



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

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avonny.org

The February 6, 2018, meeting of the Avon Chamber of Commerce was chaired by Chamber President Mike Carroll. Joining him for breakfast at Peppermints were Tom Bartolini, Geri Brewer, Ted Coyne, Jerry Dougherty, Steve Harrison, Barbara Herman, LeeAnn Hill, Bob Hunn, Aaron Johnson, Jen Krause, Herb and Marjorie Martin, Melissa Savino, Paul Tilly and Ann Younger.

◆ Chamber Vice President Steve Harrison brought information on Livingston County Development: The agency had contracted with Larisa Ortiz Associates of New York City, for research and recommendations on behalf of the nine “downtown” areas in County towns and findings to be presented at a combined meeting on February 20 at the Genesee River Hotel in Mt. Morris. Follow-up note: Avon was well represented at that February 20 meeting, by a group of 20 businesses, elected representatives David LeFeber and Rob Hayes, and others. That group then discussed the findings. An Avon-specific meeting on March 13 will continue the discussion and plan for next steps. ALL are welcome to attend and contribute ideas: that’s Tuesday, March 13 at the Village Hall at 6:30 pm with Louise Wadsworth of LCD.

◆ Jen Krause updated us on progress at the Avon Inn: a Valentine’s Day Dinner is offered. On 2/24, a Murder Mystery Theatre dinner at \$125 per couple sounds like great fun! The Inn is open seven days; brunch is planned for Easter and for Mother’s Day. Two weddings have been booked for 2018, plus two for 2019. She also reported that Don Moran has loaned three old paintings for display at the Inn, including one of Hartford House in Geneseo, and one of the historic signing event at the Big Tree. Thanks to the efforts of Steve Harrison and Jerry Dougherty, we have a great announcement: our Citizen of the Year Dinner will move to the Avon Inn, on Saturday, May 19. We’ve been well served the past couple of years, by Peppermints and the site at the Avon Community Center, and thank all those who contributed to past Citizen dinners. It will be delightful to see the rebuilt interior of the Inn for our annual event and hope each of you will, right now, mark this date in your calendars and plan on attending. (Saturday, May 19) We’ll send more details on pricing and menu as they become available. Of course, we will also bestow the Chuck McFadden Student Service Award that night. It’s not too early to begin preparing your own nomination for the Citizen of the Year awardee.

◆ A grant has been awarded to Avon Community Theatre and Cynthia Towler. Congratulations to them!

◆ LeeAnn Hill of Edward Jones Advisors reported on her “Welcome Wagon” activities. She has prepared gift bags from 25 local businesses including discount coupons, and has visited 70 new Avon residents. Avon Floral World provides the baskets (thank you, Bob and Donna Hunn!). Other contributions include a sample from Once Again Nut Butter in Nunda. The new residents include some folks at Avon Commons and others in established areas. Thanks to LeeAnn for all these efforts.

◆ Chamber Treasurer Jerry Dougherty reported on the Chamber’s finances. We will soon ask the community to help fund our Chuck McFadden Student Service Award, traditionally \$1,000.00 to the student winner and also to help with our ‘Citizen’ expenses on May 19th. The Chamber also received a thank-you from the Humane Society of Livingston County, for our donation at holidaytime.

◆ Steve Harrison promised an interesting program for the Avon Preservation & Historical Society on February 11 (and an excellent program it was, Steve, thank you), with much historical information on the 70 years of the Genesee Valley Penny Saver - its origin, various sites, growth and services.

◆ Paul Tilly of the Tilly (Insurance) Agencies called attention to a recent Genesee Valley Penny Saver announcement, encouraging all to SHOP LOCAL: If you don’t shop local, you won’t have a “local” available in the future.

◆ Jerry Dougherty reported on the Avon Rotary Club’s hands-on project for the Veterans’ Outreach Center. Many (especially older) military veterans need new or refreshed clothing for job interviews or for new work settings. Rotarians are collecting these, to be handed over to the Center’s director on February 20.

◆ Ted Coyne reported on the Rotary-Lions Ambulance, continually in need of community support, both \$-wise and volunteer-hours. 151 ambulance calls were taken in December. This is the only ambulance company in Livingston County currently receiving NO tax support.

◆ Mike Carroll and Steve Harrison have met with Louise Wadsworth and Maureen Wheeler of Livingston County Development to develop materials on shopping locally, such as rack cards. Next step will be to request their ongoing support from Mayor Tom Freeman and Supervisor David LeFeber.

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- ◆ School Superintendent Aaron Johnson reported for ACS District: the 2015 five-year plan for facilities upgrades is being implemented; the primary and the high school buildings need roofs; a committee of 15 persons is working on Educational Legacy Planning including “flexible learning environment” ideas; finally, “The Sound of Music” will be the springtime dramatic offering. See the recent ACS newsletter for better details on all these topics.
 - ◆ Paul Tilly notes that Zion Episcopal Church has a new (half-time) priest beginning this spring.
 - ◆ Marjorie Martin announced the March 10 dinner dance for the American Legion, proceeds to benefit outreach to military children. There are seven applicants to Girls’ State, to take place in July, and to educate girls on government. The Life Leadership program offered by Marjorie and Herb includes financial and cyberspace protections.
 - ◆ Tom Bartolini reported on Lions Club projects: 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses have been collected since July. Recently, an optometrist offered a program on “what happens next to these glasses.” Lions Club also offers a “SEE” program, “Screening Eyes Early,” to evaluate young children’s vision needs. And thanks to Lions for the handsome clock in the garden bed downtown.
 - ◆ Bob Hunn noted that Avon Floral World is partnering with local restaurants to place fresh flowers on tables (a beautiful addition!) and to offer money-off coupons from participants.
 - ◆ Geri Brewer reported for Avon Preservation & Historical: the towns of Rush and Gates are renewing their historical societies and have been in contact with Avon for assistance and information.
 - ◆ Melissa Savino stopped by to announce a grand prize received by The Cake Place, for “Best Showpiece” at the Epilepsy Foundation’s recent Chocolate Ball at the Hyatt Regency. Well done!!
 - ◆ Ann Younger reported on efforts surrounding the Park Theatre: the property has been on the market for seven years and remains listed at \$130,000. She remains committed to planning for redevelopment and reuse of the theatre premises.

Remember, our next Chamber breakfast is on Tuesday, March 6 and the WHAT’S NEXT FOR AVON meeting is March 13, 6:30pm at the Village Hall. We hope to see MANY of you at both these activities, because OUR village and town can prosper only if WE all participate.