

PCC Newsletter

Phelps Chamber Of Commerce

Member Benefits Include:

- Advertise your business in the village window at the PCC!
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for new businesses
- Newsletter with business members news
- Advertise your business at PhelpsNY.com
- Be a "Business of the Month"
- Member brochure distributed to Phelps and Clifton Springs zip codes
- Business membership eligible for discounted medical coverage
- Membership plaques

Chamber Officers

President: Chuck Molloy

Vice President: Dale White

Secretary: Diane Williams

Treasurer: Mary Niles

Board Members

Bette Collier,

Chairman of the Board

John Frederick

Floyd Ridley

Heidi Westfall

David Doktor

Chamber Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 - 7:00 PM at the Water Side Wine Bar with a meet and greet following, bring your business cards for networking.

Call us at 548-5481, write us at P.O. Box 1, Phelps, NY 14532 or by email chamber@PhelpsNY.com

Chamber Honors Dan Moracco and the Phelps Lions Club

On December 8th the Phelps Chamber of Commerce presented its annual awards – the Citizen of Honor to resident Dan Moracco and the Business of Distinction to the Phelps Lions Club. Held at the Waterside Winebar, the Phelps Chamber president Chuck Molloy and Mayor James Cheney presented the awards at the Chamber's 2009 Celebration of Thanks. These awards are given annually to

residents and businesses in Phelps who have made a great impact to the local community.

Dan Moracco grew up in Geneva but married into Phelps when he became the husband of village resident Karen Smith in 1987 and settled into her family home in the village. He quickly fell in love with the town and its friendly people, which led to his volunteering in many community organizations. Over the years he coached Babe Ruth T-ball and Little League Baseball, exhibiting a great deal of patience and developing a good rapport with the kids. He served as assistant Scout Master for the Cub and Boy Scouts from 1994 to 2007 and is their charter representative to the Phelps Lions Club. Dan has been president of the Phelps Lions Club 16 of the last 18 years, receiving the International Association of Lions Club President's Award in 2005, and in 2010 will serve as Zone Chairman for the Finger Lakes District. Dan has also served numerous

organizations including the Sauerkraut Festival, the Phelps Sesquicentennial, and the United Church of Phelps Finance committees.

Dan graduated from Geneva High School and received his Associate Degree in Science from Finger Lakes Community College. He still lives in the village with his wife, Karen, son Joshua and his mother-in-law, Rose Smith. In recent years Dan's

health has taken a turn for the worst and he is currently on New York State disability. Dan believes that he has survived his health troubles because he has a lot more of work to do. He plans to continue working with the Phelps Lions Club, the Sauerkraut



L to R - Lions Terry Featherly, Scott Sweet, Kim Boisseau, Gary Boisseau, Karen Moracco, Dan Moracco, Diana Featherly, Don Coston, Gail Warrick, Tom Baker, and Dave Hicks.

Festival and at his church. The Town and Village of Phelps are very lucky to have him.

Founded in 1956, the Phelps Lions Club has long been known for their humanitarian efforts. As a part of the largest service club organization in the world, they provide for those in need in our community. From free eye screenings, eye exams and glasses to Christmas food and gifts for local families and holiday fruit baskets for senior citizens, the members are here to serve.

During the past year, the club's largest service project was to purchase a very special piece of equipment for a Midlakes student. The student's mother approached the Lions Club requesting help

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Business of the Month

January Business of the Month Charisma Enterprises, Inc.



On the corner of Main and Church Streets in Phelps you will find Charisma Enterprises. Owner Sandy Whitacre and her husband Teddy have been in business since 1993 and currently

enjoy running their retail business. Teddy had worked at Xerox for 26 years prior to that while Sandy stayed at home to raise their three daughters.

By the time 1993 rolled around the kids were out of the house Sandy wanted her turn in the business world. She had an opportunity to buy Upstate Restoration, which specialized in cleaning walls and ceilings and grabbed it up. A couple years later she also purchased Fingerlakes Ultrasonic which specialized in cleaning blinds.

Sandy and Teddy's mother came up with the Charisma Enterprises concept because they were excited and enthused about what they were doing and thought their energy level fit with the name. Teddy especially liked the service side of the business and kept busy by cleaning decks, buildings or anything else that required power washing.

The work on the decks turned into opportunities for Teddy to build decks. He also repaired and restored other ones as time went on. A family member by marriage came on the scene in 1999 and he specialized in setting mobile homes. Teddy helped him with it and work orders for doing other work in the homes

started to pop up and they quickly found that they needed more space for inventory.

The weekend of the Sauerkraut Festival in early August of 1999 saw the Charisma Enterprises storefront open up. Business continued to grow and at one point they had eleven employees. In 2003 they lost a key member of their team and scaled back their operation to focus on their store, while still doing quite a bit of service work for existing customers, especially deck related.

Business in their store has done well and out of necessity they added more space to it about three years ago. They currently stock or have access to 6,000 different parts for mobile homes or RVs. Sandy enjoys doing the bookwork and the selling side of the business while Teddy takes care of the computers, service related stuff and fills in to help Sandy with whatever else needs to be done.

When they aren't working they both like to travel and keep up with their grand children and are

excited about the one that is on the way. Hobbies for Sandy include crocheting, sewing and making homemade candy while Teddy enjoys watching action adventure movies ranging from older John Wayne flicks to more current ones like the "Die Hard" series starring Bruce Willis.

If you haven't gone in to say hello to the Whitacre's already please do. They have shown what service with a smile is about and you will enjoy your time with them. Call them at 315-548-4402 or reach them on their website at www.ceipartsrus.com if you have questions or would like to learn more.



Sandy and Teddy Whitacre

Chamber Honors continued

for her son who is losing his eyesight due to a genetic disorder. They held various fundraisers including: selling hot dogs, balloon animals, and brooms. They requested grants from various Lions organizations, and solicited the community for donations. Thanks to the outpouring of generosity, over \$5,000 was raised to purchase an electronic braille for the student. When he is old enough, the club plans on obtaining a service dog for him.

In addition to community service, this dedicated group of 18 raises funds to benefit local organizations. These groups include the Phelps Food Cupboard, the House of John, Phelps Community Center, Boy Scout Troop 46, and the Phelps Historical Society – to name just a few.

Their annual fund raisers include producing and selling the Phelps Community Birthday Calendar, food and balloon animals at local events, and brooms made by the blind. Over \$1000 was donated by the club to the Lions Clubs International 'Campaign SightFirst II'. This, combined with over \$200 million donated by Lions Clubs in 205 countries, will be used world-wide to fight preventable and reversible blindness.

The club recently honored Charter member, Donald Coston, with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. This honor, the highest that a club can bestow on a member, was presented to Lion Don for over 58 years of dedicated service to the Phelps Lions Club and to those in need in the Phelps community.

The Phelps Club members are very active in community events such as the Harvest Festival at the PCC, the Village Christmas Tree Lighting, and help to maintain three "Welcome to Phelps" signs in the town. The club is a huge supporter of the annual Phelps Sauerkraut Festival and provides staffing at the headquarters building and grounds maintenance throughout the weekend.

The Phelps Chamber of Commerce is proud to call them members and thank them for all they do in our community. If you would like to know more about the Phelps Lions Club, go to www.phelpslions.org, or contact webmaster Lion Gary Boisseau at 315-462-6800

Letter from President Chuck Molloy

As I look back on 2009 I realized I grew to expect the unexpected both as the Chamber President and as a person. Sometimes it's hard to know what to do and often ideas



Chuck Molloy

seem to come together at the last minute. I came into the office as President wanting to know the business community better and to help the Chamber build on its successes from the prior years. Being new to the position I wasn't sure what was expected, but my Officers and Board were great at helping me navigate our course. Our PhelpsNY.com website came to the forefront near the beginning of the year and consumed much of our attention. Networking also took me in a direction that finally made some sense and I hope others will try it more often. I think we ended the year stronger and found that people in our community are willing to step up and help when they are needed. Lastly, the support I got after a family emergency left me feeling that I was part of something special with this Chamber and the community.

The PhelpsNY.com website was old and we couldn't do updates on our own. Information was often dated and fresh information was not getting posted soon enough. The third party relationship with our administrator wasn't working and our page owners were concerned about its future. After losing our Phelps BDTC representative who was working on the redesign, Board Chairman Bette Collier stepped up as our liaison with the web designer and finished the project. While it took longer than we expected and cost much of our budget, the result is a more informative and versatile website with happier page owners.

One of things I enjoyed most about the year came about due to an after thought at one of our meetings. We found that the meetings at the Phelps Community Center were only being attended by the Board and Officers and we wanted our members to feel more comfortable about attending. In July Board Member Heidi Westfall suggested the Waterside Winebar as being the perfect place to go. We all quickly agreed and that brief conversation changed our course. Since last August we've held our meetings from 6:00-7:00 PM at the Winebar for members and have a Business After Hours afterwards. We've had more people coming to the meetings and anywhere between 10 and 40 people afterwards. A lot of people are getting to know each other. It proved to be a successful endeavor and we are planning to continue having them this year. We thank

Waterside Winebar owner, Al Deporter, for kindly opening the Winebar to us and making it all possible.

Our 2009 Business Expo and Community Sale events hit the mark of being fun (a most important part) and great networking events, but were hard on our budget too. Fortunately, we were able to make up for it in other ways. We're planning to send out a survey of sorts to see what type of events our members would be willing to participate in and to try gaining some commitments earlier on.

Our speaker at our Business Expo in April shared some great ideas about networking. Participating in the Chamber or helping in your community will get you noticed – doing it cheerfully for years can earn the trust and respect you need. Networking is helpful when one looks for employment as well. People get to know you and it makes it a little easier getting in the door when you have allies behind them.

Due to 2009 budget issues, we had to stop to paying someone to write press releases. Having never had a chance to use my English/communications degree I was glad to step in and write our press releases and newsletter editorial. Interviewing other Phelps business owners has taught me a lot about running one and I am amazed at how much goes on in our area. Getting to know everyone has been enjoyable and I look forward to doing it again this year.

On November 24th my wife Nancy went to the hospital at 6:30 AM because something didn't seem right about her pregnancy. She was due on March 17th and was worried she might need to go on bed res. However, at 9:02 AM our daughter Lily Marie surprised us both as she came into the world unexpectedly. She was in need of a lot of support at one pound nine and a half ounces and 16+ weeks ahead of schedule. Within a few hours she was rushed to Strong's NICU from Geneva. Our world had just been turned upside down and we were very afraid of losing her for weeks. Lily was on quite a roller coaster, but has been making great progress. Her prognosis is very good at this point and we expect to bring her home by her due date.

While this was going on Dale White took over and led our next two meetings. My family and I received a lot of personal support from Hal Smith and his wife Tammy, Bette Collier and her husband Gary, and Heidi Westfall and David Doktor. Other members gave us plenty of well wishes and helped plan our successful yearend Celebration of Thanks event; which also helped a lot. We thank all of those that have helped us and wish you well with your business endeavors as 2010 advances.



Fat Boys Pizzeria Opens

After spending twenty years in food and retail management, including most of the last ten in the pizza business, Tim Hotchkiss finally had the opportunity to run his own operation and opened Fat Boys Pizza in October of 2009. What he likes most is working for himself and making his own decisions. In addition to the tasty pizza Tim said he gets many compliments about their wings and calzones and encourages you to give them a try too. Outside of work he's a father of three and enjoys spending his spare time with them. His business is the newest edition to the Phelps Chamber and we welcome him! Pizza party anyone?



*Phelps Chamber
Of Commerce*

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PCC Window Display Available

Benemy Welding had the window display for December. As part of their display they had a drawing for a handcrafted Christmas tree. 62 people entered the drawing and the lucky winner was Alexis Heitman of Waterloo. This to shows how effective the display is. People really notice it!

If you would like to schedule your business for the window display contact Chuck Molloy at molloyca@aol.com.

PhelpsNY.com Offers More in 2010

The Phelps Chamber of Commerce is the publisher of PhelpsNY.com and it is administered by the Phelps Business Development and Tourism Council. If you want to know what's going on in Phelps this is the place to find it. It hosts pages with information for residents, visitors and the world beyond. Under "Residents" Town and Village pages provide contact information for government offices and officials as well as information on municipal services. The "Phelps Events" calendar has information about events throughout the year. Click on different dates and you will find Euchre at the Phelps Community Memorial Library or Phelps Historical Society's program on The Future of the Former Seneca Army Depot and the Famous White, Whitetail Deer. Community events throughout the year are already on the schedule.



Owner-Updated Pages for Not-for-profit Organizations

A recent website update in the fall of 2009 included a user friendly software that allows web page owners, like the Phelps Community Historical Society, Phelps Community Center and the Sauerkraut Festival Committee, the option to update their own pages, ensuring accurate information faster. In 2010 we are offering these owner-updated pages to all not-for-profits at a new rate of only \$200/year. This rate includes initial setup of your parent page, plus training for your own website guru, so they can add pages and information as needed. If your group is interested in being on this widely used website please call Bette Collier at 548-4123.

Web Page for Chamber Members only \$99

Don't have a website for your business? The Phelps Chamber of Commerce is offering its members a new presence on the web. Now you can have your very own web page for only \$99 (plus Chamber membership), linked from your member listing. Advertise your services, merchandise, special sales or anything you want – put photos, information and links to other websites. Your page will be setup, designed and administered throughout the year. Look for this option on your membership invoice or call 548-4123 for more information.

2010 Chamber Events

Thursday, April 22

Midlakes Neighbor to Neighbor Business Expo from 4 to 7 pm, local businesses displaying wares and services.

Saturday, August 21

Community Sale at Redfield Park from 9 am to 1 pm, spend the day meeting your friends and neighbors while making money for back to school.

Tuesday, December 7

Chamber's Celebration of Thanks honoring businesses and community volunteers. Location to be determined.

Watch future newsletters for more information on these events.