



HISTORIC

RHINEBECK
Chamber of Commerce

"Supporting Each Other Helps Us All."



Chamber Line

March
2002

The Rhinebeck Chamber of Commerce invites you to a
Dinner / Informational Meeting

TOPIC: "In Lieu of Parking" at **Marco Polo Restaurant**

Wednesday, March 20th, 2002
5:30 - 6:30 pm — Cash Bar — Cocktails
6:30 pm — Buffet

Buffet Menu:

Chicken Marsala, Pasta, Pepper Steak
with Salad, Dessert & Coffee

Cost: \$18.00 per person (NOTE: cost will be \$22 at the door without a reservation)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

Deadline is Fri., March 15th - Call 876-5904, Fax 876-8624 or mail!

MARCH 20TH DINNER / INFORMATION MEETING - RESERVATION FORM

Reservations and a check must be received by Fri., Mar. 15th. Make all checks from any chamber member payable to Rhinebeck Chamber of Commerce and mail to the Rhinebeck Chamber office, PO Box 42, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

Name of Business _____ Member of Organization _____

Total number of people attending _____ at \$18.00 each \$ _____ Total

Names of Attendees: _____

**Welcome
our newest
members...**

*Rick & Rita Moglia
Chelsea Crossing
Model Trains
6795 Rt. 9
Astor Square
Rhinebeck
876-8919
Hobby Shop*

*Lionel, MTH, K-Line,
Williams, LGB*

*Thomas Pacatucci
Thomas Pacatucci
Drywall
9 Cove Rd
Rhinebeck
876-7403
Drywall Contractor*

*Sickler's Country
Caretakers
79 Hapeman Hill Rd.
Red Hook
758-2368
Home Repairs
"No Job to o small"*

President's Message...

Hi!

My column this month will address two very controversial subjects and I hope, enable everyone to open their eyes and ears. I think we all will agree that Rhinebeck is a very special community that we all are proud to call home. What makes Rhinebeck special? Is it the history and historic buildings? Yes. Is it the shops, boutiques and fantastic restaurants? Yes. Is it the wealth of arts and culture? Yes. Yes, all these things make Rhinebeck a place that people love to visit. However, to me the thing that makes Rhinebeck so special is the people. Rhinebeck is a community of people from all walks life.

Recently Rhinebeck has been faced with two very controversial issues. The first I would like to address is the proposed expansion of the Rhinebeck Savings Bank. I was very pleased to see so many people attend the breakfast meeting hosted by the Chamber at Northern Dutchess Hospital. As I stated at the meeting Rhinebeck Savings Bank is one of the anchor businesses in our community. They are key in keeping our downtown strong and viable. The purpose of the meeting was to give them an opportunity to tell us why they need to expand. Contrary to what was reported in the press they are willing to use the former Central Hudson building. I feel much was accomplished at this meeting as people now understand that this is not about take it or leave it, but instead, give and take. Cooperation is a wonderful thing.

The second issue I would like to address is the hotly debated in lieu of parking fee. This is a very emotional issue. It can have a very drastic impact on small businesses in our community. We elect our public officials and charge them to do what is deemed to be best for our community. This law

was enacted after much thought, not plucked off a tree because it looked ripe for the picking. Our Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board are comprised of very hard working and dedicated individuals. They are a few of the people that make Rhinebeck a special place. Although they didn't have to, they held meeting to explain the why, where and when regarding this law. Why did they do this? Because they are listening. Because they care. Although I was unable to attend the meeting I spoke with many people from both sides of the fence who were in attendance. I was appalled to hear that our public officials were verbally assailed for doing the very job we charged them to do. These people are not the enemy at the gate. Our mayor has dedicated his entire life to serving the people of this country. He did not achieve the rank of Brigadier General because he had some hidden agenda. He continues to serve because he loves this community and he cares about people. Although I do not know all of the individuals involved in our local government I would bet the ranch that they do not do what they do for financial gain. They do it because they care and want to make a difference. Have we forgotten 9/11 already? Our enemies hijacked and flew airliners into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Another crashed in a field in rural Pennsylvania because of people that cared. Our enemies are hiding in caves because they do not want to work towards cooperation and understanding. Our public officials deserve our support and respect.

In closing I would implore everyone to foster a sense of community spirit and willingness to cooperate. We are not always going to agree. However if we are willing to come to the table and work towards an amicable solution there is no problem that can't be overcome.

Your President
Jim Reardon

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News Updates from Various State Offices & Departments of interest to Chamber Members...

State of New York Insurance Department

To Chamber of Commerce: Gregory V. Serio, Superintendent of NYS Insurance Dept., is pleased to provide copies of the New York Consumer Guide to Health Insurers, the New York Consumer Guide to HMO's and the Healthy New York Guide. These publications are also available on the department web site at www.ins.state.ny.us. These helpful guides contain valuable information that will assist New York State employers in making important health insurance decisions for themselves, their families and their employees. Please check out the web site.

New York State Dept. Of Economic Dev. - Empire State Development

The Governor's Small Business Awards program was created to recognize the vital contributions of small business to the economy of New York State, a group that has seen substantial growth over the past several years. As part of the program, awards for Small Business Person of the Year, Small Business Advocate of the Year, and Small Business Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year are presented annually by Governor George E. Pataki.

Nomination forms for selection of awards in these categories for 2002 should be returned by March 29, 2002 to:

*New York State Small Business Advisory Board
c/o Empire State Development
Division of Small Business
30 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12245*

For information call 518-292-5220.

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

TO: Chamber Members - More and more news headlines speak to the tragic consequences when domestic violence comes to work. In an effort to address this, Governor Pataki recently released the Model Domestic Violence Employee Awareness and Assistance Policy for private businesses. The policy is designed to encourage private employers to address the issue of domestic violence and the workplace.

The following materials are available:

- *Domestic Violence: It is Your Business* - Employer Handbook and Resource Guide.
- *Domestic Violence: It's Everyone's Business* - tent cards and posters
- *Domestic Abuse & Men Who Batter: Facts for Women*
- *Finding Safety and Support*

Also available is the *Worker to Worker: Domestic Violence Action Kit*. The kit was produced by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, a leading national resource on domestic violence and the workplace. Additional copies of the kit may be purchased directly from the Family Violence Prevention Fund, visit their web site at www.fvpf.org or phone them at 415-252-8089.

Together, we can reach the Governor's goal of protecting the health and safety of New York State employees and making New York a zero tolerance state for domestic violence both at home and in the workplace. If you have any questions or require additional information, please visit our web site at www.opdv.state.ny.us or contact Cindy Knights at 518-486-7795. Or write: Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Menands, NY 12204. Fax: 518-486-7675.

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APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

NEWSLETTER LINKS: Mail member items: 23F Rhinebeck Savings Bank Plaza, PO Box 42, Rhinebeck, NY 12572; Fax member items: Laurie Larsen: 876-8609; Chamber: 876-8624; Comments or inquiries: 845-876-5904; WEB: <http://www.rhinebeckNYchamber.org> or Email: mnc@bestweb.net

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