GG Gaithersburg-Germantown **CC** Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

THE GGCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI, ISSUE II, APRIL-JUNE 2011

A Message From the Chair Doug Wrenn, Rodgers Consulting, Inc.

I was recently invited by the Urban Land Institute to serve on a National Advisory Panel for the town of Queen Creek, Arizona. Some of you may recall that a similar ULI Panel was convened for Germantown in 2006 prior to the Master Plan update.

And like Germantown, Queen Creek is located about 30 minutes from a major city (Phoenix) and is primarily a bedroom community for people who work in the city or its closer in suburbs. One of the primary goals of the Town's elected officials is to attract new employment opportunities for their constituents. Of the approximately 26,000 residents many are young families that find the area's equestrian heritage and recreational opportunities very attractive. But the similarities with our Upcounty area end there.

The Phoenix region has been ravaged by the economic recession. The region went from one of the fastest growing areas of the country to one of the worst economic performers. Unlike the Washington DC area, Phoenix has not had continued employment growth and every sector has been negatively impacted. Housing supply outstrips demand by about 50,000 units. The office, industrial and retail markets are also heavily over supplied and not projected to reach normal levels until 2014-2015. Vacancy rates were above 25% in 2010 and are only expected to fall by about 1% by the end of 2011 and 2012. No multi-tenant office space is under construction and none is expected for the next five years.

Needless to say, this is not a pretty picture and certainly not a situation that can be remedied quickly. All of the local governments in the region have experienced drastic revenue reductions and most have cut their staff by more than 50 percent. It will take a lot of time and effort for the Phoenix area to turn things around.

The week I spent in Queen Creek was an eye-opener not only in terms of the circumstances I witnessed there, but also for the heightened appreciation I gained for the growing economies of Gaithersburg and Germantown. Between 2000 and 2009, Montgomery County had the largest population increase of any county in the entire state of Maryland, and the highest per-capita personal income. The reason for this prosperity is job growth; in 2008 Montgomery County had more jobs than Howard and Prince George's Counties combined.

There is continued evidence of our local economy's strength. In the past few weeks the Chamber has participated in a number of exciting announcements and events. These included the opening of the new corporate headquarters of Advanced BioScience Laboratories and the announcement they will have new neighbors form China in the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center; the announcement that Digital Receiver Technology, a subsidiary of Boeing plans to build a \$46.1 million building (five-story, 162,000 square feet) at Milestone Business Park in Germantown; and the groundbreaking for the Residences at Hidden Creek, a 300 unit luxury apartment complex in Gaithersburg.

None of our good fortune should be taken for granted. I am certain many of the residents of Queen Creek, Arizona felt the Town was "too successful" to ever experience the downturn they have felt recently. We must all continue to work together to both retain and encourage the expansion of existing businesses as well as recruit and facilitate the development of new businesses in our market area.



Annual Public Safety Awards Ceremony



Friday, August 12 7:30-10:00am Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Tickets \$30 Members \$30 Awardee Sponsor \$240 Table Sponsor

www.ggchamber.org



Save-the-Date Annual Celebration Dinner Thursday, December 8 Details to Follow

PAGE 2

Welcome New Chamber Members

Advance The Document Specialists Lisa Carr 7190 Crestwood Blvd., Suite 400 Frederick, MD 21703 lisac@advancestuff.com www.advancestuff.com 301-694-6662

American Health Assistance Foundation Diana Campbell 22512 Gateway Center Drive Clarksburg, MD 20871 dcampbell@ahaf.org www.ahaf.org 301-948-3244

Bazzano Health Coaching Casey Bazzano 13502 Derry Glen Court #304 Germantown, MD 20874 bazzanohealthcoaching@yahoo.com www.bazzanohealthcoaching.com 301-204-1659

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington Pamela Jones 815 Silver Spring Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910 pjones@crittentonservices.org www.crittentonservices.org 301-565-9333

Dynamite Graphics Robert DeWolfee 9152 Brookville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910 rob@dynamite-graphics.com www.dynamite-graphics.com 301-585-7525 eWomen Network - Mont. County Carol Plummer 19101 Roman Way Montgomery Village, MD 20886 carolplummer@ewomennetwork.com www.ewomennetwork.com/chapte r/montgomery 301-529-9948

First Data Merchant Services Richard Jennings 13112 Limetree Road Silver Spring, MD 20904 richard.jennings@firstdata.com www.firstdata.com 240-855-4113

Goshen Enterprises, Inc Don DeLude PO Box 5274 Laytonsville, MD 20882 dond@goshenenterprises.com www.goshenenterprises.com 301-869-8544

Insight Media, LLC T/A Montgomery Magazine RichardZdanis 13232 Executive Park Terrace Germantown, MD 20874 richard@montgomerymag.com 240-252-5351

Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area Chelsea Soneira PO Box 10127 Rockville, MD 20849-0127 chelsea.soneira@ja.org www.myja.org 301-838-0470 Levene Strategies, Inc. Neal Levene 12154 Darnestown Road, Suite 445 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 neal@levenestrategies.com http://levenestrategies.com 240-654-0067

Meridian Imaging Solutions Adam Siegelbaum 5775 General Washington Drive Alexandria, VA 22312 asiegelbaum@meridian-imaging.com www.meridian-imaging.com 703-461-8195

Metropolitan Medical Supplies, LLC John Justus 610 Professional Drive, Suite 240 Gaithersburg, MD 20879 john@metropolitanmedsupply.com www.metropolitanmedsupply.com 301-519-0999

Mosquito Squad Susan Levi 13613 Aqua Lane Rockville, MD 20850 slevi@mosquitosquad.com www.mosquitosquad.com 301-444-5566

Perren's Greener Cleaners Kevin Perren 9617 Lost Knife Road Gaithersburg, MD 20877 kplv2ski@hotmail.com www.perrensgreenercleaners.net 301-519-0006

MORE MEMBERS ON PAGE 5

PAGE 3

Save The Dates

Thursday, July 22 7:30-9:00am **Business Networking Before Nine** Hilton Gaithersburg

> Wednesday, July 27 11:00 am—12:00 pm **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** Perren's Greener Cleaners

Friday, August 12 Annual Public Safety Awards Breakfast Sponsorships available

Thursday, August 25 5:30-7:30pm **Business Networking After Five** Melting Pot of Gaithersburg

Friday, September 9 Annual Business Golf Classic Sponsorships available

Thursday, September 22 5:30-7:30pm GGCC Volunteer & Non-Profit Showcase Picnic Smokey Glenn Farms

Thursday, September 28 11:30am—1:00pm Business Card Exchange Lunch California Pizza Kitchen

More Events Online!! Advance registration is requested. To Register, Please Visit: www.ggchamber.org



MEMBER EVENT PHOTOS ggchamber.org/photogallery

















Special Thanks To Our Event Sponsors This Quarter

Buca di Beppo, City of Gaithersburg, Growlers, Hughes Network Systems, Johns Hopkins University, Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Montgomery Works, PB Dye Golf Club, Pinky & Pepe's Grape Escape, St. Luke's House, Upcounty Regional Services Center



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GGCC Member Spotlight...



Manna Food Center was the recipient of the 2011 Governor's Service Award by the Governor's

& LEWIS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Office on Service and Volunteerism. The award recognizes significant contributions of Maryland citizens and organizations to the life and health of the State and its people. Manna has also received a 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator, America's Largest Charity Evaluator & have been selected by The Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington as "one of the best small charities in the Washington DC Region".

On June 1st, Jerry Gimmel and Steve Blomberg celebrated 20 years since the beginning of the firm:

Gimmel, Weiman, Ersek, Blomberg & Lewis, P.A.

BlackRock Center for the Arts FREE Summer Concert Series Kicked-Off July 9. The series is sponsored by Chamber Members: Hughes Network Systems, The Gazette, Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union and the Hilton Washington, DC North/Gaithersburg. For details on the summer concerts visit blackrockcenter.org.



The 2011 **Montgomery County Agricultural Fair** dates are August 12 - 20. The theme this year will be "It's Udderly Terrific". They will have a wide variety of animals, entertainment, activities and contests creating a fun-filled family event. The fair catalog is now available online at www.mcagfair.com.



Cars for Homes program was created specifically to assist Habitat affiliates by generating funding from the sale of donated vehicles. Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. has received \$111,403.48 in funding from the program, which has been used to help provide affordable housing



Congratulations to Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union (MAFCU) who was awarded by BlackRock Center for the Arts the "Outstanding Corporate Partner Award". Pictured: Rick Wieczorek of MAFCU accepts the



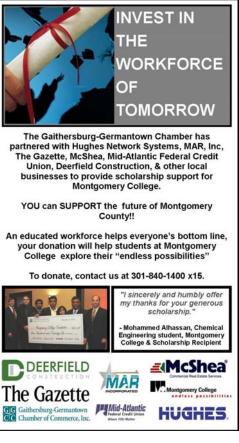
Outstanding Corporate Partner Award from BlackRock Board Member Marilyn Balcombe.

Be Part of the **Celebration in**

Gaithersburg on Sunday, September 18. Vendors and sponsors are invited to apply for participation in this year's event. The last day for all applications is September 7. Application and sponsorship forms are available, call 301-258-6350 or online at: gaithersburgmd.gov/events.



options in partnership with local families.



Magic Johnson said: "If the community is happy, then they support your business and if your business is doing well, then you can give back even more to the community".

In June, Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Germantown, presented a \$2,000 check to Montgomery College's Director of Annual Giving Kathy Stevens at the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber networking event. They join the other sponsoring businesses and quite a few individual donors including several past Chairs of the Chamber Board.

"I am excited and pleased that we are on track to make our \$25K fund raising goal for Sponsorships for Montgomery College students –The response has been outstanding and we are pleased to have the following companies McShea, Mid Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Deerfield Construction, and Senator Kings office, join Hughes Network Systems, LLC, Mar Inc. and the Gazette for this year's awards," said Jim Muir, Assistant Vice President, Hughes Network Systems. Their donation will be added towards the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce's (GGCC) Montgomery College Scholarship Foundation. Montgomery College students and their parents will be invited to the Chamber's Annual Gala on December 8, where they will be presented with scholarship checks.

YOU can SUPPORT the future of Montgomery County!!

An educated workforce helps everyone's bottom line; your donation will help students at Montgomery College explore their "endless possibilities" To donate, contact Marilyn Balcombe at: 301-840-1400x15.



MAFCU President Wieczorek presents Montgomery College's Director of Annual Giving Kathy Stevens with a check for \$2,000 at the MAFCU July Business Networking After Five.

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Writer's Corner

Write Like No One Else - Write Like You

What makes good writing? Perfect grammar and mechanics? No. (And I'm allowed to say that since I used to teach 7th, 8th, and 9th grade English.) Huge vocabulary? No. Compelling writing that makes the reader rush to the next sentence because they can't wait to see what you wrote?

Yes.

So HOW do you do that? How do you make your writing so compelling that it's literally a page-turner?

Write authentically. Write as you, not as a carbon copy of some other writer, even one whom you admire. Don't play it safe, afraid you might offend a reader or two. Be bold. Be brazen. Be outrageous. Be you. That's what will draw readers in.

Write with passion. If you aren't passionate about your subject, you shouldn't be writing about it. Let that passion show through. Get rid of phrases like "I think, " "I believe," "I guess," "In my opinion." Be firm and stand behind your passion.

Show; don't tell. Don't tell your readers what they should think or feel. Show them. Describe in vivid detail what's going on and let them make their own conclusions. They'll happily come along the path you've blazoned for them.

Take risks. Are you writing a self-help book and you want to include illustrations? Do you really want to use "shit" in your writing, but you're afraid to, afraid you might offend someone? Here's the news flash - if

Dawn Goldberg works hard at writing like no one else, as scary as that may be. If you'd like to write like yourself, check out <u>www.WriteWellU.com</u>, where Dawn offers writing classes and workshops to help you gain self-confidence as a writer and expand your creative muscle.

> you're doing your job and conveying a compelling message with words, you absolutely will offend someone. On the other hand, some readers, who aren't offended and completely get you, will race after you.

Go deep. Don't skim the surface. Dive into the pain, the joy, the desperation, the bliss. Feel it - and let it come through your words. When you do that, you'll bring your readers to those depths with you.

The more you write as YOU, the more compelling it will be. It's not safe; it's downright scary. But instead of toeing the line or straddling the fence, pick a side of that line or fence and stand firm. The people on that side will be drawn to you and won't be able to wait for the next sentence.

GGCC New Members Continued...

Planet Fitness

Allyson Ratliff & Ed Schraeder 13031 Wisteria Drive Germantown, MD 20874 allyson@pfofmd.com ed@pfofmd.com www.planetfitness.com 240-720-7444

Re/Max Realty Group

David Zeff 6 Montgomery Village Avenue Suite 200 Gaithersburg, MD 20879 dzeff@remax.net www.montgomerycountyhomesforyou.com 240-912-2353

Ride Allegheny / Operation Second Chance Cindy McGrew PO Box 461 Clarksburg, MD 20871 cindy@operationsecondchance.org www.rideallegheny.org 301-938-2834 Sodexo, Inc. Joe Gorman 9801 Washingtonian Boulevard Gaithersburg, MD 20878 joe.gorman@sodexo.com www.sodexousa.com 301-987-4000

The Town Courier Gaithersburg & Urbana Editions Diane Dorney 309 Main Street Gaithersburg, MD 20878 ddorney301@gmail.com www.towncourier.com 301-330-0132

Transwestern Brian Rossi 6700 Rockledge Drive Suite 400 Bethesda, MD 20817 brian.rossi@transwestern.net www.transwestern.net 301-869-9041

Transwestern William Wanatosky 6700 Rockledge Drive Suite 400 Bethesda, MD 20817 bill.wanatosky@transwestern.net www.transwestern.net 301-896-9054

Vashan Compounding Pharmacy

Mehri Bashiri & Behzad Samari 9005 Shady Grove Court Gaithersburg, MD 20877 rx@vashan.com www.vashan.com 301-947-4747





If you are a member in good standing, we invite you to display the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce "Proud Member" logo so that others in the business community recognize your support of and involvement in the Chamber.

To use the logo, send a request to lrowles@ggchamber.org.



PAGE 6

SMTA Organization

Former Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan & **Chamber Member Rich Parsons** announced the formation of a new public education and advocacy organization, called the Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance (SMTA), dedicated to resolving the chronic transportation challenges facing Marvland iurisdictions in the greater Washington region.



SMTA's mission: "To educate policymakers and residents of Suburban Maryland on the real choices we face in improving

transportation in the Greater Washington region, to advocate for increased funding for transportation including mass transit and roads, and to encourage leaders at the local, state and regional levels to commit those funds to cost-effective capacity improvements that do the most good in relieving traffic congestion and improving mobility."

A key element of the organization's program is a new website: mdtransportation.org that will help area residents learn about the choices we face and take action at the grassroots level to demand change.

BUSINESS is **Booming!!**

Business is Booming in the Upcounty!!

Now that the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan has been approved, property owners are hard at work to start seeing the vision become a reality. The GSSC Implementation Advisorv Committee has heard briefings on several projects in the Corridor including new commercial space from Alexandria Real Estate Equities and Johns Hopkins University. The Committee also had a briefing on the long-term expansion plans for Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, which includes a new Cancer

Care Center and Oncology Services. The Montgomery County Planning Department's website is a great way to keep tabs on how the Great Seneca Science Corridor is shaping up.

For more information or to download a copy of the Master Plan, go to: www.montgomeryplanning.or g/community/gaithersburg/



LSBRP: For You??



Kenneth Taylor retired in June after 32 years of service to the residents of Montgomery County. Most of you know Ken

through the last three years when he managed the Department of General Services' Office of Business Relations and Compliance (OBRC). Ken built OBRC from an idea into a successful operation managing a number of programs with a common purpose; to ensure fairness and improve opportunities for owners and employees of small, local, minority and disabled owned businesses.

In April, Ken spoke at the GGCC's "How to do Business with the County" seminar. We learned that nearly 95% of Montgomery County's companies are considered small businesses, Under this program, Montgomery County's departments and agencies have made a commitment to allocate 20% of their purchases of goods and services for the small business community

The Office of Business Relations and Compliance is responsible for

implementing programs and strategies that expand contracting opportunities for Minority, Female and Disable Persons Owned Businesses (MFD) and Local Small Business Preserve Program (LSBRP) vendors in Montgomery County.

How you can benefit:

If you are a local small business or know a business that could take advantage of this offer, then take some time and review the eligibility requirements and/or register with the LSBRP using the Central Vendor Registration System.

Montgomery County wants to do more business with local firms! And are committed to spending AT LEAST 20% of their procurement budgets with local small businesses. BUT, to get in on potential contracts your business MUST register with the Montgomery County Local Small Business Reserve Program!

Don't miss out on your share of \$2 billion-plus of procurement opportunities, register at:

montgomerycountymd.gov/lsbrp

or http://www.mcipcc.net/

GG Gaithersburg-Germantown **CC** Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



"MAKE \$\$ MONEY" Membership Drive

Help the Chamber Grow & You Win!!



The best method of advertising and recruitment is still word of mouth...so talk it up and win some \$\$.

For more information contact Donna Gallagher at 301.840.1400 x17 or dgallagher@ggchamber.org Visit us on the web at www.ggchamber.org

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Director of Events & Marketing Editor-In-Chief Laura Rowles Irowles@ggchamber.org

Director of Member Services Donna Gallagher dgallagher@ggchamber.org

Bookkeepe Fileen Miller emiller@ggchamber.org

Featured Board Member: Sam McNamee



Samuel "Sam" McNamee is the President of Signs of Progress located in Gaithersburg. Sam founded Signs of Progress in 2004 for the express purpose of helping small and mid-size businesses grow by supplying effective signage. He saw that most sign companies are run by folks highly experienced in

the design and manufacturing of signs but with little experience in the application of those signs to the business needs of their clients. We strive to understand our clients' needs so that we can recommend the best sign to help them achieve their goals.

Originally operating out of Sam's basement, the company moved to Perry Parkway in August, 2004 and into the current location on Gaither Road in April, 2011. In the 7 years of it existence, Signs of Progress has served over 500 clients, almost half of whom have hired him for multiple projects. Signs of Progress was recognized by the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce as the Small Business of the Year in 2010.

Signs of Progress joined the GGCC in 2004 and Sam became involved in the Membership, Marketing, and Small Office/Home Office committees. He was elected to the Board of Directors and currently serves as the Treasurer.

Prior to founding Signs of Progress, Sam's career revolved around managing software development and marketing efforts for Honeywell, Manugistics, and IBM. At Honeywell, his last corporate job, Sam was the VP of Product Development for the Process Industries Group.

In his spare time, Sam is active with the Boy Scouts in Montgomery County from whom he has received the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow and the Silver Beaver awards. Sam also referees youth and high soccer and teaches CPR and First Aid for the American Red Cross.

Sam has been married to Sandra for 31 years and they have two grown children. Joe and Kimberly. Sam holds a BIE from Kettering University (formerly General Motors Institute) and an MS in Industrial and Systems Engineering from The Ohio State University.

> Contact Sam: sam@signsofprog.com

CCT: Call to Action

Let's Keep the Momentum Going

The Maryland Transit Administration has completed its final study of the Corridor Cities Transitway. The project is now ready to move forward to the next phase which is the Governor's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

Please take a moment to contact Governor Martin O'Malley and Secretary of Transportation Beverly Swaim-Staley and ask them to please move forward on the CCT's Locally Preferred Alternative before the end of July.

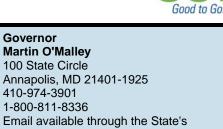
We do not want this very important decision to get lost in the summer doldrums. The decision should be made now so the project can continue to move forward.

As always, the CCT is Good To Go and we need it to go forward.

Like us on

Facebook





website at: http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/ Transportation Secretary

Beverly Swaim-Staley Maryland Department of Transportation 7201 Corporate Center Drive Hanover MD 21076 410-865-1000 1-888-713-1414 ksaab@mdot.state.md.us

You lube









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