



AVON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Citizens & Business Working Together

The Economic Development Committee encourages industrial and commercial development 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 585-226-8080
for more information about Avon!

Visit us on the web:
avoncommunity.us

Our Chamber of Commerce resumed monthly breakfast meetings with our gathering on September 5, 2017. Joining President Mike Carroll were Tom Bartolini, Geri Brewer, Jerry Dougherty, Steve Harrison, Barbara Herman, Bob Hunn, Maureen Kingston, Jen Krause, Melissa Savino, Jean Schoenthal, Bonnie Taylor-Davis, Paul Tilly, and Rene Tilly-Lyness. Nice turnout!

◆ Our guest was Elissa Leuer, Tourism Director for the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Directors for that Chamber has decided on a new policy and format for the annual Visitors' Guide. Beginning with the 2018 edition, municipalities will be permitted to promote their own activities and events, but will no longer be allowed to be supported on their pages by individual merchants. The Board has designated these participating merchants as "subletting" advertising space. A very spirited discussion followed. The page which we had for many years sponsored featuring "Avon" and "A Century of Hospitality" priced at \$1,600.00 in 2017, would then cost \$2,800.00. An eighth-page ad - approximately business-card size - would cost \$375.00. Mike stressed that the Avon Chamber is a membership organization, and each of the participating members shown on the Avon page are members of this Chamber. Elissa promised to bring our conversation and our concerns to the Livingston Chamber Board, and to return to our October meeting with feedback from them. She also shared the sad news from the Chamber of the sudden death of Jan Keane, membership coordinator. She also announced a block party on Millennium Drive in Geneseo on September 20 featuring food trucks and awards to be presented. There was also discussion of the competitive bidding process required to earn matching funds from New York State.

◆ Maureen Kingston reported as Avon Town Historian. In August, she provided a tour of the area for new ACS school employees, familiarizing them with the local economy and history. A public information meeting regarding the Papermill Park bridge resulted in engineers and designers agreeing to incorporate original millstones into the replacement bridge. Maureen reported also on a planned historical marker for John Hubbard Forsyth, onetime Avon resident, who was present at the siege of the Alamo.

◆ Jen Krause reported on their continuing efforts at the Avon Inn. HVAC and bathrooms are currently being updated. The ballroom is completed; the doors and pillars separating the two sections having been removed. A chef has been hired, anticipating providing "upscale pub food" seven days a week. A New Year's Eve celebration is being planned, attendance to be by invitation. Occupancy of the public areas is listed at 216 persons.

◆ Mike Carroll noted that the Western New York Pottery Festival for 2018 will be on June 16 and 17.

◆ Steve Harrison reported on recent renewed interest in the Park Theatre. A draft letter to Village Mayor Tom Freeman and Town Supervisor David LeFever in support of coming up with a viable usage of the Park Theater will be presented to the Chamber Board at our October meeting. Further, the Chamber learned of a "Restore New York" grant that is available. All present were in favor and showed strong support for this initiative, to rehabilitate, restore and reuse this building.

◆ Jerry Dougherty reported on recent activities by the Avon Rotary Club. The Corn Fest was a great success, despite a brief midday down-pour. Next up will be the Annual Community Awards Program, taking place September 12 at the Middle School Auditorium and honoring the following with Paul Harris fellowships: local business owner Sandy Irish; longtime Corn Fest volunteer Peter Maynard (nephew of Jean Batzing); and our own Bonnie Taylor-Davis. Also being recognized is the huge construction re-do of the Quik-Lee's station-complex on Route 15. All community members were invited and the event was emceed by Don Alhart of Channel 13 News.

◆ Geri Brewer reported for the Avon Preservation and Historical Society. Their booth at the Rotary Corn Fest sold out all 2018 calendars, which featured local farms. Christmas tree ornaments are still available and may be purchased at the APHS museum on Genesee Street. The next public presentation on September 17 will feature "Women in 19th Century Literature." Geri also reported on the new location for the Food Pantry, in the former St. Agnes Rectory, with freezer and refrigerator storage space and a client-choice format. This allows folks to choose fresh produce and frozen products which meet individual family needs.

◆ That's all the news for now but be sure to "tune in" and attend the October 3 meeting for an update on the 2018 Visitor Guide from Livingston County Chamber and a discussion on Avon's part in this publication under the announced restrictions. That's Tuesday, October 3, at 7:30 a.m. at Peppermints Restaurant.