

JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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BULLETIN NO: 569

DECEMBER 1, 2007

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The holiday season is upon us, and we hope that you will attend one of the many activities planned in our wonderful county. Decorations are already up and the lighting of Christmas trees has already taken place in the municipalities. Don't forget our local businesses that can assist you with shopping for that special person, planning a holiday meal, or relaxing with family and friends. Also, remember the less fortunate by contributing to our local charities. We hope you enjoy the blessings of the season.

As has been the custom, there will not be a monthly membership meeting in December. Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2008.

WELCOME TO NEW DIRECTOR – HEATHER MORGAN

On behalf of the officers and directors of your Jefferson County Chamber, we would like to welcome Heather L. Morgan as the new Executive Director of your Chamber. Heather was a Chamber Board member from 1996 – 2004, served as president from 2001 – 2002, and was appointed to another Board term in 2007. She has served on the Art & Crafts Festival Committee for many years, and has been in charge of the finance office during the Arts & Crafts Festivals since 2004. Heather previously worked for Griffith Energy Services as Division Manager. As a native of Jefferson County, much of her family continues to live here. She has two sons, Brad who lives in Elkins, and Chris and daughter-in-law, Juliana, who reside in Charles Town.

CHAMBER MONTHLY MEETINGS

Your Chamber is currently taking bids for its monthly membership meetings and banquets to be held in 2008. Requirements for a **monthly meeting** include a facility with a private meeting area and the ability to serve a lunch to 50-90 people. Requirements for **banquets** include a facility to accommodate 225-250 people. If interested, please submit a bid with a per person cost for the meal, including beverage, tax, and gratuity and the type of meal (soup/sandwich, buffet, etc.) that would be served. Bids will be accepted through December 14, 2007. For more information, contact your Chamber office.

LEADERSHIP JEFFERSON

The third module of Leadership Jefferson – Education – was held on November 14. Participants met at the **Country Day School** and took tours of various schools throughout the county, including Washington High School and **Shepherd University**. The next module – Local Government – will be held on December 12.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Alegret Business Solutions

Beth Alegret, Representative

P. O. Box 174

Charles Town, WV 25414

(301) 461-7638

www.alegret.net

Computer & Related Services

Asbury United Methodist Church

Paula Michael, Representative

4257 Kearneysville Pike, P.O. Box 2007

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

(304) 876-3112

asburyumc@comcast.net

Church

Shenandoah-Potomac Garden Council

Barbara Arndt, Representative

P. O. Box 104

Summit Point, WV 25446

www.shenandoah-potomacgardencouncil.org

As of this date, we have 437 members who have paid their fair share investments for a total of \$46,039.00 for fiscal year 2007-2008. This will be the last bulletin mailed to those who are not current with their fair share investments. As of January 1, 2008, delinquent members will be removed from membership.

HIGH SCHOOL-BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

The 26th Annual High School-Business Symposium held on November 8, 2007, at **Shepherd University** was deemed a success by its participants. Many thanks to our moderators **Charles B. Howard, Attorney-at-Law** and J. Frank Fargo, **Fargo Insurance & Financial Services** and the following business leaders: Beverly Bolger, **BizTech/The Jefferson County Telecenter**; Jan Callen, **United Way of the Eastern Panhandle**; Mary Sue Catlett, **Cell-Page Communications**; Bill Chesley, **Bank of Charles Town**; Chris Colbert, **United Bank**; Patrick Davenport, **City of Ranson**; Christa Denney, **Shenandoah Women's Center**; Jason Dom, **American Public University**; Don Dove, **Fargo Insurance & Financial Services**; Chuck Ellison, **Frontier/A Citizens Communications Company**; Paul Espinosa, **BB&T**; Nancy Ferner, **Small Business Development Center**; Diana Gunia, **American Public University**; Kim Hall, **The Carol Kable Team**; Jeanie Hamilton, **Valley Farm Credit**; Mattelynn Hancock, **La Mezzaluna Cafe**; Dr. Alissa Harris, **Harpers Ferry Chiropractic**; Tiffany Hine, **Paragon Title Company**; Richard Jentsch, Shepherdstown Visitor's Center; Pete Katunas, **Frontier/A Citizens Communications Company**; Kathy Kester, **BB&T**; Matthew Knott, **River Riders**; Teresa McCabe, **WVUH East**; Clint Miller, **Wal-Mart**; Vonda Miller, **Jefferson Security Bank**; Toni Milbourne, **Jefferson Publishing Company**; Nelson Parkinson, **Holiday Inn Express**; Jane Peters, **Jefferson County Development Authority**; Joe Powell, **WVUH-East**; Bill Reichardt, **Summit Point Raceway**; Ann Smith, **Shenandoah Women's Center**; Nan Stevens, **WV Housing Development Fund**; Clint Sullivan, **Advantage Appraisal**; and Christine Todd, **Regional Contracting Assistance Center**. We also thank the staff and faculties from **Jefferson County Schools** and **Shepherd University** for their cooperation, help, and support, especially, Susan Wall, Superintendent of **Jefferson County Schools**, Howard Guth, Principal of **Jefferson High School**, and Dr. Suzanne Shipley, President of **Shepherd University**. Additional thanks to Dr. E. William Johnson and Sherry Clem for making all the arrangements at the University. Last but not least, we appreciate the support of the 110 students from **Jefferson High School** who participated. Thanks to all!

NEW TEACHERS BANQUET

On Wednesday, November 13, 2007, 106 new educators were honored at the New Teachers Banquet at the **Independent Fire Hall** in Ranson. This annual event sponsored by your Chamber in cooperation with **Jefferson County Public Schools, American Public University, Country Day School, and Shepherd University** welcomes new educators to Jefferson County. We extend our thanks to **Charles B. Howard, Attorney-at-Law**, who welcomed the new teachers, **American Public University, Bank of Charles Town, BB&T, Dr. John Gibson/Blue Ridge Smiles, Edward Jones/John Williams, Gold's Gym, Jones Insurance Agency, United Way of the Eastern Panhandle, Wells Fargo/The Corum Team, West Virginia Housing Development Fund, and WVU Hospitals-East/Jefferson Memorial Hospital** for the favors. We also thank the following members for sponsoring a teacher: **American Public University, Anvil Restaurant, Apple Tree Animal Clinic, Bank of Charles Town, BB&T, BizTech/Jefferson County Telework Center, Carol Kable Team/Re-Max 1st Realty, Charles E. Lowery, Christine Todd, City National Bank, Cliffside Inn & Conference Center, Dr. John Gibson/Blue Ridge Smiles, Eastern Panhandle Tech Prep Consortium, Fargo Insurance & Financial Services, Frontier/A Citizens Communications Company, Gold's Gym, Halltown Paperboard Company, Holiday Inn Express, Jefferson Publishing Company, John Sherwood, Kable Photographics, Kiwanis Club of Charles Town, Marcus Enterprises, Nichols & Skinner, Peter H. Dougherty, River Riders, Turf Motel & Rib Room, United Way of the Eastern Panhandle, Wal-Mart Supercenter, W. Douglas Stewart, and WVU Hospitals-East/Jefferson Memorial Hospital.**

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS

To better serve you this Holiday Season, the **UPS Store** at The Marketplace at **Potomac Town Center**, will be open Sundays from 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. until December 23. For more information, call (304) 724-2006.

A canned food drive will be held at The Marketplace at **Potomac Town Center** from December 1 – 15 to benefit **Jefferson County Community Ministries**. Customers are asked to drop off their donation of non-perishable food items to the following merchants: Weis Markets, **U.S. Cellular** or **Baer's Mattress Den**.

The Beauty Center, a luxurious new full-service beauty salon & day spa in downtown Charles Town invites members to their Christmas open house on Thursday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and door prizes. They welcome the opportunity to show you the variety of services offered by their artistic and highly experienced staff, including hair and nail services, skin and facial care, therapeutic massage, yoga and Pilate's classes, spa packages and much more. Stop by to receive 10% off any retail salon product. Bring new, unopened toys for "Toys for Tots" to receive \$5 off any service. **The Beauty Center** is proud to be a member of the Charles Town business community and looks forward to seeing you. For more information, call (304) 725-1766.

The Board of Directors of **West Virginia University Hospitals-East** recently announced the appointment of Fred R. Butcher, Ph.D. to the **WVUH-East** health system board. Dr. Butcher is the interim vice president for health sciences at West Virginia University in Morgantown. During his two decades on the faculty at WVU, Dr. Butcher has been a teacher, researcher, and administrator. The 15-member **WVUH-East** Board includes representatives from Jefferson and Berkeley Counties as well as individuals from WVU's Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center in Morgantown.

NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS (cont.)

Do you want to learn successful advertising techniques used by other businesses? Do you want to explore a variety of marketing tools and identify external factors that can impact your business? You should plan to attend “Business Basics – Step 3: The ABC’s of Marketing”. The **Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College** offers this interactive workshop from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 14 at **Blue Ridge CTC**, 400 W. Stephen Street, Martinsburg. This workshop is the final part of a three-part Business Basics Workshop. Pre-registration is required by December 10, and there is a \$25 fee to cover the costs of materials. To register, call the **SBDC** at (304) 260-4385 or visit www.BlueRidgeCTC.edu/sbdcweb.

Believe it or not, the Holiday Season is almost upon us and many of you are already displaying your Christmas wares. The **Sounds of the Shenandoah** (Barbershop Chorus) has begun preparing for this special event. They would like to become part of your celebration. The chorus is preparing a program that may be used for your annual Christmas parties or to entertain your customers while they are shopping. The **Sounds of the Shenandoah** is available for evenings and/or weekends for a donation to the chapter. If you are interested, you may call George Lloyd at (304) 728-7538 to schedule a time. It is important that you call early to book your event. The Chorus also does singing Valentines and is available to sing for any other special occasion you may have throughout the year.

Operating a home-based business has definite advantages, especially when you’re just starting out. Fast forward through five challenging yet successful years and it might be time to expand and relocate. **Platinum PR**, a local marketing and PR firm, recently moved from a home-based business into an office in historic downtown Shepherdstown. “It was time to move out of the house and into an actual office,” stated Sandy Sponaule, president of **Platinum PR**. “As part of the expansion, I have hired my first full-time employee.” Jennifer Jensen of Martinsburg was hired as Platinum PR’s Communications Specialist. Jennifer has been an independent consultant for five years, mainly focusing on writing and editing. She has over ten years of administrative and office management experience, and a degree in Business Administration from Shepherd College. “The diverse skill sets that Jennifer and I possess complement each other well,” stated Sponaule. “We have worked together for several years and I’m pleased to have her as an official part of **Platinum PR**.” Founded in 2002, **Platinum PR** is an accomplished firm that specializes in assisting small businesses and non-profits with cost effective solutions to their marketing, public relations and event planning needs. Their new office is located at 104 S. King Street in Shepherdstown. To learn more about **Platinum PR**, visit their website at www.PlatinumPublicRelations.com or call 304-876-8321.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 30-Dec. 2	<i>Disney’s Beauty and the Beast</i> – Old Opera House , Charles Town
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Victorian Christmas – Shepherdstown
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Old Tyme Christmas – Harpers Ferry
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Christmas in Historic Charles Town
Dec. 1	Christmas Parade – Charles Town
Dec. 6-9	<i>Disney’s Beauty and the Beast</i> – Old Opera House , Charles Town
Dec. 7-9	Old Tyme Christmas – Harpers Ferry
Dec. 9	Parade of Horses – Charles Town
Dec. 13-16	<i>Disney’s Beauty and the Beast</i> – Old Opera House , Charles Town
Dec. 24-25	Happy Holidays! – Office Closed

Jan. 1, 2008

Happy New Year! – Office Closed