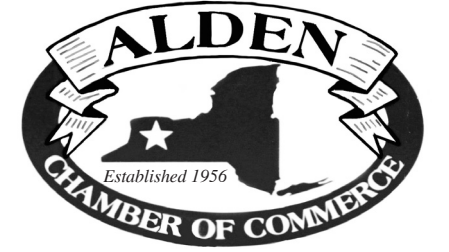


Alden Chamber of Commerce
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Alden, NY 14004

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Alden *Chamber of Commerce* *Newsletter*



MAY 2016 VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

The Alden Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you to attend the

Annual *Spring Membership* *and* *Election Dinner*

Tuesday, May 17, 2016
at the

Whistle Stop Inn

1338 Exchange Street, Alden, NY 14004

Cash Bar at 5pm Dinner at 6pm.

The annual *Distinguished Citizen Award* will be presented to:

Conrad Borucki

Nominees for election to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors are:

Angelo Daluisio, Angelo Daluisio Photography

John Drogi, Drogi & Sons Automotive

Laura Ross, The Pink Cow

Scott Sitzman, Sitzman's Maytag

Kara Smith, Alden Pharmacy

Our guest speaker for the evening will be:

Ron Gabalski, News 4 Buffalo Photojournalist

(See Biography Inside)

Cost of the dinner is \$25.00 per person and reservations are required. Call the Chamber office at (716) 937-6177 or email secretary@aldenny.org with your reservation. Checks may be sent or dropped off to Alden Chamber of Commerce, 13500 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004 by May 10th.

Broken reservations will be billed.

CHAMBER OFFICE

13500 Broadway Alden, NY 14004
Phone (716) 937-6177 Fax: (716) 937-4106

Board of Directors meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 4pm at the Whistle Stop Inn. All members are invited.

Member of WNY Chamber Alliance

President — Brooks Bowman

Vice President — Christopher Dowd

Treasurer – Christopher Gust

Secretary - Jenny Urbanski

Directors 2015-2016

Diane Casell John Drogi

Kara Smith Randy Moyer

Laura Ross

Directors 2015-2017

Brooks Bowman Christopher Gust

Nancy Hughes Jennifer Strong

Sue Galbraith

Directors 2015-2018

Christopher Dowd Bill Blarr

Deborah Bressette Earl Gillen

Aurora Mali Perry

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alden Economic Development - Christopher Gust, Gary Wagner

Promotion/Publicity - Christopher Gust, Paul Henry, Nancy Hughes, Laura Ross, Lee Weisbeck

Town, Village & School Liaison

Town - Richard Savage, Jennifer Strong

Village - Susanne Galbraith, Paul Henry,

Richard Jablonski

School - Adam Stoltman

Member Benefits- Brooks Bowman, Christopher Dowd, Christopher Gust, Paul Henry, Richard Jablonski, Aurora Perry, Randy Moyer, Laura Ross

Visit our website www.aldenny.org

Friend us at www.facebook.com/aldenchamber

Chamber Office Hours Have Changed

Please note this change in the

Chamber office hours.

We will now be open from 9am. to 4:30pm.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Closed Monday and Wednesday.

Distinguished Citizen 2016

Conrad Borucki

This year's Distinguished Citizen, Conrad Borucki, has been an Alden resident for 46 years. Conrad is married with 2 children and 2 grandchildren and a retired teacher from the Oakfield-Alabama School system, where he taught science for 37 years. He is currently a member of St. John the Baptist Church and his hobbies include painting and gardening.

His contributions to the social and cultural life of the Alden Community have been numerous. Conrad is a past member of the Alden Environmental Conservation Commission, serving as its Vice Chairman for 10 years. He worked with the late Joe Panza on the design and development of the Joe Panza Nature Trail located behind Alden Town Park, including spending countless hours clearing brush and obstacles to create the extensive system of trails through the woods. Conrad also assisted in the maintenance of the trails over the years and arranged interpretative nature walks for public enjoyment. He lent his artistic talents to the design and construction of the current sign at the trail entrance and helped author the "Joe Panza Nature Trail Guide Book".

Conrad has been a member of the Alden Art Club for over 25 years including past president for 5 years from 2006 - 2013. He is an accomplished artist having won numerous awards and prizes throughout Western New York, including the Western New York Polish-American Artist of the Year award and the Alden Chamber of Commerce Landmark Painting award. This latter award is given every year at the annual Alden Fall Art Show, celebrating its 59th year this September, which Conrad still plays a central role in continuing the show's vitality as a signature cultural and social event for the Alden community. This creative man is also an Alden Historical Society Trustee, currently serving as program chairperson and Erie County Fair Exhibit Committee Chairperson. Under Conrad's direction, historical society presentations on such topics as "railroad lines through Alden" and "how streets got their names" have enjoyed a significant increase in attendance. Specifically, the 2011 program which detailed the secession of Town Line Hamlet from the Union in 1861 drew an attendance of over 300 people at Town Line Lutheran church. He also authored the script for the "War of the Worlds" program held in Alden Presbyterian Church in October 2013. His Alden-based adaptation of H. G. Wells' famous radio play was hugely successful. Conrad's programs at the Historical Society continue to encourage older members of the community to share their oral history of the town, which would otherwise be lost. He was also a major contributor to the 2011 book "Reflections of Alden" as artistic and historical collaborator.

In addition to his efforts promoting the environment, local art, and history in Alden, Conrad was also instrumental in organizing the Alden over-40 men's softball league in the 1980's and 1990's, has been a member of the Alden Winterfest Committee for the past 7 years, and a core member of "Alden Residents for Responsible Growth". His most recent contribution to our community has been participating on the Alden Veteran's Memorial Monument committee, including designing the monument and its surrounding space and landscaping.

Reading all of Conrad's contributions to Alden will either tire you or inspire you. As one nomination aptly stated, "While holding no political office, he has had a great influence in our lives by his tireless efforts to enhance our environment, our celebration of local art, and our appreciation and understanding of the history of the town of Alden." Let's hope we can all be inspired by this year's Distinguished Citizen, Conrad Borucki, and equally give time, talent, and treasure to our neighbors, our businesses, our volunteer organizations, to keep Alden - alive and growing.



Coming Events

"Wearin' O'the Green" o St. Patrick's Day on September 17th. The first 25 kids that come to the Alden Chamber raffle ticket table dressed in the theme will receive a small goody bag of treats. Other returning theme days include Health & Wellness Day, Small Business Day, Meet the Candidates Day, Community Organizations Day, Fire Safety Day and a chalk art contest.

Non-profit groups will sell coffee, soda and snacks the entire season. Alden-area community groups are encouraged to sell food and/or have information tables at the Market. New this year is a quilt raffle (donated by Penny Marble Quilt Designs) and again two big basket raffles, one in July and one in October. And the very popular Amish Shed raffle will again return this year—the winner could be you!

The Market is sponsored by the Alden Chamber of Commerce and run entirely by a volunteer committee. Do you like meeting and talking with people? Volunteers are always needed and appreciated; come join our Market family! To find out how you or your group can participate, please contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 937-6177 or by email at secretary@aldenny.org. The Market is located between Tractor Supply and Save-a-Lot in the Alden Village Plaza at 13119 Broadway. It will be open every Saturday from 8:30am to 1:00 pm, through October 15th. The complete Calendar of Events will be available on the Chamber's web site www.aldenny.org.

Marketing Opportunity

Farmers' Market Raffle Basket Items Wanted

In addition to our fresh produce vendors, crafters, baked goods, sausage, honey and maple products and fudge, the Market will again feature two "big basket" raffles.

This is a great marketing opportunity for your business! Farmers' Market regular and one-time visitors, both local and out of town, view the basket while purchasing tickets at the Market every week.

We invite Chamber member businesses to participate by providing gift certificates or donating items for both raffles. Gift certificates can be for a free item, a certain dollar amount off your service or product, or a percentage off the cost. Lottery tickets given in your name are also a good idea. Basket contributors are listed prominently below the basket. It's a simple way to advertise your business to the many people who come to the Market each week.

In order to reduce the number of times businesses are asked for contributions, the items received now will be divided between the two baskets. We will not ask for a second contribution for the Fall drawing. If you send two certificates now, one will be placed in each basket. All items may be dropped off at the Alden Chamber of Commerce office, 13500 Broadway, open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. or simply call Jenny at (716) 937-6177 to pick up items or for other arrangements.

Coming Events

18th Annual TASTE OF ALDEN

The Alden Chamber of Commerce is excited to host the 18th Annual Taste of Alden on Friday, June 3rd, starting at 5 p.m. in the Alden Town Park. Due to the absence of the Alden Fireman's Carnival, this year this beloved community event will be held in conjunction with the Alden Community Scholarship Foundation's Annual 5K run. The 5K race will be held in memory of long-time respected community member and 5K race board member, Dr. Ralph Davis. The evening promises to be a wonderful mix of food, entertainment and fun for all ages. The event includes the 5K Race for Scholarships, the Taste of Alden, live music, family friendly kids zone, beer tent, dunk tank, basket raffle, and fireworks display. Many hometown restaurants will be there serving their treats and local band Six Degrees of Freedom will be performing on the band stand. Come out and run or just come out for some fun! For information on participating, please contact the Chamber office at (716) 937-6177 or Taste of Alden Chairman, Gary Wagner at (716) 937-8960.

Farmers Market Season Begins May 14th

Think Spring! The Alden Farmers' Market will open for the 2016 season on Saturday, May 14th. That date will feature a craft show, early plants and flowers and specialty vendors. Seasonal produce will be provided by returning vendors Kate's Country Cousins, Tom's Thumb and new vendors Stymus Farms; maple and honey products will be available from Ken's Maple Products; Leonard Oakes Estate Winery and Midgard Winery will return alternating weeks with wine tastings; and delicious homemade sausage will be available weekly from Hanzlian's Sausage. Bennington Beefalo will return in June with broiler chicken, pork cuts, and fresh eggs. We expect to have our baked goods and fudge also available weekly and more produce vendors, Pfeiffer Farms and others, as the growing season gets underway.

The entertainment season will begin with the Alden High & Middle School Jazz Ensembles on June 4th with plenty of returning artists and groups including Porcelain Train, Craig Wilkins, The Niagara Frontier Fiddle Club, Hot Country Liners, Dark Road Duo, Buffalo Steel steel drum trio, The Lake Effect a Capella, and Ted Burzynski magician scheduled. New artists and groups this year include Jim Vozga and Ron Shiralli. The Apen Family Band will conclude the season performing at the closing day Harvest Festival and Costume Parade.

There will be special theme days this year including "May the 4th Be with You" Star Wars day on June 4th, Catch Olympic Fever Day on August 20th, and

2016 Spring Membership & Election Dinner Speaker, Ron Gabalski

Ron Gabalski is an Alden Central School District graduate and current News 4 Photojournalist. Ron was raised in the Town of Marilla and attended Alden Schools until graduation in 1986. Growing up in Marilla, the school was the center of his family's world so Alden was the place for school activities, to shop, attend church, and of course, socialize with friends. After graduating high school, he entered college life at Niagara County Community College and transferred to the State University College at Fredonia. Ron began his television news career in 1988, employed at WKSN in Jamestown, New York, WICU in Erie, Pennsylvania, and WIVB in Buffalo, New York, where he has been since 1994. He mostly works in Buffalo, but can be assigned wherever the news is breaking. He currently resides with his wife, Mary, two of five children, two of six grandchildren, and two dogs in Frewsburg, New York, deep in the southern tier, just minutes from Pennsylvania.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewal invoices for 2016-2017 will be mailed around May 1st. To avoid a \$10 late fee please be sure to send your payment by May 31, 2016. Membership cards will not be mailed with invoices but will be included in the July newsletter. If you have not received an invoice and wish to renew your membership or require a membership card sooner than July, please contact the Chamber office at 937-6177. If you participate in the health insurance program, the gift certificate program or have a link on our website, your membership must be current. We are committed to our members and your renewal is important to us.

Thank You For Serving as Directors

Diane Casell

John Drogi

Randy Moyer

Laura Ross

Kara Smith

Business Profiles

PENNY MARBLE QUILT DESIGNS



Penny Marble of Penny Marble Quilt Designs is an independent designer of quilt patterns. Penny self-publishes and distributes to quilt shops in 39 states and 6 countries. Her studio is located at her residence on County Line Road in Darien, but most of her business is conducted mainly online, both wholesale and retail, at www.PennyMarbleQuilts.com. She also vends at quilt shows and venues across the East Coast. Penny has been quilting for almost 40 years and loves to teach the art to new quilters. Even the most difficult quilts can be broken down and made easier with the tools today. Therefore, she teaches, lectures, and provides quilting services such as commission quilts, ribbon quilts (made from award ribbons—horse show, dog show etc.), t-shirt quilts, and memory quilts. Penny is a member of the Caledonia Quilt Guild, American Quilter's Society, International Association of Creative Arts Professionals, and the National Quilting As-

sociation. Check out her full list of products and services at www.PennyMarbleQuilts.com or contact her at (716) 708-8488 or pennymarble@gmail.com for more information. Come see the beautiful quilt pictured below at the Alden Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The quilt, handmade and generously donated by Penny, will be raffled off during the Farmers' Market season.

DROGI & SONS AUTOMOTIVE

Drogi & Sons Automotive is a complete automotive repair shop located at 12182 Walden Avenue in Alden. Locally owned and operated by John M. Drogi, Jr. since 1976, the shop employs four full-time employees and two part-time employees. They are a one-stop shop offering mechanical repairs from New York State Inspections, oil changes to engine repair, brakes, cooling, A/C, computer diagnosis etc. Hit a deer or slid on some black ice? They also offer minor to major collision repair, frame, uni-body, even computer paint mixing and matching. They are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Loan cars are available so you don't have to be inconvenienced while repairs are made. When the unexpected hits you or you hit the unexpected, call Drogi & Sons at (716) 937-9918.



Chamber in Action

Alden Chamber/SBA Host Free Seminars

The Alden Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Small Business Administration hosted a free seminar "Retail Sales/Visual Merchandising & POP Displays" on Friday, January 29, at the Alden Village Hall.

A group of small business owners and entrepreneurs learned about store design, product location, and displays. All attendees listened attentively as presenter, Gregory Lindberg, provided insightful tips on window and product displays to attract shoppers, and tips on store layout and design to increase sales. Displays of any kind have a substantial impact on a customer's purchasing decision. Greg explained what colors drive purchasing decisions, the importance of visual merchandising, as well as store design and layout tips.

And on Thursday, March 31st, from 8:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. at the Alden Village Hall, the Chamber and SBA hosted another free seminar "Customer Service That Wins Sales". Presenter, Jeff Corcoran, SCORE Certified Mentor, provided insightful tips on creating opportuni-

ties for unique service and winning customers through that experience. Jeff recounted examples of good and bad customer service from both his personal and professional dealings. Retail and service industry alike, excellent customer service is the one personal and tangible benefit your business can offer to consumers. His testimonials showed how product and service recommendations made by friends, co-workers, or neighbors you know and trust, or "word of mouth" advertising, is still the most effective way to win new customers. These referrals stem naturally from an unparalleled customer experience.

Light breakfast refreshments at both seminars were provided courtesy of Moyer Auction & Estate, Co. Watch for more information on future seminars including topics such as "The Affordable Care Act" and "Health Insurance Benefits" by visiting the Alden Chamber of Commerce website at www.alddeny.org or "like" us on Facebook.



Member Benefits

Introducing a Partnership with....

Bene-Care Agency, LLC
Benefits Advocate

The Alden Chamber of Commerce has recently partnered with Bene-Care Agency, LLC - an insurance agency, benefits broker and payroll provider, who has provided services to employer groups and individuals in Western New York for over 40 years. Through Bene-Care, we will now be able to offer members an enhanced portfolio of benefit offerings, as well as a complete Human Capital Management Solution.

Bene-Care offers a portfolio of services to help you, your business, and your employees navigate and manage the complexities of employee benefits, healthcare reform, payroll, and human resources. These services, which Bene-Care refers to as their Human Capital Management Solution, encompass all activities needed to maintain a productive organization with engaged personnel. Bene-Care's flexibility allows you to choose the lines of service that are right for you.

Partnering with Bene-Care will allow the opportunity to enroll in a benefit package with any WNY carrier (Univera, BCBS of WNY, Independent Health, Health Republic and MVP). In addition to an increased selection of product offerings, Chamber members will also have increased options for dental, vision, short-term disability, long-term disability, NYS DBL, life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. Their online enrollment tools also allow for ease of plan administration!

Bene-Care's payroll solution lets employers incorporate applicant tracking, employee on-boarding, time and attendance, benefits administration and HR "hire to fire" functions right within a single system! They also offer Workers' Compensation policies with per-pay-period billing, along with full-service ACA tracking and reporting.

We will roll out information in time to explore your new options for 2016. Of course you will be able to keep your current plan until your renewal and for some members this will continue to be the best fit. We are excited to announce this new partnership, as we believe it will result in enhanced benefits and service to you and that is our priority. For more information on Bene-Care and their services, please visit www.bene-care.com. You may call them directly at (716) 688-8161 or contact Jenny Urbanski, Chamber Secretary, (716) 937-6177 with any questions.

CHAMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 17

Distinguished Citizen & Spring Membership
Dinner 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Board of Directors' Meeting Whistle Stop Inn 4 p.m.

Friday, June 3

Taste of Alden/5K Race for Scholarships 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 16

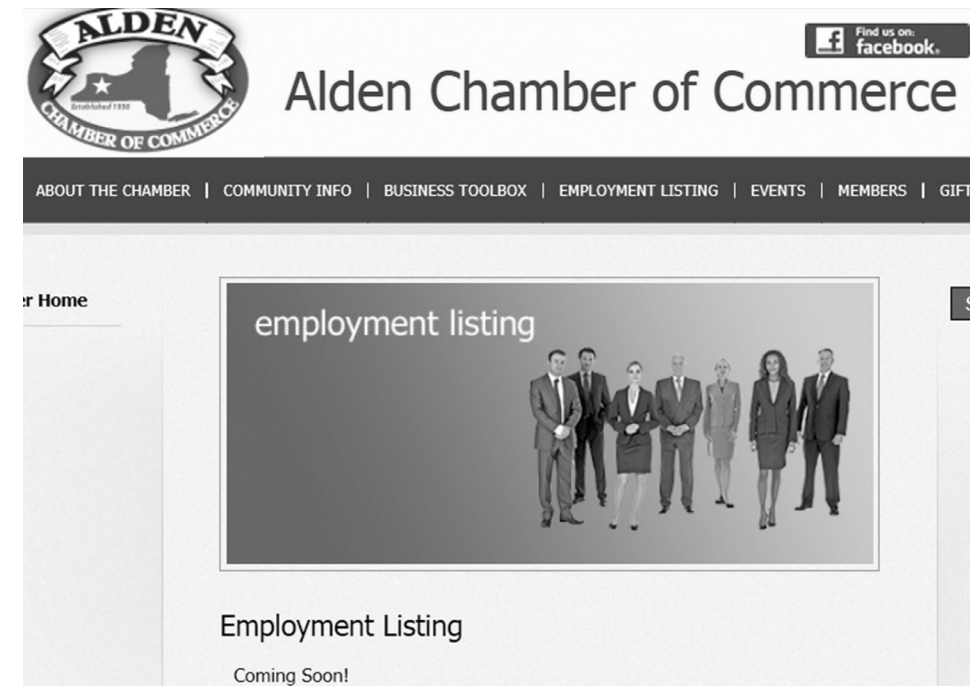
Board of Directors' Meeting Whistle Stop Inn 4 p.m.

Chamber in Action

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB?

The Alden Chamber is pleased to announce the creation of a new page on our web site for Employment Listings. All Chamber members are welcome to contact Jenny Urbanski at the Chamber office (716) 937-6177, email secretary@aldenny.org, or fax (716) 937-4106 to have job openings listed.

Looking for a job opportunity? Check the page to see what is currently available.



WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

PRISM POINT CONSULTING 1424 Abbey Lane, Alden, NY 14004

ALDEN ANIMAL HOSPITAL 11076 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004

DIRTYBLINDS.COM 11256 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004

PENNY MARBLE QUILT DESIGNS 98 County Line Road, Alden, NY 14004

TED MORTON, ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR P. O. BOX 394, Depew, NY 14043

HEALTHY BALANCE CHIROPRACTIC 6394 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

PAYCHEX 33 Dodge Road, Suite 110, Getzville, NY 14068

Member Benefits

JOIN THE MEMBER 2 MEMBER DISCOUNT SAVINGS PROGRAM

Chamber members have a unique opportunity to offer fellow Chamber members a discount on their services or merchandise as an incentive to attract new customers and increase business visibility. Each Chamber newsletter will advertise your business and your exclusive Chamber member's discount. You decide what you wish to offer and how your offer will be presented. You may also wish to include employees in the offer. It's easy to enroll. Simply call the Chamber office at (716) 937-6177. More information and the form for describing your offer/discount will be mailed or faxed to you to complete and return. It's a simple, positive, and effective way to draw attention to your business.

Member 2 Member Discounted Savings

A & N Automotive

13560 Genesee Street, Crittenden, NY 14038
Phone: (716) 937-9425
10% off any repairs totaling over \$100.00

David J. Pajak, Esq.

13179 Broadway, Suite 2, Alden, NY 14004
Phone: (716) 937-7950
\$100 Mirror Wills
1/2 price initial consult matrimonial or family court matters. Offer good for employees of members also.

Blackwater Fitness Club

1370 Exchange Street, Alden, NY 14004
Phone: (716) 937-7110
Free shirt and reassessments at 3 and 6 months with one-year membership.

Mass Mutual of Buffalo Christopher Dowd

13349 Broadway Ste 1, Alden, NY 14004
Phone: (716) 276-1134
Email: cdowd@financialguide.com
www.financialguide.com/Christopher-Dowd
Free financial plan review/Free benefits analysis

Neill & Strong, Attorneys

13166 Main Street, Alden, NY 14004
Phone: (716) 937-3353
Free 30 minute attorney consult OR \$50 off from a residential real estate transaction

PaychexInc.

33 Dodge Road, Getzville NY 14068
Phone: (716) 957-7483
One month free.

Safeguard Business Solutions, Inc.

1288 Blood Road, Cowlesville, NY 14037
Phone: (716) 675-0124
10% off any order

Creighton Optical

13375 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004
Phone: (716) 937-7373
25% off any frame or insurance discount, whichever is greater, also \$45 eye exam for Chamber members and employees without vision insurance coverage.

Johnny Bear's Restaurant

1415 Broadway, Darien Center, NY 14040
Phone: (585) 547-2220
10% off ice cream purchase.
Not valid with any other offer or coupon.
Must show membership card or this flyer to receive discount.

Ken's Maple Products

Ken Bieniek
1470 Sandridge Road, Alden NY 14004
(716) 937-9519
10% off any product.

Call 716-937-6177 today to advertise your Member 2 Member discount offer!

Member Benefits

THEME PARK PASSES AVAILABLE

Are you planning a family re-union? Do you have out of town guests coming to visit this summer? Don't just plan for a rainy day, plan for a beautiful, fun-filled day! Reduced-price Good-Any-Day tickets for Darien Lake Theme Park and Resort and Fantasy Island will be available for purchase from the Chamber for member businesses and their employees.



Darien Lake tickets this season will be available for \$34 for member/\$36 for non-members, parking and tax included. This is a \$13 per ticket savings, including parking and tax! Front gate admission this season will be \$46.99 per person plus tax and \$9 parking. Compare that to our \$34 tax included, parking included rate you and your employees receive with our Good-Any-Day ticket program and enjoy the savings! Park opens May 7th! Be sure to visit their website www.darienlake.com for complete hours and events planned for this season. Also, be sure to check out their new water park ride Rip Curl Racer and Ignite the Night Color Blast laser show!

Fantasy Island tickets this season will be available for \$19 for members/ \$20 for non-members. This is a \$9 per ticket savings for adults and \$4 ticket savings for children 47" and under. No price increase from last year, and this is over a 35% savings from regular gate pricing of \$27.95 for adults and \$22.95 for children. Admission includes unlimited use of ALL rides, waterpark, shows and attractions. Come experience their newest thrill ride "Rock & Roll". Park opens May 14th. Be sure to visit their website www.Martins-FantasyIsland.com for complete hours and events planned for this season.



Call Jenny at the Chamber office for ticket availability (716) 937-6177. Purchase your tickets in advance and use them when you get the chance! The Chamber office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed on Monday and Wednesday.

Chamber in Action

Alden Chamber Holds Wine & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser

The Alden Chamber of Commerce held a Wine & Craft Beer Tasting event on Saturday, April 16th, at the Whistle Stop Inn in Alden. This very successful event featured four wine and three craft beer tastings along with food pairings, a Chinese Auction, and a 50/50 raffle. A portion of the proceeds from this fundraiser is being donated to the Alden Christian Theatre Society. The Chamber extends sincere thanks to Christopher Dowd, Mass Mutual Buffalo, for his sponsorship, to the Whistle Stop Inn for hosting, and to all who attended and supported the event. With your support of this event, we will be able to continue our mission to promote Alden and the surrounding area as a great place to live and do business. A special thank you to all those businesses and individuals that donated a gift basket or certificate donation to our Chinese Auction including:

Alden Christian Theatre Society
Alden State Bank
Alden Pharmacy
Alden Village Market
Buffalo Bandits
Buffalo Bills
Buffalo Bisons

Buffalo Sabres
Mark & Diane Casell
Elwood Jordans Insurance Agency
Sue Galbraith
Gillen's Expert Auto
Greatbatch Medical
Chris & Jen Gust

Nancy Hughes
Kis N' Greens Golf Course
Neill & Strong Attorneys
Parkside Cupcakes
Simply Hair Studio
Tastefully Simple, Jen Rzepka
The Pink Cow
Jenny & Kevin Urbanski

ALDEN CHAMBER GIFT CERTIFICATES

Participate in the Alden Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificate Program and keep our shopping dollars Local also.....

- NO COST to your business
- Certificates are deposited like checks directly into your account
- Your name is listed as a participant in the handout flyers
- Bi-annual flyer in the Alden Advertiser and newsletter
- Your business listing on the Chamber website Gift Certificate page
- Decal provided to alert customers you accept the certificates
- Make great gifts for those 'hard to buy for'
- Make excellent stocking stuffers

Does your business participate? If not it should!

For more information or to sign up, call the Chamber office at 716-937-6177.

Member Benefits

Did You Know?

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) is a quasi-corporation formed for the good of the community and is not funded by any County, City or State taxes. They offer businesses several programs: tax incentives, loan programs (\$5,000 - \$2 million), bond financing (non-profits and schools), venture capital funding (high tech), brown field development, foreign trade zones, and management of two short-line railroads.

The Agency currently offers tax incentives (sales tax abatement, property tax abatement) on expansions and new builds primarily to companies that are renovating, expanding and bringing in more jobs; to job creation industries such as manufacturing and life sciences; and to adaptive reuse projects where a developer may wish to revitalize abandoned vacant land or historic properties with issues such as asbestos abatement.

They also offer micro loans \$5,000 - \$50,000 available for any industry type and can be used for working capital, supplies, new equipment, advertisement, primarily growth-oriented purposes. The business must first be declined by a bank usually due to collateral, credit score, etc. in order to be eligible. For larger macro loans of \$50,000 to 2 million, the ECIDA will partner with a bank and take the subordinate position. The bank may fund 70 percent of the project with the ECIDA funding the other 30 percent, matching bank terms with no pre-payment penalty. The ECIDA works together with banks to help businesses expand and bring jobs to the area. Find out more about what the ECIDA can do for your business. Visit www.ecidany.com or contact, Beth O'Keefe, Business Development Officer, (716) 362-8374 or email: bokeefe@ecidany.com.



CARDS, CARDS, CARDS - - - BROCHURES TOO!

Did you know the Chamber office has display racks for business cards and brochures? This is another benefit the Chamber offers to our members. Come in and drop off (or mail to us) your promotional materials and we will display and distribute them for you.

"The Mission of the Alden Chamber of Commerce is to assist, support, and promote the well-being and growth of commerce, business, and industry in the Alden area while enhancing the quality of life in our Community. Through the Chamber's efforts to provide advocacy, programs, events, and services, our members will be afforded the opportunity to enhance their business and achieve greater economic success."