student who has achieved success despite the hurdle of a learning disability. In our current economic times, when every expenditure must be carefully scrutinized, I hope you will consider donating to this worthwhile cause. The leaders of tomorrow will enter college this fall. Be a part of opening the door of opportunity for a talented student. Your gift keeps on giving!

Please call me with your questions, I am happy to hear from you.

Ellen Coleman, Remax Realty Centre
301-538-4049

ATHENA Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 ATHENA Award for Greater Olney-Sandy Spring. The ATHENA Award, presented in memory of Brooke Grove Foundation (BGF) Founder, Eleanor Howe Marston, was founded by BGF and the Olney Chamber to recognize and honor women for their community service and professional and personal leadership. Previous winners include Robyn Quinter, Lisa McKillop, and Carolyn Snowden.

Particular consideration is given to nominees who have demonstrated a "dedication of self and a generosity of spirit" toward the Greater Olney-Sandy Spring community. The 2009 ATHENA Award will be presented on May 1 during an afternoon tea at Brooke Grove Retirement Village.

The nomination form, which includes award criteria, is available on the Chamber website at www.olneymd.org and the BGF website at www.bgf.org. Nominations must be received by March 6.

Also available online are forms for sponsorship and for program tributes. For more information about the ATHENA program call the Chamber office at 301.774.7117.

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