

JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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BULLETIN NO. 568

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

HIGH SCHOOL-BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

Our thanks to all who have signed up to be a business leader for the High School-Business Symposium on Thursday, November 8 at **Shepherd University**. Leaders are to meet at the ballroom (third floor) in the Ram's Den at 8:15 a.m. for registration. Parking permits have been mailed to those attending the symposium. If you have not received one, please give your Chamber a call.

NEW TEACHERS BANQUET – NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Your Chamber will be honoring the new teachers at **Jefferson County Schools, Country Day School, Shepherd University** and **American Public University** at the 45th Annual New Teachers Banquet. The banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at the **Independent Fire Hall**, Third Avenue entrance in Ranson with registration and a social period at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. To serve as a sponsor, you need only to pay for your own ticket(s) and to introduce the teacher at the banquet. Your Chamber will pay for the teacher and his/her guest. Your Chamber will also need items for the "goody bags." If you would like to serve as a sponsor and/or can provide items for the goody bags, please call your Chamber office.

7th ANNUAL PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION BANQUET

Approximately 275 members and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening at the 7th Annual Public Service Recognition Banquet held on October 16 at **Charles Town Races & Slots**. Your Chamber thanks **Charles Town Races & Slots** who co-sponsored and assisted in the coordination of details for the event. Congratulations to all the honorees who were selected by their departments: Career Emergency Medical Services Provider – Sean McCarthy, **Jefferson County Ambulance Authority**; Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Providers – Susan "Roxanne" Carter, Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer Fire Company; Anthony Scott Biller, Friendship Fire Company; Ward Henry, **Independent Fire Company**; Craig "Twiggy" Simpson, **Shepherdstown Fire Department**; Fire Services Providers – Timothy Lereudu, Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer Fire Company; Chris Cross, **Citizens Fire Company**; Jason Jacobs, Friendship Fire Company; Donald Lanham, **Independent Fire Company**; Andrew Arnold, **Shepherdstown Fire Department**; Law Enforcement Officers – Cpl. George Manning, **Charles Town Police Department**; Cpl. Keith Sigulinsky, **Ranson Police Department**; Cpl. Ronald Fletcher, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Trooper Joseph Bush, WV State Police Charles Town Detachment; and Jefferson County Emergency Communications – Rendell Ford. Congratulations and thanks to all these emergency personnel for their time and dedication in protecting Jefferson County and its citizens.

LEADERSHIP JEFFERSON

The second module of Leadership Jefferson – Agriculture – was held on October 10. Participants visited the West Virginia University Tree Fruit Research & Education Center in Kearneysville for a tour of the facility, the Aqua Green Trout Farm to tour the trout building, Tudor Hall Farm Market to buy some local produce, and the Town & Country Market for a hayride, pumpkin picking, and to try their luck going through the corn maze. The next module – Education – will be held on November 14. Leadership Jefferson participants will visit **Country Day School, American Public University, various Jefferson County Public Schools and Shepherd University.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Huntley, Nyce & Associates, Ltd.

Walter Sebert, Representative
319 Lutz Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25404
(304) 260-1290
Surveyor/Engineer
www.huntleynyce.com

The Beauty Center

Tiersa Carper, Representative
231 W. Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
(304) 725-1766
Beauty Salon & Spa

Frank “Wes” Harris

43 Holly Springs Drive
Charles Town, WV 25414
(304) 728-9530
Individual

As of this date, we have 422 members who have paid their fair share investments for a total of \$44,938.00 for fiscal year 2007-2008. Your membership is important; to avoid having it cancelled, please take a moment to send a check to your Chamber if you have not reinstated your dues for 2007-2008.

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS

Kurt G. Rodney, M.D., board certified emergency medicine, recently joined the emergency department physician staff at **West Virginia University Hospitals-East’s Jefferson Memorial Hospital**. Rodney received his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, and completed residencies at ETSU-Quillen College of Medicine, Georgetown University Medical Center and Orlando Regional Medical Center. He has been practicing emergency medicine since 1982, and served as a clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine at Georgetown University from 1989 until 1992. For the past 12 years, Rodney has been an emergency medicine physician at Loudoun Hospital Center in Leesburg, Virginia, and has served as the volunteer medical director for The Loudoun Community Free Clinic for the past five years. Prior to that time, he worked as a staff physician in the emergency departments at Lakes Region Hospital and Nashua Memorial Hospital in New Hampshire as well as Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville, Maryland and Arlington Hospital in Virginia. As a member of the emergency department staff at **Jefferson Memorial Hospital**, Rodney will join the hospital’s active medical staff and serve on the faculty of the West Virginia University School of Medicine Eastern Division.

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS (cont.)

The **Jefferson Memorial Hospital** Auxiliary recently donated \$1000 to the First Books for Babies Program in Jefferson County. The program, which is set to begin in December, will assure that new parents of children born at **Jefferson Memorial Hospital** receive a children's book along with information on the benefits of reading to babies. Reading to babies has many benefits including developing language skills, enhancing listening skills, building awareness, reinforcing basic concepts, stimulating the imagination and providing the physical closeness so critical to the social and emotional development of a child. Thanks to donations from organizations such as the hospital auxiliary and the Jefferson County Commission, First Books for Babies is well on its way to fulfill its mission to promote literacy and give every baby born at **Jefferson Memorial Hospital** a new book. Anyone interested in supporting the program can send donations to First Books for Babies, Shepherdstown Public Library, c/o Libby Sturm, 457 Berridge Drive, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

The **Jefferson County Development Authority** has launched a new feature on its Web site – www.jcda.net – to spotlight commercial properties. Company leaders use the Internet for a large part of business location selections and available real estate evaluation, and so the **Jefferson County Development Authority** has added a new commercial property page to its site. Property owners, developers and real estate agents are encouraged to add their properties to the online listings. The site is searchable by anyone interested in Jefferson County, and a business prospect representative can search by town, square footage or by type of space. The **Jefferson County Development Authority** hopes that this new, free service will enhance visibility and increase awareness for available properties in the county, making it more efficient for authority members and prospects to see and keep track of all that is in the area. More information is available by calling (304) 728-3255 or visiting www.jcda.net.

The **Eastern Panhandle Free Clinic** will hold its 6th annual volunteer recognition dinner on November 15, 2007. Over 100 volunteers who have served an estimated 8,493 hours over the last fiscal year will be recognized for their volunteer service. Volunteers have served in the following areas: Board of Directors, various committees; marketing; grant writing; fundraising, administrative work, clerical, nursing and physicians. Celebrating six years of service to the community, the Free Clinic provides FREE primary medical care, FREE medications, FREE referrals to specialists and FREE health education to the people of the Eastern Panhandle. For more information on the **Eastern Panhandle Free Clinic**, contact (304) 724-6091.

Answering the demand for more highly trained information technology professionals in the workplace, the **American Public University System** (APUS) has launched four new degree programs in Information Technology (IT). The new programs were designed to build a stronger platform in IT and complement the university system's Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology Management and Associate of Arts degree with a concentration in Computer Applications. The IT programs are available at member institutions American Military University and **American Public University**. **APUS** classes start monthly, with many offered in either 8- or 16-week sessions. For more information on IT degrees, call (877) 777-9081 or visit www.amuonline.com/IT.

OTHER NEWS

A new national study reveals that membership in a local chamber of commerce can significantly boost a business's image among consumers. In a survey of 2,000 American adults, The Schapiro Group, an Atlanta-based strategic consulting firm, found positive perceptions of chamber members in a number of areas, including overall favorability, consumer awareness and reputation, and likelihood of future patronage. The study, commissioned by American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), IBM, Administaff, Small Business Network, Inc., and Market Street Services, showed that when respondents were told that a particular small business was a member of its local chamber, they were 44 % more likely to rate it favorably. Respondents were also 63% more likely to want to purchase goods or services from a small business that is a chamber member. "This study reinforces research done in 2005 about perceived capacity of chambers to lead businesses and lead communities," said Mick Fleming, ACCE's president. Mac Hooladay, CEO of Market Street Services, an economic development consulting firm based in Atlanta that helped create the study, said, "It is refreshing to learn what we have suspected for years – that chamber membership and community involvement are good investments." The full study results are available on the ACCE website at www.acce.org/chamberstudy.aspx. (From *Chamber Executive* magazine, Fall 2007)

Each year the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes successful small business entrepreneurs and champions through its Small Business Week activities. This year is no exception. The West Virginia Small Business Administration is soliciting nominations for the eleven categories which comprise the Small Business Week awards program. The award winners will be recognized at the SBA's annual awards banquet generally held in May as well as featured in a special issue of The State Journal small business publication. Each state award winner will also be eligible for Regional and National award recognition. For a nomination packet, visit www.sba.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/wv_clarksburg/wv_sb2008package.pdf. The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, November 30, 2007. If you have any questions about the awards process, call Rick Haney, Business Development Specialist with the West Virginia District Office, at (304) 623-5631 ext. 230 or Barbara Carder at barbara.carder@sba.gov or (304) 623-5631 ext. 222.

The Gateway New Economy Council (GNEC), a group formed to support the state's vision of advancing high-tech business development, will be hosting a conference on November 26. The conference, entitled "A Pledge to Education/A Promise to Business," will serve as a community learning experience and working conference for those in the Eastern Panhandle who wish to explore the synchronicity between education and economic development in our region. The purpose of this conference is to shed light on how we can educate today for the employment opportunities of tomorrow," stated Lori Rea, GNEC Executive Director. "The conference will provide an arena for GNEC partners to develop educational strategies for fulfilling the employment needs of our Eastern Panhandle businesses." This upcoming GNEC Conference will be on November 26 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the **Clarion Hotel and Conference Center** in Shepherdstown. The cost of the conference is \$25 per person. This meeting is open to the public but does require a reservation. Those interested in learning more about GNEC are also welcome to attend.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 8 High School-Business Symposium – **Shepherd University**
Nov. 13 New Teachers Banquet – **Independent Fire Hall**, Ranson
Nov. 22-23 Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!