



Avon Chamber of Commerce

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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Avon, New York
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Moving right along, into 2024, your Avon Chamber of Commerce enjoyed a Peppermints lunch on Tuesday, February 6. Joining Chamber President Mike Carroll were Vice President Steve Harrison and members Leann Hill, Dave Leven, Chris Quinlan, Marinda Rucinski, Paul Tilly, Bob Westfall, Maureen Wheeler and Ann Younger and your secretary Barbara Herman. We were delighted to welcome Avon Central School teachers Erik Schneider, Amanda Schroeder and Tara Schneider, High School Principal Ryan Wagner, and the students in their IT classes, Trevor Stroud and Andrew Caudill.

Our regular roundtable discussion included:

- Marinda Rucinski, our Chamber Treasurer, reporting on the status of our checking and savings accounts. Reporting for Community Bank N.A. she promoted the bank's canned food drive taking place during February. They are currently encouraging IRA and Health Savings Accounts. Welcome to Doug Sandurand, Marinda's guest from the bank.
- Ann Younger, reporting for her Avon Park Theater, pronounced "Queen Mary" was a great show and a huge success. Coming up on May 4 is Travis Prinzi with a Dylan tribute – and we understand Tim Hayes may be singing along. Ann is working with a new ticketing platform, and has already booked 3 shows for 2025. Remember to check www.avonparktheater.com for up-to-the-minute show information. You can e-mail her at anny@avonparktheater.org.
- Maureen Wheeler reporting for Livingston County Economic Development: there were 41 applicants for the recent Dream-o-Vate funding opportunity. Seven grants will be opening up for tourism promotions, including festivals and events, and digital efforts. Reach her at mwheeler@co.livingston.ny.us.
- Bob Westfall is moving closer to seeing his dream of a restored-better-than-ever third floor of the Opera Block building completed and open. A grand opening is set for March 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., with ribbon cutting. There will be a brief opening ceremony at 1:00 pm. Afterwards, everyone is welcome to walk through the building to see the beautiful restoration of the facility. Performances at 2:30 will include Trinidadian steel drum music by Panloco, singing by the Avon High School Senior Choir, and Exit 8, SUNY Genesee's acapella group. Students from Avon's Dance Emporium will perform, as well as dance companies Commotion Dance Theater, MahataMmoho Collective, and Devi Bollywood. Thanks to the Council on the Arts. A great event to look forward to!!
- Chris Quinlan reported for Village of Avon activities: the St. Patrick's Parade is back!! It's set for March 16, starting at the Elementary School at 3:00 p.m. and finishing at the Genesee Street pocket park. Great fun planned including live music from Bob's Brother's Band and family-friendly activities. Applications

for parade spots being accepted until March 15. The same crew who brings you the Avon Holiday Spectacular are the organizers: e-mail for info: AvonStPatricksParade@gmail.com.

- Dave Leven reported for Sports Medicine Concepts: Dave reported that the newly-named Featured Media is helping SMC with some re-branding for an upcoming show they'll be exhibiting at. And WE will experience the venue and the training programs when we next meet, Tuesday, March 5, at 12:00 for a tour and lunch. Owner Mike is providing those lunches from Partyman Catering. Contact Steve Harrison to add your name to this list - stevharrison@gvpennysaver.com.
- Leann Hill reported for Edward Jones Financial: the emphasis and efforts are on life insurance, both permanent and term. Older life policies can be converted to long-term care insurance. Contact her at edwardjones.com, or stop in to meet her at 87 Genesee Street. Call 226-3464 for Leann's help with this important need. Leann also discussed the BNI group she coordinates. Join them every Thursday for an 8:00 a.m. breakfast at Peppermints. This organization features no more than one participant from any occupation, and they're currently seeking members from the building trades, as well as an attorney and a mechanic. "It's all about networking", she promises.
- Mike Carroll confesses he is challenged by the prospect of AI and all the social media outlets. He encourages the students, who are "born into" this world, to learn and to work at these challenges. Our meeting became very exciting, as the IT staff from Avon Central and the students were back-and-forth with Chamber members, plans and needs for the Chamber itself and for business members to work out next steps. Ryan Wagner, high school principal, discussed their "Lunch and Learn" programs, partnering with Angela Grouse of the Business Education Alliance to bring business owners in to meet with students in their respective industries and careers.
- Since the "Avon Braves" are to be no more, there was discussion on the three finalists for the name to succeed them: "Archers," "Nova," and "River Hawks." The chosen name is River Hawks. Students will be working on possible graphics for this name. It's great for students to have an opportunity to give birth to this challenge.

That's it!! **Until we meet at Sports Medicine Concepts in East Avon on Tuesday, March 5, at noon, for our tour of this facility.** Hope to see YOU and your colleagues and employees there. As noted above, contact Steve Harrison to plan to participate. stevharrison@gvpennysaver.com