

GR. HUDSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

June/July 2009

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Dates to Remember

- August 5th, 5:30 PM (Wednesday) - BAH (No cost to attend) at Showtime Computers
- September 10th (Thursday) — Community Expo 4PM—7PM at Alvirne High School (FREE)
- Book your event for 2009, call the chamber!

2009 Directors

- President: Dr. Scott Szela
Chiropractic Works (2010)
- Executive VP: Jerry Mayotte
Red Brick Clothing Co (2012)
- Treasurer: Janet Hamel
St. Mary's Bank (2010)
- Secretary: Jennifer Wheeler
Hudson Cycle Center (2012)
- Outgoing President: Tim Malley
TJ Malley Electric (2011)
- Steve Forkey
Web Action Group (2011)
- Scott Dionne
Specialty Kitchens (2010)
- Steve Flaherty
Sam's Club of Hudson (2011)
- Richard Lutz
Alvirne High School (2012)
- Alison Cote
Merchant Solutions (2012)
- Mike Falzone
Area News Group (2012)
- Fred Ramos
Showtime Computers (2010)
- Tom Dean
T Dean Construction (2010)
- Executive Director: Brenda Collins

NETWORKING at Showtime Computers



15 Derry Street, Hudson
**Wednesday,
August 5th at 5:30PM**

Register online at www.HudsonChamber.com to attend
and a chance to win a Laptop Computer—No cost to attend!

Parking:
Additional parking at the
Hills Library on Library Street

REFRESHMENTS!
PRIZES! NETWORKING!



Showtime Computers

SAVE THE DATE

EXPO 2009

Thursday · September 10th · 4 -7PM
COMMUNITY EXPO
Alvirne High School
200 Derry Rd, Route 102, Hudson

Exhibitor Fee: \$95 for members;
\$175 non-members

Event Sponsors: \$350, includes booth, inclusion in all
advertising with company logo, and banner display.
Book your space – call the Chamber!

Current Sponsor:



**Granite State
Credit Union**

Full-Service Branch at Alvirne High School
www.gscu.org

CAPTURED CONNECTIONS

*At the St. Mary's Business After Hours and Chamber Palooza many attendees are captured making connections!
We look forward to seeing you at future Chamber events!*



Welcome New Members

- ☆ **Weichert Realtors**, Cathy Krzyzek, 33 Trafalgar Square, Nashua (603) 521-6400 or visit them online at www.weichertpeterson.com
- ☆ **Tokyo Joes Karate**, Matthew Babine, 142 Lowell Road, Hudson (603) 577-4560 or visit them online at www.tokyojoeshudson.com
- ☆ **Friend Lumber**, Karen LeBlanc, 261 Lowell Road, Hudson (603) 598-6662 or www.friendlumber.com

- ☆ **Barlo Signs**, Arthur Bartlett, 158 Greely Street, Hudson (603) 882-2638 or www.barlosigns.com
- ☆ **The Nashua Bank**, Angela Provencher, 188 Main Street, Nashua (603) 882-2700 or visit them online at www.thenashuabank.com

If you know of a business that could benefit from membership with the Gr. Hudson Chamber of Commerce, share their contact information with the GHCC or direct them to learn more about us by calling the Chamber office or to visit us at www.HudsonChamber.com

Governmental Affairs Committee Proposes Allowing Electronic Changing Signs in Hudson

The Governmental Affairs (GA) Committee was implemented by the Chamber Board of Directors to assist in creating an open communication between the business community and the local governmental bodies. The committee currently meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 8:00 AM in the Chamber office.

The GA committee is currently working on the technical aspects and language portion of a possible ordinance to allow Electronic Changing Signs in our community. The committee is actively working with members of the local business community and local sign companies to draft an ordinance that would be beneficial to the business community while maintaining the careful balance of not disrupting the character of the Hudson community. An initial draft has been

presented to the Hudson Planning Board first in May and recently at the July 22nd meeting and will again be discussed at the September 2nd Planning Board meeting.

The GA committee is also watching for any further action in reference to a suggested additional tax being placed on the business community by isolating signs as a taxable commodity in the community. The GHCC board has responded to this suggestion with the letter to the editor listed below.

The GA committee is also beginning the discussion on how to properly form, develop and utilize an economic development committee in the community of Hudson. If any of these topics or a topic not listed is of interest to you, you are invited to attend the next meeting.

GHCC Responds to "Taxing Signage"

Hudson/Litchfield News Letter to the Editor:

The Gr. Hudson Chamber of Commerce would like to respond to letter to the editor by Bill McInerney, Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment in the May 15th publication with regards to suggested taxation of Business Signs in Hudson.

Businesses play a major role in any community, they provide products, services, and jobs, in addition they provide support behind the scenes as they make contributions for local organizations, non-profits as well as town programs that may not have otherwise been financially able to operate. In the current down turn in the economy with businesses closing and smaller ones and even larger companies struggling, the additional burden of taxing signs could undermine the vitality and potency of our community resulting in more businesses downsizing, relocating and disappearing all together.

It can be said that signs do assist businesses and may in fact aid in the financial return for the business advertiser trying to market their products and services, however in order for a business to operate they already face many current costs associated in establishing, maintaining and struggling to basically exist. It is imperative that Hudson be seen as a welcoming community for businesses as they not only provide goods and services for consumers but job opportunities.

Businesses are permissible in districts zoned as "business", "commercial" and "industrial" and as a result of the basic label of these properties,

have a higher real estate market value in comparison to a "residentially" zoned parcel of land when assessing the value used for tax calculations. Since these "business" zoned locations have an elevated property value because of the allowable use of the property it results in an assessment already being all encompassing in its designation as a business to include allowable signage. Incurring further taxation on signs erected on property zoned for business would further impede the business community.

Businesses already have many taxation burdens such their Town tax which includes paying their portion for school funding at the same time having no impact on the school system; businesses pay higher town service fees, most often double or quadruple the rate of a residential applicant, with regard to building fees such as electrical, inspection, plumbing, mechanical, occupancy, as well as other such site fees, not to mention impact fees. Then above the local taxation, businesses must comply with State regulated taxes such as Business Profits tax, Business Enterprise Tax, licensing and for restaurant and lodging businesses the rooms and meals taxes; then lets not forget the unemployment taxation. There are many costs associated with being a business owner and by adding yet another taxation burden to their list will deter new businesses considering Hudson a potential location to establish and have them looking to other communities. Some may feel this is for the best to control the number of businesses in Hudson, but the top taxpayers in the community of Hudson are business entities, and with out them the citizen will most assuredly have the burden

on their backs.

Another topic noted by Mr. McInerney in his letter, he highlighted a recent planning board workshop that took up the discussion of emerging sign technology. The Chamber has in fact submitted a proposal for dialogue which proposes allowing certain LED sign types along with specific regulations for such signage, however there was no request for "making them bigger, bolder and brighter". The discussion was to work toward an agreeable plan for the business and residential community to allow for the progress of technology, energy savings and cost effectiveness in relation to signage.

In closing, as the Chamber moves forward working with input from chamber businesses, the town planning board and gathering information from sign companies, it will also implement a form on their website to encourage local residents and businesses to share their input about LED signs. The survey will be posted at www.HudsonChamber.com and open to everyone.

Sincerely,
*Gr. Hudson Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors*

May 20, 2009

POLICY DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE FEEDBACK

In June the Business and Industry Association, in partnership with chambers of commerce and business associations throughout the state, conducted several policy development roundtables. This process assists BIA in a proactive business agenda for 2010. Below are the issues and challenges discussed with the Gr. Hudson Chamber and Souhegan Valley Chamber.

Issues/Challenges:

Energy

- ❖ Rising cost of energy
- ❖ Reliability of electricity

Workforce Dev./Health Care/Human Resources

- ❖ Rising cost of health care/health insurance
- ❖ Continued viability of worker training
- ❖ Quality of education (high school/comm. college)
- ❖ Issues relating to work ethic

Fiscal/State Tax and Budget

- ❖ Risk of increased business taxes

Economic Development

- ❖ Lack of appreciation of public policy makers for global competition
- ❖ Lack of rail freight options
- ❖ Uncompetitive weight limits for trucking
- ❖ Lack of workforce housing
- ❖ Inadequate water / sewer infrastructure
- ❖ Inadequate public transportation options

Environment

- ❖ Increased pressure on business from new environmental regulations
- ❖ Environmental regulations for utilities get passed onto business in form of higher electricity rates.

Top Challenges:

1. Risk of increasing business taxes
 - ❖ Engage in educating policy makers on challenges that business community faces
 - ❖ Educate policy makers on the value of manufacturing / business to the state economy
 - ❖ Educate policy makers on the human impacts of business tax increases
 - ❖ Need for state-to-state competitive tax data
2. Rising cost of healthcare / health insurance
 - ❖ Focus on supplemental insurance products
 - ❖ Educate small business on health insurance choices
 - ❖ Educate policy makers on costs / number of healthcare mandates
 - ❖ Expand "Healthy Kids"
 - ❖ Work closer with Citizens Health Initiative

**Bring customers, clients and
new connections to your door!**

Let us help you host a Business After Hours!
Currently available are the months of October and
November. Call the Chamber office today to book
your event!



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www.HudsonChamber.com
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