

April 20, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TRENTON CHAMBER MONTHLY UPDATE**

Barneveld – The Trenton Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting on April 14 at the Municipal Building in Barneveld.

President Debby Leiker reported that to date we have 121 paid members. Thank you and welcome to these new members for 2011; ADK Insurance Services, Apeiron Technical Products, CNY Pipeworx, Heywoods Blueberries & Greenhouses, Lawless Real Estate, Paul Chapman Insurance Agency, River Hills Properties LLC, Stockhausers Auto & Marine Services, Total Body Strength & Fitness Inc., Van's Tavern, Wards Drive-In (new owners), Lincoln Investments, and Nine Mile Firearms.

All members get listed on our website ([www.trentonchamber.com](http://www.trentonchamber.com)) as well as in our printed brochure (as long as they met the deadline) and can take advantage of our networking opportunities and Smarten Up program. Be sure to check the website frequently to keep up to date on our happenings. We also encourage members to attend the monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month. Your input is needed to keep the chamber strong and growing.

A spring clean-up is planned at the Visitor Information Center on Route 12 for Saturday May 21 starting at 9am. Volunteers are needed to plant shrubs and other basic cleaning and maintenance work. Mark your calendar and come help out. Your business might also benefit from advertising at the VIC.

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There are a variety of advertising opportunities from renting the sign out front to placing brochures inside. Check the website for information or contact Fitz Hardiman at Adirondack Lanes. The VIC members have decided to donate \$100.00 to the Adirondack North Country Association, the group that puts out the Scenic Byways map. The map will be available at the visitor center soon.

The new member brochures are at the printer and should be available in May. President Leiker showed a proof of the brochure that has been re-formatted for 2011. The brochures will list members both alphabetically and by category. Discussions were held about the possibility of a photo contest next year to have the winning photo put on the brochure cover.

Another informational forum was held on April 6, this one discussing the use of Craig's List. Nichole Hudon of Hudon's Sled & Salvage led the forum, attended by about 10 people. More forums will be held in the future but your input is needed. Let us know what topic you are interested in learning more about, or if you have a topic that may be of interest and help to fellow chamber members that you'd like to share your knowledge of. These informational sessions last about one hour and are free to chamber members. Send your suggestions to the chamber e-mail or contact President Leiker.

Our spring Business After Hours was held on April 14, sponsored by The Soda Fountain in Remsen. More than 50 people attended and enjoyed samples of the restaurant's homemade meatloaf, chicken and biscuits, tomato basil soup and brownie sundaes.

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Owner Steve Boucher addressed the group and briefly talked about the plans for the Remsen Performing and Visual Arts Center coming soon to Main Street. Proceeds of the evening's 50/50 raffle went to the center. An informational meeting about the project will be held April 27 in Remsen. Contact Boucher for details. Thank you to Steve and his crew at The Soda Fountain for a fun evening.

The winner of the 2011 Endowment Award was announced that night at the After Hours. Congratulations to Brian Herkel of Adirondack Art & Framing, Route 12 Barneveld, for taking home the \$500.00 prize. Brian plans to use the money to initiate the production and distribution of a marketing brochure aimed at commercial clients and larger businesses. There were five applicants for the award this year. Thank you to the panel of judges who donated their time to this project. Three of the judges were on hand as the chamber's guests at the Business After Hours.

Please mark your calendar for Monday May 9. That is the date of our trash pickup as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. Volunteers should meet at Adirondack Lanes at 5pm and we'll pick up trash along Route 12 between Hinman Road and Old Poland Road. Refreshments are provided at the Lanes around 7pm. The "raindate" is May 10.

We are still hoping that one of our members will sponsor a summer Business After Hours. These events are a great way to showcase your business and let others in the community know more about what you offer. The chamber likes to hold one of these events quarterly and we have sponsors for the fall and Christmas dates but summer is still available.

Contact President Leiker or send an e-mail to the chamber if you have questions or want more information on what is involved.

The Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley will hold an evening event on Tuesday May 17 at Holiday Inn, New Hartford. This will be in conjunction with National Small Business Week. The first hour will be a time for networking and all members of the Alliance will have tables with their member brochures. The second hour will feature a panel discussion on topics relevant to small business. There are ten chambers of commerce and four affiliate members of the Alliance so this will be a great opportunity to network with others and learn about the businesses and organizations throughout the Mohawk Valley. The program will run from 5:30 until 7:30pm in the ballroom. Keep an eye on our website for more details. Also you are encouraged to provide business cards or flyers for the Trenton Chamber table at this event.

A nominating committee has been formed as the election of officers is coming up very soon. Fitz Hardiman, John Secor and Dan Seifried will be searching for people to run for office. All four officer positions and two director positions are up for election. Please consider what you can do to help our chamber and make it known to one of these men if you are interested in a position. The committee will present its slate at the June meeting and elections take place at the July meeting. We hope you will give serious thought to this. Our chamber is run strictly by volunteers who give up their time to help promote our local businesses. We need your help and input!

The next chamber meeting is May 12 at 8:30am at the Municipal Building.

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