



Message from the President



On Thursday, January 19th, the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony at Martin's East. It was a wonderful event with well over 200 attendees, and our Executive Director Sharon Kihn and several volunteers put in many hours of work to make it happen.

The headlines will address the fact that Governor Larry Hogan was the keynote speaker. He came early to network with the attendees and stayed through the end of the program. Please see the article by Gianna DeCarlo for details regarding his speech, which was very well received. The Chamber also presented the new Board of Directors and awards to local businesses and individuals.

The night was special, for we had the opportunity to say "Thank you" to some people and businesses who work very hard to improve our community. Like many communities, eastern Baltimore County has many people and businesses which devote time, talent and treasure to make this a better place to live and work. All too often we hear the noise from some of the bad actors and not enough gratitude to the people who try to make it work.

We thanked Richardson Farms for their dedication to quality products and outstanding service. While their store on Ebenezer Road has become a local landmark, the family also helps out many local organizations, such as the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company and Stella Maris.

We also thanked Jim Jennings Transmissions for providing superior service to customers and to the community. People might forget the decades that this business has anchored the business district of Essex or may not know that Gary Jennings served as a leader for over a decade of the national trade association for transmission repair. We thank them for consistently being a leader in quality for their customers and always being at the front of the line when it comes to assisting with projects to uplift Eastern Boulevard.

We thanked the Back River Restoration Committee, Inc. The volunteers and staff of this nonprofit organization have devoted many hours to cleaning up Back River. Last year alone they cleaned up over 800,000 pounds of trash and debris and over 1,000 tires from the river. Most of us forget how bad the river was just a few years ago. It still needs work, but these people have made it so much better. They also hold fundraisers to contribute to other charitable community projects.

We thanked Cliff O'Connell and Cliff's High Tech Body Shop, Inc. They have spent tens of thousands of dollars in helping to clean up derelict properties and rid streets of old damaged cars. Our community has some areas in dire need of assistance, and Cliff and his team have worked diligently in trying to make some of these areas just a bit nicer. Their donation of a customized van to MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center to transport cancer patients for treatment is just one of the many ways they have uplifted our community.

We thanked Tradepoint Atlantic for having the intestinal fortitude to step up and reclaim and reinvigorate the Sparrows Point property. Not only did they agree to clean up the site from long outstanding environmental issues, but also they have entered into a major redevelopment that already is translating into thousands of jobs in our area. It is estimated that over 17,000 jobs will be added to the Maryland economy through the improvements and reuse of the site.

The Chamber also thanked two past Presidents and longtime members Gayle Adams and Marc Czosnowski for keeping the Chamber going through a very bleak period. After retiring from a leadership position at Johns Hopkins Bayview, Gayle kept the lights on through countless volunteer hours, and Marc engineered a way for the Chamber to pay off its debt and keep us solvent. Events like the other night would never have happened if these two people had not seen the value of the Chamber and kept it alive.

Last, but certainly not least, as part of its formal recognition, the Chamber thanked Mike Caruthers of Somerset Construction Company by putting him into the Business Leaders' Hall of Fame. Years ago, a former Governor called Route 43 the road to opportunity. Mike and his team have made it a reality. He has been a consistent promoter of all that is good in our area and has worked with community and business leaders alike to make our community a better place. His residential and business developments embody a live/work environment, and we owe Mike a real debt of gratitude for making the Route 43 corridor something for which we can really be proud.

Please take the opportunity when you see any of these people or patronize their businesses to say "thank you." It means a lot to have people willing to go the extra mile.

In saying "thank you," special recognition also was given to Police Chief Jim Johnson and his wife, who also attended. Jim started his career 40 years ago in the Essex Precinct, came back to command the precinct and leaves the County as a nationally recognized and honored Chief of Police. Jim's many achievements as Chief have been recited elsewhere. What we recognize him for is his character and compassionate care for the people of this community. He served the County well, and we are particularly grateful that he calls our area "home."

Our Chamber is growing and doing exciting things through the hard work of many volunteers and staff. This community has an exciting future before it, and we can only hope that the honorees will inspire others to join them in continuing to make this community a great place to live and work.

John Gontrum
Chamber President

THANK YOU FOUNDATION SPONSOR



UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Please mark your calendar, plan to join us, and bring a friend to the following upcoming Chamber events. Additional details and registration information can be found on our website – www.chesapeakechamber.org.

15th Annual MEGA Networking Event
Wednesday, February 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sheraton Baltimore North, 903 Dulany Valley Road, Towson, MD 21204
\$25 per person in advance; \$35 at the door; \$40 for non-members
Network with businesses throughout Baltimore County at this special annual event.

Financial Wellness Strategies with Michael Sass, The Catalyst Academy
Wednesday, February 8, 8:30-10:00 a.m.
Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce office
405 Williams Court, Suite 108, Baltimore, MD 21220
\$10 for Chamber members; \$15 for non-members
As an employer, you are looking for ways to reduce health insurance costs, improve staff attendance and increase productivity. Employees' financial concerns have a direct impact on these three areas. Learn how you can assist your employees and your business through financial education.

Issues & Eggs Breakfast with Our County Council Members
Thursday, February 23, 8-9:30 a.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Baltimore/White Marsh
5015 Campbell Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21236
\$25 for Members-\$30 after 2/16; \$35 for Non-Members

Our Baltimore County Council members will offer their perspectives on the business issues we can expect to see addressed by the Council in 2017.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Chesapeake Gateway Chamber would like to welcome and thank the following organizations which recently joined the Chamber. Please support these members.

Accent Printers, Inc.
410.335.3500
www.accentprinters.com

Martin's East
410.265.1300
www.martinscaterers.com

One Source Imaging Solutions, Inc.
410.931.6363, ext. 1126
www.osisinc.com

Tradepoint Atlantic
410.709.1286
www.tradepointatlantic.com

Back River Restoration Committee, Inc.
443.983.2945
www.savebackriver.org

Maryland Transit Administration
410.767.0667
www.mta.maryland.gov

Perry Hall Middle School
410.887.5100
www.perryhallms.bcps.org

Urban Air White Marsh
Grand Opening 2/4/17
410.975.4949
www.urbanairtrampolinepark.com

Essex Pharmacy & Surgicals
410.686.0373
www.facebook.com/EssexPharmacy

Nature's Image, Inc.
410.477.5320
www.naturesimageinc.net

Q Marketing and Design
410.707.2404
www.qmaryland.com

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