



# Flash E-Fax

News & Information

March 16, 2009

## Support Our Youth

Each year the Olney Chamber reaches out to its members for support of the annual scholarship campaign. Information will arrive this week on how you can support this important program. This year we are including all students in our application process and are excited about the new program. Donations may be made to the scholarship program by returning the form by mail or by fax or by visiting the Chamber website at [www.olneymd.org](http://www.olneymd.org). Questions may be directed to the Chamber office at 301.774.7117.

## Contact Your Legislators

This Wednesday and Thursday, area legislators will begin hearings on SB813/HB951, for Health Care for All Proposal. The MD Chamber is looking for support to oppose this legislation that will impose a \$2.5 billion annual payroll assessment on businesses. The following are a few talking points on the bill:

1. The bill would impose a \$2.5 billion annual payroll assessment on the FICA wage base of all employers in Maryland starting July 1, 2009. This assessment would pay 85% of the program's costs for expanding health care programs.
2. While the bill promises saving in health insurance costs, these may never materialize. However, the payroll assessment is guaranteed.
3. We cannot gamble the future of our companies during a recession on the promise of health insurance savings. This \$2.5 billion payroll assessment will drive many companies out of business or out of the state.

Ask your legislators to oppose the bills, and ask the committees to give the bills and unfavorable report. Visit the Chamber Action Website at [www.ChamberActionNetwork.com](http://www.ChamberActionNetwork.com) and click legislator lookup, enter your address and link to your legislators and send a message. If you are interested in testifying, contact Ron Wineholt at the MD Chamber by email at [rwineholt@mdchamber.org](mailto:rwineholt@mdchamber.org).

## 2008-2009 OCC Member Plus Sponsors

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

## Announcements:

► **Golf for Hospice:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hospice Caring, Inc. Golf Tournament will be held on May 18 at the Montgomery Country Club in Olney. The event will include a continental breakfast, a great lunch, silent auction, contests, and raffles. All proceeds will benefit Hospice Caring, Inc. programs and services. Sponsorship opportunities and registration are now available. For more information or to register, call 301.869.HOPE (4673) or visit their website at [www.hospicecaring.org](http://www.hospicecaring.org). The website also lists the bereavement groups that are available through Hospice Caring, Inc.

► **Annual Meeting:** The Greater Sandy Spring Green Space will hold their 2009 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the Miller Center at the Friends House. The Friends House is located at 17340 Quaker Lane in Sandy Spring. The speaker will be Michael Zamore, Project Manager for the Green Infrastructure Master Plan, MNCPPC. For more info visit [www.sandyspringgreenspace.org](http://www.sandyspringgreenspace.org).

► **Support Project Change:** Support Project Change one penny at a time. Choose GoodSearch.com as your search engine on your computer, then each time you do a search on the web, Project Change will receive one penny. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and select Project Change to add them as your search engine and start adding up the pennies!

► **The Sights of Europe:** What's better than a 2-for-1 fare on a European cruise? Free airfare! Oceania Cruises is celebrating their anniversary, but you're getting the gift! Treat yourself and see the sights of Europe while sailing in luxury. Give Globetrotter Travel a call at 301.570.2600 to get these special rates on certain summer and fall cruises before this offer ends on March 31.

► **Wellness Seminar:** "Winning Life's Toughest Battles," the second in a series of free "Living Well" community seminars offered by Brooke Grove Retirement Village (BGRV), will be held on Thursday, March 26, in the terrace level conference room of Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 18131 Slade School Road, in Sandy Spring. Based on the book "Winning Life's Toughest Battles" by Dr. Julius Segal, the program will be presented by BGRV Chaplain Bill Neely, an accomplished speaker, communicator and support group facilitator. He will explore the distinguishing characteristics of those who survive traumatizing situations and focus on ways in which to shape or reshape suffering in order to flourish. The one-hour seminar begins at 7 p.m. and will be preceded by a complimentary lite supper at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Toni Davis at 301.924.2811, option 3, or [tdavis@bgf.org](mailto:tdavis@bgf.org) by March 23.

► **Meet the Lender:** The Montgomery County Department of Economic Development invites businesses to attend a FREE financial forum, "Meet the Lenders." The forum will be held on Friday, March 27 from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Germantown Innovation Center located at 20271 Goldenrod Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in Germantown. For more information, or to register by March 23 call Jackie Arnold at 240.777.2035.

► **Office Closed:** The Chamber office will be closed on Friday, March 20.