



Avon Chamber of Commerce

Citizens & Business Working Together

The Economic Development Committee encourages industrial and commercial growth along with a commitment to our existing business and industry in Avon.

The Civic Committee is dedicated to community activities that enhance the quality of life in Avon.

Let us

develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

Daniel Webster

Call (585) 226-5030

for more information about the Avon Chamber of Commerce!

Visit us on the web:
avonny.org

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We're on the downside of winter and looking forward to March-days-turning-into-spring! Your Avon Chamber of Commerce met on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for the lunchtime get-together at the Avon Park Theater, and thanks to Ann Younger for making the space available to us.

- President Mike Carroll – soon to be president-emeritus!! – and vice-prez Steve Harrison chaired a lively and informative session, on the impact of proposed tariffs on Canadian products and on local business. Think: Canadian blossoms, for a florist's preferred source; think: Canadian clay for potters and school pottery programs; think: Canadian paper mills for newsprint supplies. It is easy to see why proposed tariffs on such products are of considerable concern to local business owners. This is the sort of information exchange and networking opportunity your Avon Chamber offers, each month. As Ann stated, "It's difficult, being a small business in a small community." However, it's precisely the challenges offered, that encourage each of us to work to support this special small community.
- As noted, this is Mike Carroll's final meeting as Chamber president, as he moves in to a similarly-challenging role on Avon Central Schools' Board. Many thanks to Mike, from each of us, for his several years of leadership to our Chamber. Mike restated his commitment to locality: to work on various levels of governance, state, county, town, village – where individual contributions, needs, ethics, and energies, are heard and valued.
- Mike's Western New York Pottery Festival – as we've noted previously – will once again take place on Fathers' Day weekend in June. Once again, this is a juried event. Pottery classes, set for a maximum of 45 participants, are currently at 43, nearly full. He's observed – and this is reinforced in discussions with other Rochester-area artisans – that people are eager for constructive activities to fill spaces left by social media and television barrages. Other concerns shared with area studios highlight the impact of announced tariffs.
- Steve Harrison announced that letters have recently been sent to all parents of high school seniors, whether at ACS, McQuaid, Mercy, or another school, seeking entries for the Chuck McFadden Student Service Award program. This long-standing award benefits a student who has contributed to this community, and the \$1,000 check supports that student's further education or career. We'll be looking forward to reviewing these entries later this spring, and announcing the winner, in time for June awards programs at ACS.
- Marinda Rucinski, our Chamber treasurer, reported our checking account in good condition; the savings account, which is dedicated to that Student Service Award, is currently receiving donations after a holiday-time appeal; thanks to all the local donors who help to fund that. For Community Bank N.A., Marinda reported the bank is working on new branches in Pittsford and Webster, and a drive-through for a branch for Henrietta is in the works. The bank itself needs 30 days' notice for any request for contributions to fundraising.
- And a vigorous roundtable discussion on Genesee St. Merchants concerns during Corn Fest ensued.

• Chris Quinlan reported for the Village of Avon: a new Village website is in the works. She's asked Barbara Herman to coordinate concerns from businesses including Genesee Street merchants, about Corn Fest logistics, and pass them on to Corn Fest chair Collin Hayes. She also announced the Village's new police chief, Robert Tygart. A meet-greet session is planned for March 6.

• Dave Leven reported for Sports Medicine Concepts: all their 35 instructors from across the U.S. convened recently; a video of their sessions was recorded. Thanks to Featured Media for producing a video on their website. Next up will be the start of training sessions, beginning with the Minnesota Lynx of the WNBA. SMC's annual First Responders' program will take place Monday, April 28, with a planned Red Cross blood drive 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. and a session on child safety 5:00 - 8:00. Cornell Cooperative Extension will be on site. The event is open to the public.

• Michelle Burke represented the Avon Central Schools at this meeting; she is director of Digital Systems at the school. A Special Olympics event is planned for May 29, and staff will be able to volunteer for this event.

• Bob Hunn reported for Avon Floral World: they've installed a "Flower Box" – build your own floral centerpieces! – check out the window displays at the shop. They are working on a wedding website, with Featured Media staff. He discussed their sources of flowers, preferably from Canada, but sometimes from Ecuador or Mexico. He also talked about other companies' ability to interject into on-line orders; the purchaser may believe they're ordering from Avon Floral but that possibly-out-of-country company is controlling the order, with lesser net income to Avon Floral. Sound complicated? Bob will be happy to explain the reason for the "buy local" emphasis you're hearing.

• Geri Brewer reported for Avon Preservation & Historical Society. Geri shared bookmark-cards with APHS programs. Coming up on Sundays at the Opera Block building on April 13, the History of the Early American Flintlock, presented by Mark Robinson, and on May 18, History of Lookover Stallion Station, by Randy Kozlowski; both are open to the public at no charge. Rhonda LeFeber is APHS curator and Ben Warner training to assist in this work. Saturday, March 8, a first-time offering: 150 Years of Avon Artists, at the Opera Block, 1:00-3:00 p.m. On a church-related note, the Wesleyan Church becomes the Riverstone Wesleyan, on April 6.

• Further notes from Chris Quinlan for the Village: new grant funding supports a radar unit and body cameras. Mayor Rob Hayes is in Albany this date to lobby for Village needs. Work continues on the Erie-Attica trail waterway; a water project for the Triphammer area is projected, hopefully in cooperation with Genesee. This is a year for tree care, replacement, pruning, cleanup. There are plans for a large floating solar project, to generate total electricity for municipal needs.

Time for a "heads-up" on our next meeting, **Tuesday, April 1** – April Fools' Day – no fooling' – we'll meet at the **Avon Park Theater at noon**, thanks to Ann Younger. Bring your lunch, or not, but bring yourself to listen, learn and share! **Hope to see you there!**