



**GREATER BOWIE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
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Officers 2010-2011

President

Mark Melvin
Melvin Motors, Inc.

President Elect

Leonard Lucchi, Esq.
O'Malley, Miles, Nylen & Gilmore, P.A.

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Vania McNeary-Edwards
The Washington Savings Bank

Treasurer

Jeffrey Franklin
Old Line Bank

Secretary

Perry Price
Photography By Perry

Immediate Past President

Brian Shallcross
Bowie Baysox Baseball Club

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Century 21 Home Center
Harmon 'Monty' Cooper
Attorney

Bonnie Craig
Sky High Promotions

Prof. James Dixon
Students in Free Enterprise

Laurie Dollard
Mary Kay Cosmetics

Michael Fowler
Constellation Energy

Ed Haraway
EXIT First Realty

Alana Heinle
Edward Jones Investments

Diane Morris
NASA Federal Credit Union

Joy Thorpe
Bowie Florist

Catherine Woods
Old Line Bank

Committee Chairs

Ambassadors Committee
Bonnie Craig, *Sky High Promotions*

Education Committee
Brian Shallcross, *Bowie Baysox*

Legislative Committee
Harmon 'Monty' Cooper, Esquire

Women in Business Committee
Alana Heinle, *Edward Jones*

Kelly L. Pierce
Executive Director

Administrative Assistants
Christine Whelehan
Rebecca Sunday

Lynn Burns, Editor

Tradeline News

July, 2010

A publication for and about the members of the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce;
The organization of choice for business advocacy in the greater Bowie area.

President's Message



Chamber Members -

This is an exciting time for me. My father, Dan Melvin, was one of the first businesses in Bowie to join the Chamber nearly 30 years ago. The Bowie community has been home to our family-owned business for almost 60 years. We have seen the benefits of membership in this splendid organization since its inception. Being a board member of our Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce for the better part of the last 14 years has given me an appreciation for the variety of challenges that the Chamber faces. This year is no different, but we are ready to respond with yet another strong board of directors.

As most of you know, in March 2010 the GBCC moved to its third location. Packing up is always a challenge when you are faced with the accumulation of files and information that compiles over time. The advantage of the move is sorting through the files and finding the truly important information and photographs. Occasionally one finds treasure in the mix. After a few hours I found some old records and photos from the early 1980's when the Chamber was in its infancy. There were some truly enjoyable moments for the tight-knit group that got the GBCC off the ground. Of course, getting the Chamber started was no small accomplishment but when there are enough dedicated members, the load is easier, and together, more enjoyable. These are the kinds of things that bring people together and make organizations outstanding.

One of the things that I have heard as a board member for a better part of the last 14 years has been that the Chamber is a "good old boys (and presumably girls) network." I cannot say if this is right or wrong, but often perception has the hint of truth. The idea of this may reflect on those early years when members of this small but growing organization knew each other well. The Chamber was a close knit circle of local businesses at the time. The board of directors recognized that something needed to be done organizationally to correct this perception as the Chamber grew. The concern sparked the interest in the board to create the Ambassadors Committee. This committee, led by Nancy Weiman of The Show Place Arena, saw some successes in recent years. I wish to extend my appreciation to her and the members of the Ambassadors Committee for their work on behalf of the Chamber in welcoming our new members.

Bonnie Craig, owner of Sky High Promotions and one of our newest board members, has enthusiastically agreed to Chair the Ambassadors Committee for the coming year. The Ambassadors Committee is charged with guiding new members into the Chamber by introducing them to Chamber life. The Ambassadors acts as a liaison to the new member, making connections at networking events and answering questions about committees and opportunities within the Chamber. Ambassadors work to provide what this Chamber needs – a strong feeling of appreciation for a newcomer and an opportunity for network-oriented individuals to meet. This organization will be looking within our current membership to extend an invitation to become an Ambassador. It is an opportunity to network with fellow Chamber members. There will be monthly

President's Message, *continued...*

meetings to discuss upcoming events, as well as successes and challenges involved in reaching out to new members. Please contact the Chamber office if you are interested in becoming an Ambassador.

President of the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce is a title that is thrilling to me. It is a title many people whom I greatly respect have held before me, including my own father. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to the Chamber. I am very encouraged that we will have a good year ahead. Our board is energized and talented and our administrative staff is second to none. I look forward to meeting you all at the variety of Chamber events and, perhaps, at your place of business this year.

Mark Melvin, President

Hello All!

The Ambassadors Committee is alive and well and enlisting the aid of all members of the Chamber. It is our job to meet and greet and make all guests feel welcome. You know, warm and fuzzy. So often, guests arrive at Chamber mixers and stand in a corner hesitating to make eye contact. It is our job to teach them the benefits of making eye contact. After all, we have joined the Chamber to meet other business owners and grow our businesses. Without introductions, this is a very slow process.

If you care to join our growing committee, please let Kelly Pierce know. The current members are: Cindy Freland, Nancy Weiman, Cathy Woods and Bonnie Craig. We are hoping everyone will become an ambassador for this great Chamber. Sign-up today!



Executive Director's Message



Greetings Chamber Members & Friends – We've had a very busy and productive first half of the year and have enjoyed seeing old friends and getting to know new members. Our office has moved to its new location, we've hosted a golf tournament, the third annual business recognition program, and the Bowiefest business expo. And on June 9 we celebrated the service of our volunteer board members and you elected five new board members to continue the tradition of service. In July, GBCC President Mark Melvin and the entire board will meet to discuss and plan for the future of the Chamber. We welcome your ideas and input – this is your organization and we are here to serve you and your business needs. Call on us!

Best wishes for a restful, rejuvenating and safe summer –

Kelly L. Pierce, Executive Director

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY BAD CHECK RESTITUTION PROGRAM

Merchants, consumers and law enforcement must be concerned about the negative impact of bad checks passed to local businesses. This ongoing problem costs everyone millions of dollars annually. Merchants lose income. Consumers face higher prices associated with this ongoing problem. All of us face higher taxes for enforcement and prosecution costs to counter this continuing problem.

The Bad Check Restitution Program is one way of fighting the losses suffered by merchants who fall prey to bad check writers. The main aim of the program is to get full restitution for the victim without adding to the budgetary burden of the criminal justice system.

Those who are first time bad check writers are given the opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by attending a mandatory intervention class, in addition to paying restitution. All of this is done without cost to the taxpayers.

Your involvement and interest in this special program will help all law-abiding residents and help improve the profitability of your business. Help improve the economic climate in Prince George's County! For more information, visit –

www.checkprogram.com/princegeorgescounty



Thank you for your support during the 2010 BowieFest Business Expo this year on June 5th. We are very pleased with the turnout and response we got from our old customers, as well as the new friends we made throughout the day.

*Dan Melvin and David Harding
Melvin Motors Inc.*

ANNUAL MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS (June 9, 2010)



Former GBCB Executive Director Betsy Burian welcomes Bonnie Craig (Sky High Promotions) as one of the Chamber's newest board members



GBCB Past President Dan Melvin (Melvin Motors) conducts the swearing-in of the 2010-2011 GBCB Board of Directors.



Outgoing President Brian Shallcross (Bowie Baysox) thanks outgoing board member Stu Seitz (Bowie Health Center) for his years of service on the Board of Directors.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS!

Viridian

Jackie Mims

17408 Russet Drive
Bowie, MD 20716
Ph. 301-398-6432

jmims@exitfirst.com

www.viridian.com/smartmove

The Country Club at Woodmore

Jimm Moody, Jr.

12320 Pleasant Prospect
Mitchellville, MD 20721
Ph. 301-249-6100 Fax: 301-249-3689

jmoody@ccwoodmore.com

www.ccwoodmore.com

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to RENEWING MEMBERS!

Addison-Herring, Inc.
Admiral Tire & Auto Center Goodyear
Bowie Health Center
Bowie High School
Bowie Therapeutic Nursery Center, Inc.
Brightleaf Management
DeMaio Chiropractic & Physical Therapy
EBR Properties LLC
Guest Car Rent-A-Car
IC Sports and Promotions
KYMS Image International, LLC
Robert H. Levan, Bowie City Attorney

Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
Main Street Catering and Carry-out
Martin's Crosswinds
John J. McGuirk & Associates
NOVEX Pest Management
Painted Faces Inc!
Photography By Perry
PNC Bank – Market Place
PNC Bank – Collington Branch
W.F. Chesley Real Estate, Inc.
Benjamin J. Woolery, Attorney at Law

Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce
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 PNC Bank
 The Show Place Arena
 Widmann Financial Services

GREATER BOWIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JULY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<p>Save the Dates! August 25 & September 1 – Candidate’s Forums, 7 p.m., Bowie Senior Center September 15 – After Hours Mixer, 5:30 p.m., Widmann Financial Services September 18 – Women’s Expo, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center</p>						
4 Holiday 	5 GBCC Closed	6	7 4:00 p.m. WIB Fashion Show Planning Meeting, GBCC office	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 p.m. After Hours Business Mixer, TBA on the website & through Constant Contact	15 8:30 a.m. Board Planning Day, GBCC office	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 6:30 p.m. “Networking with Heart”, Rio Restaurant & Lounge, Laurel	28	29 11:30 a.m. “Health Care Reform & the Business Community”, DuClaw, BTC	30 For more information on these and other events, visit the GBCC website at www.bowiechamber.org	31