

Weekly NewsBrief



January 12-18, 2009

A weekly e-newsletter to chamber members

Community anxious to hear County Address

As in past years, two hundred area professionals are registered for the 3rd Annual State of the County Address to be held on Tuesday, January 13 at Alexander's in Marysville.

The event is sponsored by **BMJ Engineers & Surveyors** and is coordinated by the Chamber Leaders Circle of St. Clair County. Its been promoted on WGRT 102.3FM, Business Beat, and the Paul Miller Show, 1380AM and in the *Times Herald*.

The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners will have the full attention of a room full of executives, government representatives, sales and marketing professionals and residents throughout St. Clair County looking to County leadership for insight on how our community will manage through these challenging times.

To attend, contact the Chamber by Noon on Monday, January 12 at (810) 985-7101.

Reps from Candice Miller's office visit Chamber

Don Brown and Karen Czernal from Congresswoman Candice Miller's office met briefly with Chamber President, Vickie Ledsworth and Public Affairs Committee Chair, Rick Dionne on Wednesday, January 7th to discuss the top political and legislative goals for the Chamber in 2009.

The Chamber encouraged accelerated depreciation, investment tax credits, avoiding new burdensome regulations, and reduction of corporate tax rates.

PAC Chair Dionne also encouraged working with Senators Levin and Stabenow to attract new military hardware manufacturing to St. Clair County.

PAC will coordinate coffee hours with elected officials in 2009.

Staff works to enhance affinity programs

Staff at the BWACC have met with our current affinity program sponsors **Blue Cross Blue Shield** and **AAA of Michigan** to learn how we can better promote the benefits and services these companies offer to Chamber members.

Comcast has also presented staff with a new affinity program for their Comcast Business Class services. Staff is working out the details with Comcast and will present an affinity contract to the Executive Board in February for approval.

Lake Huron Woods puts out welcome mat for Chamber

The first Wine & Cheese Mixer of the new year was held on Thursday, January 8th at the **Village of Lake Huron Woods** in Fort Gratiot.

The Village hosted and sponsored the event, and warmly welcomed about fifty Chamber members for appetizers, beverages and networking. The Village also offered tours of the lovely senior living apartments and cabins.

The Village also offers several meeting rooms to Chamber member businesses and churches.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out about meeting room accommodations and availability, please contact Carol Krainbrink at (810) 385-9516.



About 40 members attend first Wine & Cheese 2009

Lake Huron Woods board members proud to show off facility



Board announces special events for 2009

Sub-committees being formed

The Chamber's Board of Directors approved three major events in 2009 aimed at offering members fun and sophisticated opportunities for networking and recognition.

The first special event will be held in May during "Small Business Month" at McMorran and will be a large signature entertainment event, **Funny Business** that will include an exclusive VIP dinner beforehand. This committee is being led by Board Chair, Marty Doorn and President Vickie Ledsworth.

At the end of August, the Chamber will host the annual "**Drive For Success**" **Golf Tournament**. Anyone interested in being involved in the golf committee should contact the Chamber office by emailing info@bluewaterchamber.com.

September is "Chamber of Commerce Month" and this will be our time to shine as we host our **Annual Meeting and Business Awards**. Past Chairperson, Pam Ruthenberg will chair this sub-committee.

Reduce Your MI Business Property Taxes

This comprehensive, full-day seminar will help you reduce your business property taxes.

You will learn how to recognize over assessments, save taxes on personal property reporting, avoid property tax litigation, and navigate the appeal process. Recent developments will be emphasized.

You will also get practical tips for taking advantage of business incentives, abatements and tax credits, including how to avoid the traps, and how to make sense out of the alphabet soup of economic development incentives that you can use.

Returning popular speaker, Jeff Ammon, attorney with Miller Johnson, will cover widely used programs such as property tax abatement, plus useful information about less commonly used programs such as Renaissance Zones, MEGA credits, TIF, Act 328, Opra, Brownfield assistance, Smart Zones, etc.

Michigan Business Property Taxes

LANSING: Tuesday, January 20th from 9:00am-3:30pm

NOVI: Thursday, January 22nd from 9:00am-3:30pm

\$295 per person / \$270 for MI Chamber members

Call the Michigan Chamber of Commerce at (800) 748-0344 to register.

Former office a great location for sole proprietor

While the Chamber met its goal of moving to a new location in 2008, they have a new goal of selling the former Chamber office—or at least leasing it out—in 2009.

It's a great location for a sole proprietor such as a consultant, attorney, accountant, or hairdresser. It could also be a good option for a business from outside the area that needs a smaller satellite office.

The office is approximately 1,000 square feet and the floor plan inside could be opened up offering more flexibility. It has built-in storage and a newer furnace and central air.

The building, located at 920 Pine Grove Avenue just north of Glenwood, is for sale for \$99,900.



Anyone interested in more information should contact Don Cole, **Kramer Realty** at (810) 987-4622.